



**Staff Liaison**  
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## DRAFT MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible**

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**7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Milliken called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Rebecca Milliken; Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Howdy Goudey, Daniel Hamilton, Elizabeth (Beth) Molnar, Alison Moreno, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Sheila Tarbet, Gisele Verrier, and Dave Weinstein  
**Absent:** Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, and Ellen Spitalnik  
**Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Robin Mitchell informed committee members of the current financial state of the City and the recent proposal to cut back on events, including Earth Day. She stated that she does not want the City to cut back on the Earth Day event. Barbara Chan spoke in support of Robin's statement and continuing community events like Earth Day.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
Provost discussed the current process taking place to develop a strategic plan and budget that will enable the City to build a healthy reserve fund moving forward. He encouraged residents and committee members to participate in both public processes. Provost also announced the City's new Tree City USA status and highlighted upcoming events for the City's annual Arbor Week celebration.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on January 14, 2020.  
**Moved/Second:** Members Tsutsui/Sobul **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the **January 14, 2020** EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION IMPLEMENTATION**  
The EQC heard updates and participated in a discussion regarding implementation of the EQC's "Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention".  
Provost provided an overview of the draft Expanded Foodware Ordinance and the public process being undertaken to engage businesses and community members. Committee members and members of the public asked questions and provided feedback on how to improve the proposed ordinance. Provost also invited the public to attend a Public Meeting on the ordinance, hosted by the EQC at the March 10 committee meeting.

## **6. TOOL/TOY LENDING LIBRARY**

Molnar provided an overview of a vision to develop a community resource for tools, toys, kitchen items, bicycles, small appliances, and/or other items. It could be a formal lending library location, or it could begin as an online shared document for neighbors to connect with resources in their neighborhood.

## **7. COLLABORATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN EL CERRITO**

Verrier and EQC members discussed ideas to engage school-aged community members in environmental action, including surveying students, reaching out to environmental clubs, hosting volunteers, or researching how to have a youth member serve on the EQC.

## **8. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding the planning of the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - Electric Vehicle 101 Workshop – Debrief
  - Green Team Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
    - Feb. 15, Mar. 8, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, Jun. 6, Aug. 16, Oct. 23
  - Earth Day 2020 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (April 18)
  - 7th Annual Hillside Festival – May 1 – 3
  - Bike to Work Day – May 14
  - BayRen Energy Efficiency Workshop (May 21, 6pm-8pm)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Film Event 2020
  - SunShares 2019 Debrief / SunShares 2020 (Aug – Nov)

Denice Dennis commented that the Committee should do more events that focus on climate action, in line with the City's Climate Emergency Resolution. Robin Mitchell spoke in support of involving students in events like tree plantings.

## **9. ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

EQC members discussed the annual nomination and election of Chair and Vice Chair of the EQC that will take place at the April EQC meeting.

## **10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Committee members discussed items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including:

- MCE Deep Green Initiative - "20K by 2020"
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
  - Potential MCE Sourcing of Nuclear Power
  - Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) Rate Increase
- Implementation and Financing Options

Goudey provided an update on the PCIA and MCE's discussion around accepting nuclear power in its portfolio.

Robin Mitchell stated that she would like to see the City take action on climate and updating the Climate Action Plan as soon as possible, and is concerned about the timeline.

**11. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

Committee members heard updates and discussed how to increase collaboration with the City's Urban Forest Committee (UFC).

- Mary Torrusio, Urban Forest Committee Chair, highlighted the upcoming Arbor Week Events which will take place March 7 through 14. This includes a tree care workshop on March 15 and a flag raising ceremony and tree planting on March 7.

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Committee members made announcements and discussed suggestions for future EQC agenda items, including:

- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoffs
- EQC Skills/Resource List
- Development of "Ron Eggherman" Awards

**13. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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Rebecca Milliken, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **February 11, 2020** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

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Will Provost, Staff Liaison