Special Inspr - Distrs., SIDS
Hague Conf.

Special Improvement Districts

LA Times, 6/30/81

Assyman Jim Costa, D, Fresno, Chair of Asmy. Hsg. Comm. Put bill thru Asmy., now in Senate. Re local improvement dists., expanding their fns.

Now they are for mntce. of street lights only.

Bill wd. let them also ~~maintain~~ assess for mntce. of other improvements: streets, sewers, parks.

(Krieger claims they have no control over standards of density, are merely a fncg vehicle. I wonder.)

Wm. Zion, 251 Lafayette Circle [redacted] 94549
$300/day. $40/hr. 25 yrs. exp. Trustee of Golden Gate. League of Cal. Cities.

1. "City Service Area" can put on service charge for lights — on various bases.

2. "Special Improvement Dists." one for cap. impr. in old areas. 60% vote required. Kriegerhand thesis in mind.

Street lts., no initial cost — PG&E hangs them from poles, ~~charges~~ adds surcharge to pay off. (In one case, failed to stop surcharge.)

3. Mutual Distrs. are the other kind. They can go anywhere.

Whoever runs the distr. determines the standards. Sometimes a City Council is also the distr. board. But some distrs. have their own.

Having own PUB, they wd. pay for lights, cap. cost.

W/o further ado, Council cd. divide city into zones, w. different lighting densities and pay by utility surcharge.

E.g. greenbelt cd. be a low density zone Arterials + corners cd. be regarded as city-wide responsibilities — this is normal.

Wed., Aug. 26, 8:15 a next mtg.

Action by Energy Comm.

I. Approved

A. Star rating program
Sara to bring in Marin Cty. expert.
~~Name change: "Energy Rating"~~
Who will do it?
~~1. Gas Co? They are slow!~~
2. Pvt. firm?
a. Thermographics?
(Can we administer $300,000 alloc. by PUB for ~~Star~~ RCS?)
City will license auditing firms. Bond them, like termite cos.

B. Shade Tree
Hans
Coord. w. Parks + Recrn. advice on species. Plng. too — how to structure so trees are in. (give tree spaces to small cars).
Call Bg. for advice, School of Forestry.
Try Bio-Ag. Lib. for help.

C. Swimming pool gas surcharge
But Sara is working on a Western Sun
(DOE) grant that ~~may~~ preempts this.

D. Solar Access
Same as C.

II. Temporized

A. Reducing density of street lights
a jt. comm. is studying this.
Zevely & Becker are on it. "Lighting Standards".
Spur them on. (They are not moving.)
(Sara is recommending new comm.)
1. Sara suggests street lights be coded or patterned to indicate Stop Signs ahead.

2. Sara suggests savings here be used to fund energy comm.

B. Parking
1. Coord. w. Plng. Comm.

2. Coord. w. Parks + Rec, re shade trees
(More shade trees, allow more small-car spaces, as in centrire)
3. Include bike parking
a. Pedalers
b. Motorcycles
c. Did they ask us to push bikeways, + bike lanes?

III. Ideas

A. Re lighting "standards", there is now no way to sound out consumer preferences. There is a tendency to impose uniform standards, determined by interested parties, or parties whose standards are rigid, fixed in an era of cheap energy.

Where do ltg. "standards" come from?

- Sellers of lights, poles, cables, etc.
- City atty. whose sole criterion is minimizing city liability, & ~~this~~ the ardor of his job
- City engineer, & consulting engrs., who neglect demand side, & whose profnl. interest is in gold-plating all engg systems. (& who intimidate lay participants ~~&~~ by elevating their expertise into special claims to hegemony) The clique of insider engineers is quite exclusionary & imperious, & in charge of huge sums of public money. Design contracts are a plum. Many contracts pay a % of value of what is designed!

B. Special districts getting new life in Sacto.

Krieger alleges they are used only in older resid. areas — and "as funding vehicle only", i.e. district board has no authority! (? wonder.) (Do they fund energy, or just K?) (Or just muni?) F

In new subdivns., developers put in lights, to city standards. (In neither case is choice made by payors!)

Here is where we cd. make a change.

1. In older areas, let districts bounds turn out lights.

2. In new subs, let devr. determine density -- (+ also street standards.)

John Van de Pol 415-284-5862
Zion res. 283-8381
-0472

→ F Call Van de Pol, Zion, et al

IV. Uncertainties

My notes say. "Study utility rates, + sources (of energy). – get grant.
Audit policies of PUB."

What is that about?

Agenda. Regs. & Ords. Comm.

1. Shade trees.
   Call Bg., Forestry, re urban Forestry

2. Parking regs.
   City Plng. Dept. - Steve Wright. Call for interview & sources, and a regular contact for coordn.

3. Lighting
   A. Recommend city be divided into density zones.

   Recommend charges for lights be graded by zone. 2 methods of proc.
   1. Elect. bill surcharge
   2. Special district. Wm. Zion can advise.

4. Biking.
   Call Bill Wilkerson for wheelers clubs recommendations.

July 30, 1981

REGS.AND ORDS. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

Minutes of meeting of Committee on Regs and Ords of the City of Riverside Energy Commission, Wednesday, July 29, 1981, Mission Inn, 8:15 AM.

Present: Weber, Gaffney, Hoffman (ex off.)

We reviewed those of our action recommendations which were approved by the Commission at its meeting of June 3, and planned further steps.

A. The Star Rating Program.

We prefer the above name to the less colorful and less memorable "Energy Rating Program." Weber pointed out the importance of the Star concept in marketing approved homes.

We noted several reasons why the Gas Co. should not be relied upon to perform residential energy use surveys, including lack of competitive incentives, and certain conflicts over sharing costs with the PUB (which is involved due to the existence of homes with all-electric heating.) We recommend that the City license private firms to do the surveys competitively, based on the model of the termite inspection program which operates and works. Gaffney reported on his good experience with Thermographics, an Orange Cty. firm which exhibited at the Energy Fair, and would like to do more of this kind of work in Riverside.

Sara is planning to interview people in Marin Cty. with experience in their successful program. She will couple this with another trip which takes her to that area, and report by September. She will try to get an expert to visit us.

(Unanswered question: what about the $300,000 allocated by the PUB for RCS?)

B. Shade Tree Program

Committee members are to contact people in Parks and Rec., who can advise on species selection, and other technical background matters. Weber is undertaking some research, contacting the Bio-Ag library for a literature search, the Calif. State Dept. of Forestry, etc. Gaffney is contacting the School of Forestry at Berkeley for expertise on urban forestry. We do not expect to get all the way into drafting specifics of an ordinance, but far enough so that we will have a good idea of the issues.

We seem to recall that the Commission favored the idea of reserving shaded spaces for smaller cars, as an incentive measure. Weber and Hoffman also suggest that City Planning allow more small spaces as a reward for putting in more shade.

For the above and other reasons, we need to coordinate with City Planning Department and Commission.

Info. is also being sought on the effect of parking lot shade on

ambient temperatures, and its quantitative importance in energy conservation.

C. Gas heating of swimming pools.

Reservations were expressed about the idea of imposing a surcharge or special city tax on gas used for pool heating. However, we defer this because the matter is preempted for the nonce by the DOE "Westen Sun" grant which Sara is administering.

D. Solar Access

This, too, is preempted for now by Westem Sun.

But so is Star Rating, so this is a matter of choice

We reviewed other recommendations which the Commission did not take action on, on June 3.

A. Reduced density of street lighting

The present joint committee which has jurisdiction over this evidently has been delayed by lack of representation from all the agencies involved. It is anticipated that this may be rectified.

Meantime, two pregnant ideas emerged from our deliberations.

1. Street lights might be coded in some way, to warn motorists of imminent Stop Signs. This could help reduce needed densities.

2. Savings earned here might be used to fund the Energy Commission.

B. Parking

The Commission deferred action on this, pending more coordination with Planning Dept. & Commission. Sara will guide us.

But I must do some coordinating myself.

C. Bike promotion

In connection with parking, the Commission recommended that the Committee look into bike incentives, such as bikeways, bike lanes, bike parking, and maybe even shower ~~facitilites~~ facilities at work. The Committee feels overloaded, and will get to this after (or in conjunction with) matters discussed above. *

D. Use of special service districts.

Gaffney, off his own bat, intends to develop more information on this, by consulting municipal finance specialists of his acquaintance. He notes that Assemblyman Jim Costa,(D, Fresno), Chair of Assembly Housing Committee, is pushing legislation to expand the functions of special districts.

*Information should be secured re the piggybacking of bikes on busses, now being tried on San Fernando routes of SCRTD.

Additional information of interest.

The State of Calif. Energy Resources C & D Commission is funded by a surcharge on electric consumption. The tax rate is set annually to provide the funds approved in the budget for the Commission. The current rate is .1 mill per kwh. This tax is administered by the Board of Equalization, and raises about 18 million $ yearly.

Res. sub.

M. Gallery

Call Special Distrs. ~~Agency~~ Assoc., Lucto. —

for info. on lighting distrs.

(Maybe an Energy Cons. Distr?)

(Rob. Beck us lobbies for SDA)