



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 12, 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 7:04 pm.

### **Roll Call:**

Chair Miner, Vice Chair Goudey, Members Benjamin, Schaadt, Solari, Weinstein, Wildenberg

Absent: Members Krueger, Pavel, Spitalnik

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison

1. **Council/ Staff Liaison Report** – Sanders announced the November 22 community meeting being held by BART and the City to discuss the upcoming herbicide application on the Ohlone Greenway. She also reported that Garth Schultz will be leaving his position as the Division Manager of Operations and Environmental Services, and that she will be managing that Division on an interim basis beginning in December 2014. She also announced that the Planning Commission and City Council will be reviewing the Draft Housing Element on December 4 and December 16 respectively.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – El Cerrito resident Sean O'Connor commented that the Ohlone Greenway needed more maintenance and that all the dead growth on the bushes should be removed.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt Committee minutes from the October 14, 2014 meeting. (Weinstein/Schaadt/Unanimous)
4. **Status Report on the El Cerrito Animal Ordinance** – Planning Department staff Sean Moss gave a verbal report on implementation of the Animal Ordinance, adopted in April of 2012. He discussed the number of permits issued and any issues that have arisen since adoption of the ordinance, reporting very few instances of complaints or reported violations. Weinstein wondered if any complaints had been made regarding vectors resulting from the keeping of animals. Moss reported that to his knowledge there were none. Goudey wondered if staff would be open to providing information on the raising of animals to permit applicants. Moss would be happy to pass along that information.
5. **EQC Vacancy Announcement** – Miner announced that the City is recruiting for Boards, Commission, and Committee members and that the EQC currently has 5 vacancies. EQC members should let community members know of this opportunity.
6. **Pollinator Safe Community** – Miner and Solari introduced the Honey Bee Haven Resolution (Attachment 1) discussed during the July 2014 EQC meeting. Motion to recommend that the City Council consider adoption of the resolution (Solari, Schaadt, Unanimous). Goudey noted that the policy to create pollinator-safe landscapes is included in the upcoming *Urban Greening Plan*. Once adopted, implementation will be needed. Solari will develop a draft write up to be reviewed by staff in order to bring the resolution to City Council.

### **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.*

7. **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** – Sanders informed the Committee that this November 18 the Council will be holding a study session on CCA, the results of the Marin Clean Energy (MCE) membership analysis, and the possibility of joining MCE, especially in time for the 2015 electricity procurement cycle. Motion to recommend that the City Council consider joining the MCE Joint Powers Authority in order to implement a CCA program in El Cerrito in time for the 2015 procurement cycle (Weinstein, Solari, Unanimous).
8. **EQC Work Plan and Budget** – Miner led a discussion regarding updates to the EQC Work Plan (Attachment 2).
9. **Hillside Natural Area Open Space Fundraising** – Weinstein gave an update to the Committee on the status of fundraising, noting a total of \$70,000 raised to date.
10. **Green Teams: Update and Action Items** – Weinstein reminded members about the Green Team Clean-up in Midtown to be held on November 15. Weinstein is concerned that outreach for the Green Team clean-ups is not very robust and as a result participation has not been very large lately. He also highlighted the need for a more proactive approach to mitigating litter, such as more trash cans and a litter management plan.
11. **Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items** – Goudey reported that there is nothing to report on this item.
12. **Announcements and future agenda items** – The following items were discussed:

**Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items**

- 1 Trash mitigation strategies – January
- 2 Grey Water – TBD
- 3 Hillside Natural Area Festival – TBD in May 2015
- 4 EQC Lecture Series/ Calendar of Events
- 5 Presentation to kick-off public comment period for the Active Transportation Plan – February

Upcoming Meetings + Events | more details online at [www.el-cerrito.org/newgreen](http://www.el-cerrito.org/newgreen)

- Midtown Green Team Clean-Up – Nov 15

13. **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*

Attachment 1:

**Community Honey Bee Haven Resolution:**

*WHEREAS, Bees and other pollinators are essential to the majority of the flowering plants on our planet; and*

*WHEREAS, Pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat; and*

*WHEREAS, Each year since 2006, commercial beekeepers in the U.S. have reported annual losses of bees in excess of what would be considered normal; and*

*WHEREAS, There are many beekeepers in El Cerrito relying on beekeeping for hobby or commercial purposes; and*

*WHEREAS, Beekeepers across the country have reported losses of over 30%<sup>1</sup> over the past eight years, in dramatic excess of what is considered normal; and*

*WHEREAS, Multiple, interacting causes are likely contributors to the decline of pollinator populations, including pathogens, habitat loss, and exposure to pesticides; and*

*WHEREAS, Scientific evidence around neonicotinoid pesticides, including clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid is especially compelling and deserves action; and*

*WHEREAS, threats to pollinators concern the entire food system, where pollination services provided by honey bees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food, responsible for the pollination of key crops, including almonds, apples, blueberries, cherries and many others, and contributing over \$19 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture; and*

*WHEREAS, Honeybees are a keystone indicator species and their decline points to broader environmental degradation; and*

*WHEREAS, Pollinator population declines may be a disproportionately significant piece of the current collapse in biodiversity that some biologists believe poses an even greater threat to humanity than climate change, which contributes to it; now, therefore, be it*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the city of El Cerrito become a Honey Bee Haven and map its location on HoneyBeeHaven.org; and be it further***

*Resolved, That El Cerrito officially recognizes the critical importance of pollinators to our food supply and to our environment; and be it further*

*Resolved, That El Cerrito promote healthy environments — including food sources, clean water and shelter — for pollinators through existing programs and new funding opportunities; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the El Cerrito will not procure or use neonicotinoid products of products containing neonicotinoid active ingredients; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the El Cerrito will support efforts to educate the broader community about the action it has taken and encourage other entities and households to adopt a similar policy; and be it further*

*Resolved, that the El Cerrito will transmit copies of this resolution to the [appropriate local agencies], U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Agriculture.*

<http://www.honeybeehaven.org/content/create-community-bee-haven>

Attachment 2  
Draft Revisions to EQC 2014-2015 Work Plan and Calendar

This is the EQC's strategy document. It was first developed by a Goals and Priorities Ad Hoc (G&P Ad Hoc) subcommittee in the fall of 2013. The purpose was to guide the full El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) to establish goals and priorities for FY13/14. Discussion and ideas were generated during the August and September 2013 monthly public EQC meetings. Committee members reviewed the 2012 goals and priorities, accomplishments, the El Cerrito climate action plan targets, and then shared what they would like to accomplish in the next fiscal year. Comments from the Oct 2013 meeting were incorporated into the final draft.

The committee reviewed our mission, goals and activities against the plan in August 2014 and found that, by and large, we are on track. The committee discussed revisions at our August, September and October 2014 EQC meeting which are included here along with a tentative 2015 calendar so we can judge if resources will be available to do what we would like.

This document will be used as the foundation of the chair's presentation to City Council which will probably take place in March or April 2015.

EQC Responsibilities, Mission, Goals and Activities

El Cerrito City Mission which helps guide EQC:

*The City of El Cerrito serves leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.*

EQC's duties and responsibilities as stated in the EQC Charter Resolution.

1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council, staff, other boards, commissions, and committees, and the citizens of the City with regard to environmental quality issues within the City of El Cerrito.
2. To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts.
3. Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito citizens regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts

Major environmental accomplishments (action plan workbook available for detail on the 50+ action items completed since 2012)

1. City largely free of trash, thanks to Green Teams, but really Sean O'Connor deserves a lot of the credit. 46% trash reduction on annual clean water report.
2. Community Choice Aggregation
3. Climate Action Plan
4. Madera Open Space
5. Compostable Foodware Ordinance
6. Animal Ordinance
7. Urban Green Plan / Walkable El Cerrito
8. San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan
9. Many lectures and workshops including Energy Upgrade California Workshop attended by many local residents
10. Successful film series, Chasing Ice, Symphony of the Soil

The EQC's mission is to *educate, inspire, and activate* ourselves and our community to sustainably thrive. The EQC goals are to:

1. Promote Community & Individual Action & Engagement
2. Champion Environmental Policies, Ordinances & Bills
3. Help businesses and residents be more sustainable and environmentally friendly
4. Support greenhouse gas reduction, recycling & energy efficiency
5. Protect & create open green space and wildlife friendly residential areas
6. Involve learners of all ages
7. Support sustainable water use and healthy creeks as well as infiltration vs. hardscape

To that end, the EQC focus activities in no particular order:

1. Green Teams/Volunteer Events – (Dave) - Continue to propose, plan and implement specific volunteer events and activities.
2. Eco Films – (Howdy & Paloma) Continue to educate, inspire and activate our community through the regular showing of environmental films and lectures featuring guests and discussion.
3. Support El Cerrito's Climate Action Plan by asking the City Council to fund a CCA feasibility study. – (Mark) We would also write a background paper explaining why it is a good idea and work to get public support for the study.
4. EQC Education – (Robert) Develop a list of speakers & topics to present at EQC meetings to educate members on pertinent environmental issues.
5. Green Business Program (Mark) - Support existing certified green businesses to get re-certified.
6. Urban Greening Plan (Mark, Dave and Howdy - steering committee members) – contribute to planning and attend

workshops.

7. Grey water – Renee (Mark and Robert on team) increase public awareness of technology and options
8. Energy Efficiency (Mark) – support city projects to reduce energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions including: residential and business energy efficiency improvements, transportation efficiency (increased bike/ped trips, efficient vehicles, electric vehicles),
9. Support Madera Open Space initiative (Dave)
10. Green Building (Complete) – Energy Upgrade California Workshop attended by many local residents
11. Bee Friendly – (Renee) - Endorse EC to be the first Pollinator (bee/butterfly/hummingbird, etc.) Friendly City in the USA habitat quality and patch work continuity, review use of neonicotinoids, Pollinator Pathways, Develop and conduct workshop on use of garden chemicals continuation of pollinator habitat education/outreach/policies (specific policies and education around particular native plants for native bees, butterflies, etc. work to reduce household /landscape pesticide use
12. Support Earth Hour City Challenge (Complete) and coordinate and promote events in El Cerrito for Earth Hour, March 29, 2014.
13. Trash Mitigation Strategy (Dave) - Develop policies and actions to reduce and eliminate trash at its source
14. **Re-emergent PACE** (Howdy and Mark) Work on how we can engage the re-emergent PACE programs (California First, or others?), PACE programs have started in many Bay Area communities including Concord.
15. **EV awareness event**. (Howdy) (invite local EC EV owners to meet and talk with others, offer experiences, test drives, etc.)
16. Hillside Natural Area Festival (Howdy) Build on the success of the first festival making it a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual event
17. Music for Madera (Dave) Build on the success of the first.





1. Trash Mitigation Strategy		x	x	x				3
2. Hillside Natural Area Festival	x				x	x	x	4
3. Music for Madera	x				x	x	x	4
4. Re-emergent PACE	x	x	x	x				4
5. EV Awareness Event	x		x	x		x		4