



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue  
**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**

Chair Miner called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

### **Roll Call:**

Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Goudey, Members Mackie, Milliken, Schaadt, Solari, Spitalnik, Weinstein, Wildenberg

Absent: Members Benjamin, Krueger, Pavel,

Also Present: Greg Lyman, Council Liaison; Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison.

1. **Council/ Staff Liaison Report** – Council Member Lyman reported on a variety of Council actions since January 2015, including the moratorium on massage spas, the purchase of the Madera Open Space, El Cerrito joining several PACE programs, and the mid-year budget review. He also thanked the EQC for its presentation to Council on the EQC Work Plan and provided information that Marin Clean Energy will be starting a program to educate people about PACE programs.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – No public comment.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt March 10, 2015 minutes (Schaadt/Goudy/Unanimous).
4. **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing**– Community Development staff Emily Alter provided a verbal report that the City joined four PACE programs, thereby providing residents and businesses another financing mechanism to help pay for clean energy projects, such as solar and energy efficiency upgrades, that are affixed to their properties. Outreach about the different PACE programs primarily occurs through certified contractors who are working with homeowners. EQC members discussed ideas for letting residents know about these new mechanisms. One idea was to use front counter permit staff to educate people taking out building permits. Miner asked if there was a role for outreach by the EQC. The programs won't become available until June.
5. **Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Application** – Community Development staff Alter gave a verbal report providing background on the PCA program offered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), which allows local governments to voluntarily designate Priority Conservation Areas in order to be eligible to potential open space funding opportunities. In 2015 ABAG changed the program to create four different types of designations so that built out communities like El Cerrito could make potential urban green spaces eligible for funding opportunities. Community Development staff will be bringing a recommendation to Council on May 5 for a PCA application designating the Hillside Natural Area (HNA) and Cerrito Creek from Ohlone Greenway to Pierce Street. The PCA designation cycle is every 2 years, so additional areas of significance could be added once these areas have been studied and considered by Council. Residents Jenny Hammer and Pam Austin made the point that the Fairview property near the HNA should be part of the designation; however, Alter responded that staff is not

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recommending to include it at this time since there is no Council approved policy underpinning the inclusion of this property as open space. Weinstein motioned to make a recommendation to City Council to consider including the Fairview Property in the City's PCA Application to ABAG. Discussion on the motion opened by Goudey, who wants a more expansive list of properties to be included in the application. Mackie thought we needed a more systematic process to review other areas that could be included in the next application cycle. Motion as stated by Weinstein approved (Weinstein/ Schaadt/ Unanimous).

6. **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** – Miner reported Deep Green enrollments in Marin Clean Energy (MCE) is on pace to be about 512 by May.
7. **EQC Work Plan, Budget, Calendar of Events** - Members discussed planning issues and logistics for the following upcoming events:
  - Earth Day (Saturday April 18) – Members asked to have a table with information at the volunteer luncheon.
  - Eco-Film Showing – Goudey gave an update on the upcoming showing of “The Future of Energy” on April 28.
  - Hillside Natural Area Festival – Weinstein gave a progress report on preparations for the Festival, which will be held on May 17.
  - Music for Madera (Sept 20) - Weinstein indicated that this event may cost about \$1000 and that he will prepare a budget for consideration by the EQC in May.
8. **Green Teams: Updates and Action Items** – Weinstein reported that the next Clean Up will be to pick up litter at each of the El Cerrito Gateways and will take place on May 16.
9. **Elections for Chair and Vice Chair** – Motion to elect Goudey as Chair (Miner/Solari/ Unanimous). Motion to elect Schaadt as Vice Chair (Goudey/Weinstein/ Unanimous).
10. **Announcements and future agenda items** – Members discussed the following suggestions for future EQC agenda items and were reminded of the following events:
  - 1 City IPM Policy – potentially for June
  - 2 Active Transportation Plan – potentially for May
  - 3 Grey Water Education – TBD
  - 4 Drought Awareness - TBD

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

- MCE Community Presentations
  - Community Center – April 15
  - Open House Senior Center – April 22
  - City Hall – June 18
- Earth Day – Saturday April 18
- The Future of Energy – Tuesday, April 28
- Hillside Natural Area Festival – May 17, 2015

## 11. Adjourned at 9:15 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*