



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 330, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073
(831) 454-2210 Fax: (831) 454-2710 Tdd: (831) 454-2123

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010
Board of Supervisors Chambers – 701 Ocean Street
Time: 5:00 p.m.

I. ROLL/CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Johnson at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Virginia Johnson, Sharon Sarris, Laura Kasa, Robert Stokes; Alan Schlenger; Len Beyea; Betsy Herbert; and Dan Haifley
Absent: Tom Rosewall and Kenneth Adelman
Staff: Nancy Gordon
Other County staff: Kasey Kolassa and Tim Goncharoff.

II. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

none

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – upon motion of Sarris, second by Haifley, minutes of February 2010 approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION

Dina El Dessouley from Surfriders Foundation affirmed the local chapter's support for the single use bag ban.

V. BUSINESS MATTERS

A. Presentation by Chuck Tremper, Vice President of Ecology Action – General Services Division, on the CaliforniaFIRST pilot program and efforts to date toward implementation, planned for summer 2010.

B. UCSC Committee on Sustainability and Stewardship (Schlenger)
Schlenger explained interest of UCSC committee in having a County representative participate in their efforts; time commitment is anticipated to be one meeting a month. Commission asked Gordon to ask CAO for direction to participate and report back at next meeting.

C. Single Use Bag Ban (Schlenger and Kasa)
Kasa provided overview on draft ordinance. Haifley asked for language to be added on impact related to plastic bits displacing plankton in the Pacific Gyre.

Motion made by Stokes/ second by Sarris to support draft ordinance with changes as discussed, passed unanimously. Kasa will represent the Commission at the Board meeting, letter will be sent directly to Board of Supervisors with copies to DPW's John Presliegh and Kasey Kollasa.

During oral comments, public member El Dessouley addressed the Commission.

D. Updates from Commissioners

- (1) Climate Action Compact Working Group (Johnson)- Johnson reported meeting was cancelled.
- (2) Monterey Regional Development Committee (Johnson) – Johnson reported on regional efforts to develop one or more proposals to the Strategic Growth Council, a State level consortium of agencies with \$146 million in Proposition 84 funds. The purpose of the funds is to assist local governments in the implementation of their respective climate action plans.

E. Status of ARRA funding requests (Gordon)

County's CEC Block Grant application to upgrade energy systems in County facilities - still awaiting decision, due between March and May 2010.

F. Legislative Recommendations

Schlenger provided brief update on AB 1998 and SB 722 and urged Commission to recommend Board of Supervisors support of both measures. On motion of Beyea, second by Herbert, motion passed unanimously.

G. Artificial Turf Committee – possible membership nomination (Gordon)

Gordon provided brief update on Board of Supervisors March 16 agenda item, which is now tabled until April. Initial recommendation called for one member of Commission on the Environment to be involved in public comment process for decisions related to possible County parks transition to artificial turf at select recreational sites. Item continued to next agenda.

H. Set April 28, 2010 agenda

Items to include UCSC Sustainability Committee involvement, single use ordinance update, annual elections of officers, and presentation by either Lisa Sloan (invitations extended to Fish and Game Advisory Commission and Emergency Management Council), or Elizabeth Russell on AMBAG progress on SB 375 planning.

I. Commissioner Announcements

Herbert reported on Ecodapt web site currently in development. (CAKE = Climate Action Knowledge Exchange). Link will be circulated when site launched. Sarris reported that on April 10 in Moss Landing there will be a presentation by ImaginationCoast.org – sixty spaces available. Kasa advised that Save Our Shores is hosting an Adventure Films Festival on April 8. Johnson reported that Ecology Action and its building partners have broken ground on the repurposing of the old Sentinel building. Schlenger reported that the City of Santa Cruz has merged its Transportation and Public Works Commission due to workload considerations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 6:30 pm. Next regular meeting is April 28, 2010.