



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**

**El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers**

**10890 San Pablo Avenue**

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**

Miner called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

### **Roll Call:**

Chair Miner, Vice Chair Goudey, Members Benjamin, Doan, Krueger, Pavel, Schaadt, Solari, Spitalnik, Weinstein, Wildenberg

Absent: Dandridge

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison

1. **Council/ Staff Liaison Report** – Sanders announced that the City Manager's office will be holding a series of community meetings to gather input on budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – None.
3. **Appreciation of Member Dandridge's Service to EQC** – Miner reported that member Dandridge has resigned from the EQC. He and other members expressed appreciation for her 6 years of service on the EQC.
4. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting from February 11, 2014. (Krueger / Weinstein / Unanimous)
5. **Presentation on CCA Efforts in the East Bay** – Members heard a presentation from Tom Kelly, Executive Director of Kyoto USA and member of the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, on a working paper they developed regarding Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) models for Alameda County. EQC members and the public participated in discussion on the subject.
6. **Support for AB 1504 – Ban on Single Use Cigarette Filters** – Weinstein presented information regarding Assembly Bill 1504. El Cerrito resident and Contra Costa County Tobacco Prevention staff Denise Dennis added that 3 million cigarette butts end up in SF Bay waters every year and that each butt is a source of hazardous toxins. Motion to recommend that City Council send a letter of support for the legislation to Assembly Member Mark Stone. (Weinstein / Schaadt / Unanimous). Supporting documentation attached.
7. **EQC Special Events: Updates and Actions** – Items discussed:
  - **Earth Hour Logistics:** Miner led a discussion regarding logistics for the Earth Hour Hillside Natural Area Starlight Walk, cosponsored by Friends of 5 Creeks and Trail Trekkers. Several EQC members expressed an interest in attending the event.

### **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 Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison at 559-7684 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.*

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- **EQC Environmental Lecture:** Krueger shared a list of potential speakers. Miner expressed a concern that they not line up an outside speaker for the next meeting since the EQC has a lot of projects in the spring. Other members agreed, though they thought it'd be a good opportunity for members to describe their environmental work. Doan volunteered to make a quick presentation at the next meeting on his research regarding abrupt climate change. Added to the April agenda.
8. **Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items** – Goudey gave an update on the showing of *Chasing Ice* at the Rialto on Thursday night April 17. The event and subsequent speaker panel will be co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Organizing for Action (OFA). Pavel confirmed that Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia will participate on the speaker panel. Pavel also announced that the League of Women Voters will be sponsoring a showing of “Over Troubled Waters,” a film about water issues concerning the Bay Delta. The event will be held March 22, 10:30 at the El Cerrito City Hall. Pavel requested that the EQC consider co-hosting the event. Motion for the EQC to co-sponsor the screening of “Over Troubled Waters” (Benjamin/Spitalnik/Unanmous).
  9. **Hillside Natural Area Open Space Fundraising** – Weinstein reported that the Open Space Campaign has received permission to install large promotional banners in several areas in the City; that there will be a fundraising calling party at his house; that they will continue with their hand-on hikes to promote the Madera Open Space; and that Miner is developing an outreach campaign to businesses. \$32,000 has been raised so far towards the purchase of the Madera Open Space.
  10. **Green Teams: Update and Action Items** - Weinstein reminded members about the March 15 Creek Spruce Up.
  11. **Announcements and future agenda items**  
Future agenda items requested included:
    - Status on Active Transportation Plan and other City Plans
    - Pollinator Safe City Resolution
    - 3 Residential Workshops
    - Grey Water Ad Hoc Group Report
    - EQC participation in Earth Day
    - Election of Chair and Co-Chair

These upcoming Meetings + Events were also mentioned

    - March City Budget Priorities Workshops on 3/13, 3/15 and 3/25
    - March 15 Green Teams Spruce Up Our Creeks
    - March 29 8PM Earth Hour Star Gazing in Hillside Natural Area
  12. **Adjournment** – Miner adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

***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 pm***

# Summary, AB 1504

Prepared by Dave Weinstein,  
Based on material from Assemblyman Stone's office  
El Cerrito EQC member

AB 1504, introduced by Assemblyman Mark Stone, D-Monterey Bay, would prevent the toxic waste that are cigarette butts from ending up as litter in our state by taking the cigarette butts out of the equation to begin with.

The bill would prohibit single-use plastic 'filters' in cigarettes from being sold in California.

At first glance, this proposal may seem counterintuitive, but as research shows, so-called filters do nothing to prevent harm to smokers while at the same time becoming a huge burden to taxpayers and our environment.

Butts are made from a plastic called cellulose acetate that leaches carcinogenic toxins into water and soil and results in large financial costs to local governments and agencies left with the cleanup and disposal of the litter.

El Cerrito's goal of reducing the amount of trash entering the Bay to zero will never be reached until cigarette butts can be controlled. Short of banning cigarettes entirely, that cannot be accomplished in any other manner than by banning plastic cigarette butts.

Contact: Alfredo Arredondo  
Office of Assemblymember Mark Stone  
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Draft butt resolution from Stone's office

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OF THE COUNTY OF ENTRY NEEDED, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of Supervisor

duly seconded by Supervisor

the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF AB 1504

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 845,000 tons of single-use plastic cigarette filters,

or 'butts' are discarded annually around the globe; and

WHEREAS, plentiful and long-lasting contaminants of our physical environment, cigarette butts are the single most collected item in beach cleanups each year; and

WHEREAS, volunteers working with Save Our Shores have collected more than 466,000 cigarette butts during cleanup events in the Monterey Bay Area alone; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Office of Response and Restoration, it is common for fish, birds and other animals that mistakenly ingest plastic waste like cigarette butts to starve to death as a result of a false feeling of satiation from the plastic in the cigarette butt; and

WHEREAS, In spite of anti-litter campaigns, strict anti-litter laws, and strong anti-litter enforcement efforts, cigarette butt litter continues to be an expensive problem for

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill Senate Bill 1504, introduced by Assemblymember Mark Stone, would prohibit the sale, gift, or furnishing of cigarettes that come with single-use filters; each violation of this prohibition is subject to a fine of \$500.would prohibit single-use plastic 'filters' in cigarettes sold in California; and

WHEREAS, the Entry Needed County Board of Supervisors recognizes the need for such legislation as discarded butts are a costly public nuisance that contributes to the litter our sidewalks, highways, beaches, streams, and parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Entry Needed County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the passage of AB 1504

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The Honorable Mark Stone  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
RE: AB 1504 (Stone) Preventing Toxic Cigarette Waste

Dear Assembly Member Stone,

The City of El Cerrito's Environmental Quality Committee strongly supports AB 1504, which would ban the sale of cigarettes with single-use filters in California.

The EQC, an official city committee, regularly sends its Green Teams into the community to pick up trash alongside our streets and creeks and in our neighborhoods and parks. Cigarette filters make up a significant portion of the trash, and are particularly difficult to pick up because of their size and proliferation and the way they intermingle with twigs and grass and other objects.

We recognize that butts are toxic to wildlife, pets, and children, who sometimes pick them up and ingest them.

We understand that filters do not significantly reduce harm to smokers, as studies have shown many smokers smoke more and puff harder, thus inhaling the same amount of noxious substances as would be obtained by smoking non-filter cigarettes.

We also believe in the ability of American businesses to manufacture and market multiple-use filters that would not be dropped into the environment.

Although AB 1504 seems a novel idea, it seems to us to be the best, perhaps only, workable solution for keeping butts out of the environment – short of a ban on smoking, which is unlikely; or the sudden determination by smokers to stop discarding their butts, which is even more unlikely.

Banning butts is an idea whose time has come. One day people will be surprised that it was ever considered socially acceptable to discard these toxic objects where they could cause so much harm.

Sincerely,