



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, **May 10, 2016**, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**

**Call To Order: 7:05 PM**

**Roll Call:** Chair Goudey, Vice-Chair Schaadt, Members Milliken, Miner, Solari, Spitalnik Weinstein

**Absent:** Hargrove, Mackie, Pavel,

**Also Present:** Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison

1. **Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Sanders announced that due to the California Elections on June 7, the City Council will be rescheduling their regular meeting on June 7 to be held on June 14. Since this conflicts with the regular meeting of the EQC, she asked if members preferred to reschedule their regular June meeting.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – None.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting on April 12, 2016 (Weinstein /Schaadt/Unanimous).
4. **EQC Member Appointment Process** – Goudey reported that the ad-hoc interview committee met with EQC member applicant Robert Foster. Unfortunately, Mr. Foster informed them that he needed to withdraw his application because he will be moving to Denver in August. But until then, he is happy to continue volunteering for the EQC.
5. **EQC Budget and Calendar of Events**
  - **Cool California Challenge** – Sanders reported that El Cerrito came in 11<sup>th</sup> of 22 in the Challenge and thus will receive approximately \$2700 in prize money due to the number of points racked up by participants in El Cerrito. This money should be spent on a sustainability project in the City, and Sanders circulated a list of potential project ideas (included in EQC binder). After members had discussed the merits of the project ideas, Solari made a motion to endorse the removal of invasive plants in the Hillside Natural Area and adjacent Recycling Center. Motion passes (Solari/ Weinstein/Unanimous).
  - **Earth Day EQC Work Parties** – El Cerrito's Earth Day was held on Saturday April 16. Goudey announced that the work party sponsored by PG&E to remove invasive weeds on their Moeser Lane right of way was well attended and successful. Weinstein announced that he and Schaadt staffed an EQC table at the volunteer appreciation lunch. They did not get a lot of sign-ups for the EQC Green Teams at the lunch – as the lunch was not well attended (due, presumably to the hot weather and the Warriors game.)

### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

*To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison at 215-4361 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.*

- Hillside Festival – Weinstein provided an update on planning for this event, which is designed to get people to explore the Hillside Natural Area. He was unsure as to whether the Festival would be a good venue for fundraising. Milliken mentioned that the maps of the Hillside Natural Area are quite informative and would be a good opportunity to solicit donations.
- Grey Water Education – Solari reported that the ad hoc subcommittee for Grey Water Education met and decided to organize a workshop on drought resilient gardening and grey water systems in September. Motion for the ad hoc subcommittee to continue planning an educational workshop on grey water and drought resiliency for a time to be determined in September.
- We Love Our Volunteers Event – No activities were reported.
- Environmental Workshops – Milliken that National Plug-In Day is set for September 14. There may be an opportunity for El Cerrito to partner on this event with the City of Richmond in order to get more visitors to the event. She will contact the organizer at the City of Richmond.

1. **State Initiative on Plastic Bag Bans** – Miner reported that the plastic bag industry has placed a referendum on the November ballot to repeal the State’s Plastic Bag Ban (SB 270), signed into law in September 2014. The question to be put to voters in November will be whether to uphold SB270. Miner recommended that the EQC recommend to individual Council Members that they endorse the Californians Against Waste Protect the Plastic Bag Ban campaign. Sanders will investigate.
2. **Announcements and future agenda items** – Due to the scheduling conflict with the City Council on June 14, the EQC will hold their June meeting on Wednesday, June 8.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 EPP – Mackie – June
- 2 Library Measure - June
- 3 Conversation with Building Official - August
- 4 Trends in Solid Waste Management –Sept
- 5 Climate Action – Standing Item?
- 6 Presentations from other environmental stakeholders in the City – TBD
- 7 Rat Poison and AB 708 Consumer Products Content Information- TBD
- 8 Drones in Hillside Natural Area – TBD
- 9 Conversation with Supervisor John Gioia – TBD
- 10 Drive Electric Workshop
- 11 Tool Lending Library - TBD

**3. Adjournment – 9:00**

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Quality Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center Administrative Office at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*