

BUSINESS MEETING
BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)
)
Business Meeting)
_____)

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
HEARING ROOM A
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2010
9:00 A.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Karen Douglas, Chair

James D. Boyd, Vice Chair

Jeffrey D. Byron

Anthony Eggert

Robert Weisenmiller

STAFF PRESENT

Melissa Jones, Executive Director

Jonathan Blee, Acting Chief Counsel

Harriett Kallemeyn, Secretariat

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P R O C E E D I N G S

JANUARY 22, 2010

10:07 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: Good morning. Welcome to the California Energy Commission Business Meeting, Special Business Meeting, of January 22nd, 2010.

Please join me in the Pledge.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was received in unison.)

CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: Good morning, again, everybody. It is my pleasure today, before we begin the official agenda, to welcome two new Commissioners to the Energy Commission, Commissioner Weisenmiller to my right, welcome. We are very excited to have you here with us. And Commissioner Eggert, to my far left. You both come to us with tremendous qualifications and backgrounds. You both add a lot to the Commission, and will add a lot to the Commission, and I think I speak for not only myself, but my fellow Commissioners, in welcoming you aboard and saying that we very much look forward to working with both of you.

COMMISSIONER BYRON: Madam Chair, do we have time to hear from our new Commissioners this morning?

CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: Well, I think if we do not let them speak, this could be the fastest business meeting in Energy Commission history, so I think it would be a very appropriate time to hear from our new Commissioners.

1 COMMISSIONER WEISENMILLER: Thank you. I will spare
2 you the long speeches. I wanted to say, first, that it is
3 good to be back again at the Energy Commission. I think most
4 people here realize that part of my transition from the
5 academic environment into more the policy environment was at
6 the Energy Commission in the '77 to '82 era, that was
7 certainly an era where the Energy Commission faced a lot of
8 challenges, but it was also a very good opportunity for a
9 young scientist to make a transformation into more of an
10 energy policy person, and I think it offered similar
11 opportunities for a lot of the challenges of today, certainly
12 offers a lot of opportunities for our staff in terms of their
13 long term advancement, and certainly their education. I
14 certainly am looking forward to the opportunity of working
15 with all of you, obviously all the Commissioners, and all the
16 staff, in terms of dealing with the current issues. I mean,
17 we have -- California is in a difficult time. I think in
18 terms of part of the solution, to re-make the state into a
19 vibrant, green economy is in our hands right now. We have
20 sort of a staggering siting caseload, sort of I really have
21 lots of empathy for the staff, but if we can cease the
22 opportunities presented by those, we can re-make our economy
23 into obviously a much more vibrant, green economy. So I think
24 all of us have to really roll up our sleeves and figure out
25 how to get the job done.

1 COMMISSIONER EGGERT: Yeah, also I will try to be
2 brief so that we might still have the fastest business
3 meeting, and I also just want to say I am happy to be here.
4 Good morning, everyone. And it is really my great honor to be
5 appointed to this Commission. I have had the great pleasure
6 of working with many of the Commissioners in my previous
7 capacity and many of the staff at CEC when I was a Senior
8 Advisor to the Chair of the Air Resources Board, looking over
9 the implementation of AB 32 and the Global Warming Solutions
10 Act. Previous to that, I have had experiences in academia and
11 industry, and I want to just sort of echo some of the things
12 that Bob said, and I think, you know, we really are sort of on
13 the cusp of a clean energy revolution here in the state, and
14 to be part of that is really really an honor, to be able to
15 help and work with all of you to help make that a reality.
16 And I think, again, in these economic times, it is one of the
17 bright spots, you know, the level of activity and investment,
18 I think, is something that we have really never seen before,
19 and so I am excited to be able to help make the policy that
20 can help guide that in the best way possible. So thank you
21 and I am looking forward to a great tenure.

22 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: Thank you.

23 VICE CHAIR BOYD: Chairman Douglas, if I might, so
24 you do not have the record for the shortest, let me kill a
25 couple more moments of the Business -- I am not sure that is a

1 proud thing to have on your record. But I just want to add to
2 your welcome my welcome to our two new Commission members. I
3 have had the opportunity and the pleasure of knowing them both
4 for some time, working with them both in various capacities,
5 and was delighted to see them joining the organization. And I
6 think I can speak for the three of us old-timers up here, it
7 was great to see some new blood here. We have a caseload we
8 would love to share with you. And, in fact, when we get done
9 with the action we are going to take shortly, you will catch
10 up with us very quickly on what it is like to be an Energy
11 Commissioner with siting responsibilities. In any event,
12 welcome to the two of you. We look forward to working with
13 you -- in a different capacity, but continuing to work with
14 you as I and we have in the past. So congratulations to you
15 both and not only do you have to roll up your sleeves, but
16 your feet will be muddy all the time, to do some of this work.
17 So good having you here.

18 COMMISSIONER BYRON: Madam Chair, I will brief, as
19 well. I would like to welcome my fellow Commissioners.
20 Commissioner Eggert, it is great to have you from the Air
21 Resources Board. I think the brief opportunities we have had
22 to talk indicates you are going to bring a wealth of
23 information and the cross-fertilization of our organizations,
24 I think, will be extremely helpful if we move forward and
25 reduce some greenhouse gases and put regulations in place.

1 And, Commissioner Weisenmiller, it is great to have you, as
2 well. I think it goes without saying the staff is very keen
3 to see one of their own finally make it. I hope we have not
4 done anything to dissuade them to thinking this is a
5 promotion. But it is just great to have you here, as well,
6 and look forward to doing everything we can to help you make
7 an [inaudible] [6:47] as you can as Commissioners here at this
8 Energy Commission.

9 VICE CHAIR BOYD: I need to remind my fellow
10 Commissioners there are now two refugees from the Air
11 Resources Board sitting up here, and we are closely aligned at
12 this end of the --

13 COMMISSIONER BOYD: One much more recent.

14 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: Well, we are very pleased to
15 have this support and expertise that has been brought to us
16 from the Air Resources Board, both from Commissioner Boyd's
17 tenure there, and Commissioner Eggert's.

18 I will move on to Item 1, and the only item on the
19 agenda with just the following comment. All of our comments,
20 including those of the new Commissioners clearly reflect our
21 knowledge and understanding that the Energy Commission mission
22 right now is so critical. It is critical to our economic
23 future, it is critical to our environmental future, and we all
24 -- staff, advisors, Commissioners, have a really important
25 role in bringing this to fruition and delivering for the State

1 of California. And we have a workload that is commensurate
2 with the importance of our mission. It has, I think, and from
3 what certainly staff who have been here for a long time have
4 told me, higher than ever. And so, as we move forward, we are
5 particularly pleased that the assignments that we are making
6 reflect the nature of the workload. Both of you are jumping
7 in with both feet and taking on a lot of responsibility out of
8 the gate; that is a great thing. You will have our support
9 and we also know and have complete confidence that this is
10 going to go very well and we look forward to working with you
11 in this capacity.

12 So I will read Item 1. Energy Commission Committee
13 Appointments. Possible approval of Energy Commissioner
14 appointments to the Energy Commission Standing Committees and
15 Siting Committees. I am going to take this up, actually, in a
16 couple of steps. The first step being appointments, revised
17 appointments to our existing policy committees, budget
18 management committee will be Commissioner Douglas Presiding,
19 Commissioner Boyd, Associate; Legislative and
20 Intergovernmental Committee, Commissioner Douglas Presiding,
21 Commissioner Boyd, Associate; Research Development and
22 Demonstration Committee, Commissioner Byron Presiding,
23 Commissioner Boyd, Associate; Transportation Committee,
24 Commissioner Boyd Presiding, Commissioner Eggert Associate;
25 Efficiency Committee, Commissioner Eggert Presiding,

1 Commissioner Byron, Associate; Electricity and Natural Gas
2 Committee, Commissioner Weisenmiller Presiding, Commissioner
3 Byron, Associate; Siting Committee, Commissioner Douglas
4 Presiding, Commissioner Weisenmiller, Associate; Renewables
5 Committee, Commissioner Boyd, Presiding, Commissioner
6 Weisenmiller, Associate; Integrated Energy Policy Report
7 Committee, Commissioner Douglas Presiding, Commissioner Byron,
8 Associate; AB 32 Implementation Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner
9 Boyd Presiding, Commissioner Eggert, Associate; and the ARRA
10 Ad Hoc Committee, which we are renaming the Federal Stimulus
11 Programs Ad Hoc Committee, Commissioner Douglas Presiding,
12 Commissioner Eggert, Associate. So those will be the new
13 assignments to the existing policy committees.

14 VICE CHAIR BOYD: I will move approval of the
15 recommendation.

16 COMMISSIONER BYRON: Second.

17 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: All in favor?

18 (Ayes.)

19 This item is approved. In the next step, we will
20 establish one new policy committee, which will be the
21 Transmission and Regional Planning Committee. This Committee
22 provides oversight and policy direction to address
23 transmission issues, including reliability, cost, and
24 environmental factors, oversee and make recommendations to the
25 Commission regarding state and regional transmission issues,

1 participation in planning forums, including RETI, WGA, and
2 WECC, transmission corridor designation, Smart Grid readiness,
3 renewable access, and overall transmission infrastructure
4 needs. The Committee will oversee development of the bi-
5 annual Strategic Transmission Investment Plan. The Committee
6 will oversee transmission policy coordination with the CPUC
7 and California ISO, as well as FERC and other relevant federal
8 agencies, provides input to and implements transmission-
9 related conclusions and recommendations stemming from the
10 Integrated Energy Policy Report.

11 VICE CHAIR BOYD: I will recommend approval of the
12 new committee, as described.

13 COMMISSIONER BYRON: Madam Chair, if I may, I will
14 second it, but with the following comment. I really
15 appreciate the Commission taking up this new policy committee
16 and, in fact, I had an opportunity to talk with Commissioner
17 Weisenmiller this morning and I think we talked around 7:30 or
18 so about this, it was our first opportunity, really, because
19 of my schedule. But my emphasis here really is not to try and
20 consolidate a lot of policy issues that may be important to
21 other committees such as Smart Grid activities that will show
22 up in many other committees, and I believe, based upon the
23 discussions amongst staff, that you have some interest in
24 perhaps seeing distribution taken up in this committee, as
25 well, and that is perfectly fine. The thinking was that there

1 is just so much activity underway, both state and regional
2 planning around transmission, and the emphasis now to get
3 renewables built, and the need for more transmission, to get
4 access to those renewables, that this Commission needed to
5 have more emphasis on transmission and regional planning. So
6 that was the intent. And I am perfectly fine with this
7 description, however, Commissioner Weisenmiller and I reserve
8 the right to perhaps make a few changes. But I want to make
9 sure all my Commissioners understand we are not attempting to
10 take policy issues away from other committees. Commissioner,
11 do you want to add anything?

12 COMMISSIONER WEISENMILLER: That is correct. I
13 think, obviously, one of the interesting points now in the
14 transmission system, if you look back at, say, PURPA in the
15 late '70s, it was a chance to really bring innovation and
16 capital into the utility generation business, and certainly
17 utilities, at least at that time, were not known for
18 innovation. And now, I think with the Smart Grid and with the
19 other policy initiatives going on, there is an opportunity to
20 bring some innovation and fresh capital into the transmission
21 part of the utility business. And so I think we really have,
22 well, and being on the -- at this point, it seems like the
23 Commission's renewable policies, among other things, are
24 transmission and siting, and so that is one of the reasons I
25 wanted to be on both of those committees, and I think the

1 focus, as Jeff said, is basically get those lines solved and
2 work on the planning, and I would like to hope that some of
3 the Smart Grid initiatives may allow us to bring some
4 innovation into that part of the business, too.

5 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: I appreciate both of your
6 comments. I think it is actually very important, and
7 certainly timely to create a committee that really directly
8 oversees and takes the lead on transmission regional planning
9 and related items. We have not gone back at this point and
10 revised all of the Committee descriptions, and that is a task
11 that is before us, that is something that we will want to
12 discuss and we will want to clarify going into the future. So
13 I certainly am very open to the possibility that this
14 description may be modified in some ways and that is something
15 that will be on the plate, actually, for potentially all of
16 the committee descriptions.

17 I have a motion and a second. All in favor?

18 (Ayes.)

19 This item is approved.

20 Next, we will appoint members of the new
21 Transmission and Regional Planning Committee, and we have
22 Commissioner Byron Presiding, Commissioner Weisenmiller,
23 Associate.

24 VICE CHAIR BOYD: I move approval.

25 COMMISSIONER WEISENMILLER: Second.

1 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: All in favor?

2 (Ayes.)

3 That item is approved.

4 VICE CHAIR BOYD: Congratulations, gentlemen.

5 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: And finally, we will move to
6 appoint new appointments to siting committees. I am going to
7 read all of the new siting committees right now and we will
8 approve them in one block: Sun Valley Energy Project, Douglas
9 Presiding, Weisenmiller, Associate; AES Highgrove/Grand
10 Terrace, Commissioner Eggert Presiding, Commissioner Byron,
11 Associate; San Gabriel Generating Station, Commissioner
12 Weisenmiller Presiding, Boyd, Associate; CPV Sentinel Energy
13 Project, Commissioner Boyd Presiding, and carrying on that
14 project as a committee of one; Ivanpah Solar Electric
15 Generating System, Commissioner Byron Presiding, Commissioner
16 Boyd, Associate; Carlsbad Energy, Commissioner Boyd Presiding,
17 Commissioner Eggert, Associate; Canyon Power Plant,
18 Commissioner Byron Presiding, and carrying that project
19 through as a committee of one; Beacon Solar Energy Project,
20 Commissioner Douglas Presiding, Commissioner Byron, Associate;
21 Marsh Landing, Commissioner Boyd Presiding, Commissioner
22 Douglas, Associate; SES Solar Thermal II, Commissioner Byron
23 Presiding, Commissioner Eggert, Associate; Willow Pass AFC,
24 Commissioner Douglas Presiding, Commissioner Boyd, Associate,
25 Tracy Power Plant, Commissioner Douglas Presiding, as a

1 committee of one; Hydrogen Energy California, Commissioner
2 Boyd Presiding, Commissioner Byron, Associate; City of
3 Palmdale, Commissioner Byron Presiding, Commissioner Eggert,
4 Associate; Lodi Energy Center, Commissioner Douglas Presiding,
5 Commissioner Byron, Associate; CVP Vacaville, Commissioner
6 Byron Presiding, Commissioner Weisenmiller, Associate; San
7 Joaquin Solar I and II, Commissioner Egger Presiding,
8 Commissioner Boyd, Associate; SES Solar I, Commissioner Eggert
9 Presiding, and Commissioner Byron, Associate; BP Watson Co-
10 Generation, Commissioner Weisenmiller Presiding, Commissioner
11 Douglas, Associate; Almond II, Commissioner Douglas Presiding,
12 Commissioner Eggert, Associate; Mariposa Peaker, Commissioner
13 Byron Presiding, Commissioner Weisenmiller, Associate; Oakley
14 Generating Station, Commissioner Boyd Presiding, Commissioner
15 Weisenmiller, Associate; Abengoa Mojave Solar I, Commissioner
16 Eggert Presiding, Commissioner Boyd, Associate; Solar
17 Millenium Blythe, Commissioner Douglas Presiding, Commissioner
18 Weisenmiller, Associate; Solar Millenium Palen, Commissioner
19 Weisenmiller Presiding, Commissioner Douglas, Associate,
20 Genesis Solar, Commissioner Boyd Presiding, Commissioner
21 Weisenmiller, Associate; Solar Millenium Ridgecrest,
22 Commissioner Boyd Presiding, Commissioner Eggert, Associate;
23 and Rice Solar Energy, Commissioner Weisenmiller Presiding,
24 Commissioner Douglas, Associate.

25 VICE CHAIR BOYD: I will move approval of the

1 assignments as described.

2 COMMISSIONER BYRON: I second.

3 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: All in favor?

4 (Ayes.)

5 That item is approved. Committee assignments have
6 been revised. With that, we have completed our agenda for
7 this morning. If there are no other comments from
8 Commissioners, are there?

9 COMMISSIONER BYRON: One question, Madam Chair, I
10 note that today is a furlough Friday. And of course,
11 Commissioners are here, you know, because, well, because we
12 volunteer our time on Fridays. What about our staff? Are
13 they here in some capacity?

14 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: Well, I would like to ask the
15 Executive Director to respond to that question.

16 MS. JONES: We have a number of staff working in the
17 building, as you know. The siting staff works on furlough
18 days, as does a lot of the ARRA Recovery Act staff. And then
19 we have additional staff today to keep the building running
20 and handle admin issues.

21 COMMISSIONER BYRON: I would like to thank them all
22 for being here today.

23 MS. JONES: I will be sure to pass on your
24 sentiment. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER EGGERT: One more comment, just

1 something that I was planning on mentioning after the
2 assignments had been made, on the Energy Efficiency Committee,
3 I just want to take a moment and thank the former Commissioner
4 Rosenfeld. It was my great pleasure after thinking that I
5 might be interested in this position, was able to spend quite
6 a bit of time with him, a few lunches and dinners, and he was
7 very kind with his time and his knowledge, and has given me a
8 lot of sort of insights and ideas going forward. I think over
9 that period I was maybe able to get about one-tenth of one
10 percent of his knowledge downloaded into my own head, and I
11 hope to continue to have those meetings over time, and it is a
12 great honor to serve on that committee and I hope to carry on
13 that tradition that he started here.

14 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: Well thank you, Commissioner.
15 It is a very important committee to us. It has over time been
16 one of our most successful and most important areas that the
17 Energy Commission has made a mark in the state, and
18 nationally, and even internationally. So I welcome your
19 enthusiasm and interest, and I do think that Commissioner
20 Rosenfeld and Berkeley is a friend of the Commission and will
21 be a help to you for some time to come.

22 COMMISSIONER EGGERT: Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON DOUGLAS: With that, we are adjourned
24 and just on time for our 9:30 meeting. I am sorry,
25 Commissioner Byron reminded me to leave space for public

1 comment. Is there any public comment? There is a lot of
2 public in the room, but they are probably waiting to take
3 their seats for the next meeting. Very well. We are
4 adjourned.

5 (Whereupon, at 9:27 a.m., the business meeting was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, PETER PETTY, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing California Energy Commission Business Meeting; that it was thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said meeting, nor in any way interested in outcome of said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of JANUARY 22, 2010.

PETER PETTY