

## Join the Conversation for A Safe, Modern Library

FOR THE LAST two years, the City of El Cerrito has been soliciting feedback from residents about their priorities for the Library. As part of this process, the City completed an updated Library Space Needs Assessment in 2014.

According to standard library best practices, the current El Cerrito Library does not meet the space, technological, educational, or safety needs of El Cerrito residents.

The El Cerrito library was built in 1948. The 67-year-old Library does not currently meet today's earthquake safety standards and is simply too small for the community. When school gets out, the Library is packed with school children. Library programs for children and teens, including homework help and reading resources, are critical to providing

El Cerrito students with the resources they need.

So far, community feedback lists the following priorities for the Library:

- A safe, energy-efficient library that meets earthquake and fire codes
- Public access computers, a computer learning center, and free Wi-Fi
- A children's area with space for children's story times
- Improved access technology and services for seniors and disabled residents
- Updated wiring to accommodate computers and technology

The City will continue to solicit feedback from the community about their priorities for the El Cerrito Library. If you have not done so already, please join the conversation by filling out the Community Feedback Form online at [www.el-cerrito.org/library](http://www.el-cerrito.org/library).

For more information, or to schedule an in-depth community presentation, please contact Assistant City Manager Karen Pinkos at [kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call **215-4302**.

For more information about the El Cerrito Library, such as hours, collection details, and events for kids and adults, please visit the library website at [ccclib.org/locations/elcerrito.html](http://ccclib.org/locations/elcerrito.html).



## El Cerrito Conducts Satisfaction Survey

RECENTLY, NATIONAL CITIZEN Survey™ questionnaires were mailed to 1,200 El Cerrito households, chosen at random. If your household received a survey, please complete and return it as soon as possible. Survey results will help El Cerrito officials make budget and policy decisions in coming years.

The 5-page survey focuses on eight categories of community life, such as transportation options, safety in residential and commercial areas, shopping opportunities, and ways to participate in civic and cultural activities. In addition, the survey asks residents to rate the quality of a range of services including police, fire, street cleaning, and recreational services.

The report will be available in the Spring and will include benchmark comparisons with over 500 USA jurisdictions and with El Cerrito's results from previous years.

If you have questions about the survey, contact Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager, at **215-4318**.

### News AND Views

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## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Through March 30 COOL CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN

Help El Cerrito win the title of “Coolest City” by joining the Cool California Campaign, a statewide competition that encourages residents to collectively lower their community’s carbon footprint. Visit [www.mceCleanEnergy.org/CoolCA](http://www.mceCleanEnergy.org/CoolCA), to register and start earning points for El Cerrito. Not only will you lower your own carbon footprint, but you can help El Cerrito earn points worth money that the City can use on a sustainability project! The Cool California campaign runs through March 30.

### Monday, February 15 PRESIDENTS DAY HOLIDAY

City Offices and the Recycling Center will be closed in observance of Presidents Day.

### March 5, April 2, May 7 BAXTER CREEK GATEWAY WORK PARTIES

On the first Saturday of every month, join volunteers and City staff in removing invasive species and restoring native habitat along Baxter Creek and the Ohlone Greenway. For details, contact [spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call 559-7685.



**When:** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Baxter Creek, corner of Conlon Avenue and Kearney Street

### BUDGET PLANNING UNDERWAY

Please join City government in developing its next budget. Both the City Council and the Financial Advisory Board will hold public meetings in coming months to discuss the budget for fiscal years 2016–2017 and 2017–2018. For more information, go online to [el-cerrito.org/budget](http://el-cerrito.org/budget) or contact Stacey Johnson at 215-4310.

### February 1–April 14 FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

AARP Tax Aide Service (e-file only) is available for people with limited to moderate incomes in Contra Costa County. Appointments are available from 8:45 a.m.–2:15 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, through April 10. Call 559-7677 for an appointment.

**When:** By appointment only

**Where:** Open House Senior Center  
6500 Stockton Avenue

### Saturday, March 5 THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

The Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) is hosting a free screening of “This Changes Everything,” a documentary about climate change. For more details, visit [www.el-cerrito.org/EQC/films](http://www.el-cerrito.org/EQC/films) or call 215-4350.



**When:** TBD

**Where:** Rialto Cinemas Cerrito  
10070 San Pablo Avenue

### Sunday–Saturday, March 7–14 ARBOR WEEK

Want to get involved in City Arbor Day events this year? Visit the City’s website, contact Stephen Prée at 559-7685, or email [spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

### Monday–Thursday, March 21–24 JUNIOR LIFEGUARD SPRING BREAK CAMP

Designed especially for Korematsu Middle Schoolers, aged 13–14. Become a Junior Lifeguard, receive certifications in CPR and First Aid, and be eligible to volunteer or work at the El Cerrito Swim Center during the Summer.



**When:** 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Swim Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

### Saturday, March 26 ANNUAL EGG HUNT

An El Cerrito tradition for over seventy years, the Spring Egg Hunt delights children from toddlers through age 12.

The hunt is over within minutes, so be sure to arrive on time. Afterwards, stay and play in beautiful Arlington Park!

**When:** 10 a.m., sharp

**Where:** Arlington Park  
1120 Arlington Blvd.



### Monday–Friday, April 4–8 SPRING BREAK CAMP

Registration begins March 4. Sign up for any combination of full or half days. Campers visit the San Francisco Zoo, among other fun trips and activities.



**When:** Full days, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Half days, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
or 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Where:** Harding Clubhouse  
7115 “C” Street  
Fairmont Clubhouse  
715 Lexington Ave

### Wednesday, April 6 START BY BELIEVING

How you react when someone tells you they have been raped can have a major impact on the victim. Always “start by believing.” The Police Department is working to change the way we, as a community, respond to rape and sexual assault. To get involved in this effort, call the Police Department at 215-4400 or visit [www.el-cerrito.org/believe](http://www.el-cerrito.org/believe).



## Thursday, April 7 BREAKFAST SESSION FOR BUSINESSES

Local Employers are invited to a free informational session about the City's new minimum wage. Drop in any time. Light refreshments will be available.

Those who cannot attend can learn more about the regulations online at [www.el-cerrito.org/wages](http://www.el-cerrito.org/wages), or by calling 215-4318.

**When:** 8:30 to 11 a.m.

**Where:** City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave

## Through Friday, April 15 REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP

### Early Discount on Selected Camps!

The Recreation Department now offers over 60 different summer camps. Give your child a great summer in El Cerrito! Register now to take advantage of the 10% discount on all traditional, swimming, Jr. Lifeguard, sports, and other El Cerrito staffed camps. Camps begin on June 13. Register in person at the El Cerrito Community Center or online at [www.el-cerrito.org/recreation](http://www.el-cerrito.org/recreation).

## Saturday, April 16 EARTH DAY

Join your friends and neighbors at an Earth Day work party and spend the morning beautifying El Cerrito.



Work parties take place all over town and are followed by a free lunch at the Community Center. Contact us with ideas for projects or to volunteer as a group leader. To register as a volunteer, or for more information, visit [www.el-cerrito.org/earthday](http://www.el-cerrito.org/earthday) or call 215-4350.

**When:** Work parties, 9 a.m. to noon  
Lunch, noon to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Work parties at various locations

Lunch at the El Cerrito Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

## Sunday, May 1 BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

For more than ten years, Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour has provided an opportunity to see and learn about beautiful, pesticide-free, water-conserving, native plant gardens that provide habitats for native birds, bees, and butterflies.

To register for the 2016 tour, go online to [www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net). Space is limited. Bringing Back the Natives offers self-guided tours, talks, and workshops in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. For more information, email Kathy Kramer at [kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net](mailto:kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net) or call 236-9558.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where:** various



PHOTOS: BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

## Thursday April 21 REGISTER FOR THE CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

Join in an El Cerrito tradition by participating in the Citywide Garage Sale. Register to be included on the map, then put your items out for sale on Saturday, May 21. It's a great way to get rid of clutter, re-use items, and get to know your neighbors! Maps include brief descriptions of registered locations and are available one week before the sale.



Register online at [www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale](http://www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale) or pick up a mail-in form from City Hall, the Community Center, or the Recycling Center. For more information, call 215-4350.

**When:** Registration due April 21 at 4 p.m.

Garage Sale, May 21  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Saturday April 23 SPRING BOOK SALE

The Friends of the El Cerrito Library's annual sale features books for children and adults. More details online at [friendscerritolibrary.wordpress.com/](http://friendscerritolibrary.wordpress.com/)

**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Where:** El Cerrito Library  
6510 Stockton Ave.

## Friday, April 29 MINE, CRAFT, BUILD: FAMILY NIGHT!

Bring Minecraft to life and bring your family together. The ultimate LEGO Minecraft experience is an original game, designed by Play-Well instructors, that challenges your resourcefulness, creativity, and cooperation. To learn about this and other programs offered by the Recreation Department, go online to [www.el-cerrito.org/recreation](http://www.el-cerrito.org/recreation). The cost is \$15/person or \$45 for a group of 4.

**When:** 6:30 to 8:30pm

**Where:** El Cerrito Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane

## Sunday, May 15 HILLSIDE FESTIVAL

Celebrate El Cerrito's recently expanded Hillside Natural Area, exploring this 90-acre wilderness area in the middle of the city. The free festival will include activities for all ages, including hikes, native plant tours, talks, and demonstrations to be announced. Co-sponsored by the City and the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. For information or to get involved, call event coordinator Dave Weinstein at 524-1737, email [ectrailtrekkers@gmail.com](mailto:ectrailtrekkers@gmail.com), or go to <http://ectrailtrekkers.org/hillside-festival/>



# Ohlone Greenway BART Station Area Access, Safety and Placemaking (ASP) Improvements Project

**T**HE CITY OF El Cerrito has received a \$3.5 million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) OneBayArea Grant Program to make improvements to the Ohlone Greenway at the two BART stations in El Cerrito. By improving the areas around the BART stations, the City hopes to reduce vehicle-miles traveled and foster a healthy, active, and more connected community.

The Ohlone Greenway, often referred to as the “BART path,” extends the length of El Cerrito. Following the Ohlone Greenway Master Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2009, El Cerrito has been improving the Greenway for several years. But there remains a strong need for improvements at the two BART stations where the Greenway currently narrows into irregularly shaped areas that cannot comfortably accommodate the higher pedestrian,

bicycle, automobile, and bus traffic at the stations. Greenway improvements could ease conflicts between people using these diverse modes of travel.

Over the summer, the City collected community feedback on desired improvements. Based on this feedback, the primary goals of this project are to:

- improve bicycle and pedestrian routes leading to transit, commercial nodes and housing
- bring new vibrancy to the areas around the BART stations to encourage housing development
- increase safety and accessibility for BART riders and Greenway users
- improve the integration of the El Cerrito Plaza and El Cerrito del Norte BART stations with the surrounding community



Top: Conceptual rendering of a mural near the bike lockers at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station. Bottom: Bike to Work Day, 2015.



East side of the current El Cerrito del Norte BART station, including the Ohlone Greenway, at Hill Street. Renderings of the new station and improved Greenway are shown below and on the opposite page.

BART station (El Cerrito’s northern gateway) includes intersection and trail safety improvements, new landscaping, benches, lighting, and art opportunities. Overall colors and aesthetics will coordinate with the existing mosaic mural by Alfonso Pardiñas inside the station. The Greenway concept was developed in conjunction with El Cerrito del Norte’s Station Modernization Project, described in detail on the opposite page.

The plan for the El Cerrito Plaza BART station (near the El Cerrito Plaza shopping area) includes similar improvements with a palette of natural colors, inspired by nearby Cerrito Creek.

Funding for planning, design and construction of these improvements primarily comes from the MTC grant, with \$300 thousand in matching funds from the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (specifically, Contra Costa County transportation taxes based on the 2004 Measure J), and a park-in-lieu contribution of approximately \$150 thousand from Safeway Stores.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2016. For more information, or to sign-up to receive occasional updates on this project, call Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer at **215-4382**, email [yortiz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:yortiz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us), or visit [www.el-cerrito.org/OhloneASP](http://www.el-cerrito.org/OhloneASP)

In November, a final community meeting was held to review the Ohlone Greenway BART Station Area Access, Safety, and Placemaking (ASP) Plan. The new plan creates gateway elements and outdoor gathering spaces around the Greenway at the BART stations, improving the mixed-use bicycle and pedestrian path, as well as its intersection crossings.

The plan for the El Cerrito del Norte



*The segment of the Ohlone Greenway adjacent to the BART station will be transformed to include a plaza and pedestrian promenade with play sculpture, new trees, seatwall and enhanced landscaping. Curb bulb-outs and colored asphalt crosswalks with enhanced signing and striping will also be provided to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.*

*The passenger drop-off will be relocated to the western parking lot to improve circulation.*

*For more information on the station modernization, including a video depicting what the new station will look like, visit [www.bart.gov/about/planning/station](http://www.bart.gov/about/planning/station)*

## A New Look for the El Cerrito del Norte Station

**B**ART IS PLANNING to upgrade and modernize the El Cerrito del Norte BART station's functionality, safety features, capacity, sustainability, and appearance over the next two years,

Over the past year, BART developed a plan to redesign the station, based on input from riders and the community. Changes in the redesign include moving the passenger drop-off area to the parking lot on the west side of the station and expanding the area immediately adjacent to the Ohlone Greenway on the east side into a pedestrian promenade. The promenade will feature seating, additional trees, a raised crosswalk, and improvements to the bus drop-off lane.

Inside the station, an expanded paid area will include new fare gates, stairways, and elevators. The design also includes a redesigned station agent booth and upgraded restrooms. There will be more room for passengers because the station will be de-cluttered. BART will also be commissioning two new tile murals as part of the project.

BART is incorporating sustainable materials and technologies into the project, using energy efficient

LED fixtures with smart controllers throughout the station, and planting drought tolerant, low maintenance plants in the landscaped areas. BART plans to remove the existing trees from the edge of the parking garage along the Greenway, and replace them with trees that will shade both the parking garage and the new pedestrian promenade.

BART's long-term vision for the del Norte station is to create a place that will accommodate a variety of activities and facilitate community interaction. In addition to improving

the station and the surrounding community, it is hoped that these changes will provide a "sense of place" for the station as a unique community asset as well as a destination. To this end, BART is partnering with the City by helping to fund improvements along the Ohlone Greenway at both the del Norte and El Cerrito Plaza stations.

The station modernization work is estimated to begin in the summer of 2016 and continue through late 2017. The Ohlone Greenway improvements are discussed in more detail on the opposite page.



# El Cerrito Wall of Fame Profile: Elmer Freethy

**T**HE EL CERRITO Wall of Fame recognizes residents who have made significant contributions to the community. In 1995, Elmer Freethy was appointed to the Wall of Fame for his many contributions in the areas of philanthropy, business, and finance.

As a teenager, Elmer Freethy worked as a carpenter and took part in the building of the Mira Vista Country Club. He later graduated from UC Berkeley in Architecture in 1929. He and his wife Marjorie (Mimi) married in 1930, and had two children, Marylee and Jack.

Freethy founded Elmer J. Freethy Construction in 1931. When building materials became scarce during World War II, he added the El Cerrito Lumber Company in 1944, assuring a steady supply of materials for his contracting business.

Among his many accomplishments were the design and building of the Richmond City Hall, the Hall of Justice, the Mechanics bank headquarters building in Richmond, Camp Adair in Oregon for the U.S. Army during World War II, the original El Cerrito High School, and several local houses. He was active with both the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and the City of El Cerrito, and is credited with the success of the 1964 bond measure which funded the development or improvement of several local parks (Harding, Canyon Trail, Huber, Poinsett, Castro, Cerrito Vista and Arlington). Later, he was involved in the construction of the City's Community Center, and the preservation of the Hillside Natural Area.

In addition to their successful construction business, Elmer and Mimi also owned and raced harness horses; raised cattle; grew hops, apples, melons, tomatoes, and other crops; and established a vineyard.

Elmer Freethy passed away in 1998. The old El Cerrito Mill & Lumber building still stands at 10812 San Pablo Ave., where it was moved in 2000.

Visit the Wall of Fame inside City Hall to read more about Elmer Freethy and the other 19 honorees. To nominate an El Cerrito resident to the Wall of Fame, submit an application by March 15. The application and guidelines for nomination and selection are available from Cheryl Morse, City Clerk, at **215-4305**.



*Elmer Freethy on one of his favorite horses, Buster, around 1950. The pair participated in horse shows at Arlington Stables (now Arlington Park) and were active in the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Posse.*

## City Minimum Wage Standards Go Into Effect July 1st

**I**N NOVEMBER, 2015, the City Council established a minimum wage in El Cerrito that will start at \$11.60 per hour on July 1, 2016, with stepped increases to raise it to \$15.00 an hour by January 1, 2019. With this measure, El Cerrito will join other Bay Area municipalities with local minimum wage ordinances, including Richmond, Berkeley, Emeryville, San Francisco, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Palo Alto and San Jose.

The City Minimum Wage Standards will require all employers to pay their employees no less than the new minimum wage for all hours worked in the City of El Cerrito, regardless of where the business is based. (Employees who work less than 2 hours a week within El Cerrito are exempt.)

### EL CERRITO MINIMUM WAGE RATES:

Current Rate in California:

**\$10.00 per hour**

Starting July 1, 2016:

**\$11.60 per hour**

As of January 1, 2017:

**\$12.25 per hour**

As of January 1, 2018:

**\$13.60 per hour**

As of January 1, 2019:

**\$15.00 per hour**

As of January 1, 2020 and each year thereafter, the wage will increase based on changes in the local Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (Labor Center) at the University of California, Berkeley recently published a study that examined the possible effects of a countywide minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour by 2020 in Contra Costa County. The Labor Center estimated that such an increase would provide significant income gains to Contra Costa's lowest-wage workers. Most types of businesses would be able to absorb the higher costs, and consumers would see only moderate price increases, most notably at restaurants because labor is a high percentage of restaurant operating costs. The study estimated that restaurant prices would go up by about 6%, with a \$10 meal costing \$10.60 after the minimum wage change.

Both employers and workers with questions about the new El Cerrito minimum wage can visit [www.el-cerrito.org/wages](http://www.el-cerrito.org/wages) or contact Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager, at **215-4318** or [siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us). City staff will be holding an informational session for employers in the Spring. See page 2 for meeting details.

# City Now Requires Tobacco License

**L**AST YEAR, EL CERRITO joined 148 other California cities and counties that require tobacco sellers to obtain a license to sell tobacco products. Studies have shown that limiting the number of places where tobacco is sold reduces young peoples' access to tobacco products and combats social perceptions that tobacco use is normal and acceptable.

Any retailer who sells tobacco products or smoking paraphernalia must now obtain a Tobacco Retailer License, renew yearly, and follow certain business standards.

## You Can Quit!

**TOBACCO USE IS** the nation's leading cause of preventable death. If you or a loved one wants to quit smoking, call the California Smokers' Helpline for free self-help materials, a referral list of other programs, and one-on-one counseling over the phone:

English: **1-800-NO-BUTTS**  
**(1-800-662-8887)**

Cantonese/Mandarin:  
**1-800-838-8917**

Spanish: **1-800-45-NO-FUME**  
**(1-800-456-6386)**

### As of January 2016:

- Clerks must check the ID of any customer purchasing tobacco products or smoking paraphernalia if the customer appears to be 27 years old or younger.
- Stores may not allow use of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) on the premises.
- Stores may not distribute samples or coupons for tobacco products if minors are allowed on the premises.
- Customers must be at least 18 years old to enter a store if it is designated as a Significant Tobacco Retail Establishment (a store that devotes more than 20% of its display area to tobacco products, smoking paraphernalia, or both).

### Existing retailers have a 24 month transition period to comply with the following regulations:

- Stores may not provide self-service displays for any tobacco products or smoking paraphernalia.
- Stores may not sell any flavored, non-cigarette, tobacco products, such as electronic cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, pipe tobacco, hookah tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco,

bidis, blunts, or electronic smoking devices containing nicotine.

- Stores may not sell small pack cigars, except "premium" single cigars priced at \$5 each or higher.
- Tobacco sellers may not sell imitation tobacco products, such as candy or chocolate cigarettes, bubble gum cigars, shredded bubble gum resembling spit tobacco, or shredded beef jerky in containers resembling snuff tins.

### Also:

- New tobacco retailers must comply with all of the new standards, including zoning requirements at startup.
- No new or re-located tobacco retail stores may operate within 500 feet of schools or parks (excluding the Ohlone Greenway); the library, Community Center, or Senior Center; or within 1,000 feet of another licensed tobacco seller.
- Significant Tobacco Retail Establishments will be phased out by 2026.

For more information on the program, visit [www.el-cerrito.org/tobacco](http://www.el-cerrito.org/tobacco), or contact Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager, at **215-4318** or [siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:siarla@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

# MCE Provides Renewable Energy for El Cerrito

**L**AST YEAR (2105), El Cerrito joined Marin Clean Energy (MCE), a not-for-profit, public power agency that partners with PG&E to provide electrical service from renewable sources. MCE is now the default electric generation provider for residents and businesses in El Cerrito. Residential and Commercial customers have the choice to stay with PG&E or to choose one of MCE's renewable energy packages—a default Light Green option (50% renewable) or a Deep Green option (100% renewable). Currently, El Cerrito has the highest percent of Deep Green enrollment of all of MCE's communities.

MCE's renewable electricity generators include biogas, solar and wind power. Half

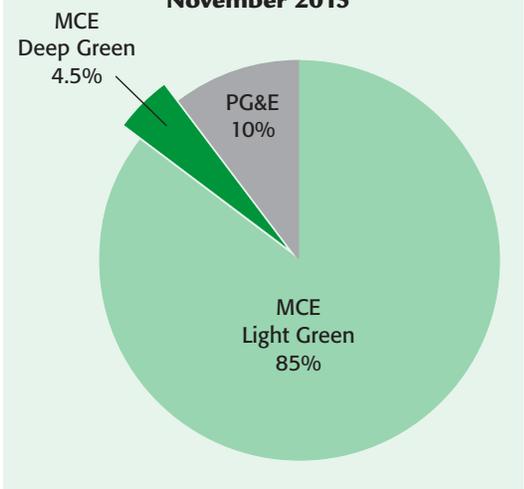
of the additional cost of the Deep Green package pays for the increased cost of energy from renewable sources. The other half goes to support local, renewable energy development programs, such as the Solar One project, a 10.5 megawatt solar farm, soon to be built in Richmond.

PG&E continues to provide transmission, distribution, billing, and repair services for MCA customers. Rate payers who want to purchase power from PG&E can opt out of MCE's services.

For more information, visit MCE's website, [www.mcecleanenergy.org](http://www.mcecleanenergy.org), or call **(888) 632-3674**.

## ELECTRICITY SERVICE CHOICES

November 2015



City of El Cerrito  
City Hall  
10890 San Pablo Ave.  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:  
PLEASE DELIVER BY FEBRUARY 12, 2016

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OAKLAND, CA  
PERMIT #2508

ECR-WSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER



**EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL**  
Greg Lyman, Mayor  
Janet Abelson, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jan Bridges  
Mark Friedman  
Gabriel Quinto

**CITY WEBSITE** [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org)  
**TWITTER** @cityofelcerrito  
@ElCerritoREC  
@ElCerritoPD

**City Hall Holidays (office closed):**  
Presidents Day, February 15

**City Council regular meetings:**  
February 2 and 16  
March 1 and 15  
April 5 and 19

Regular Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. Schedules are subject to change; check the website for updates. Regular Council meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Cable channel 28 and KECG, 88.1 FM radio.

To watch meetings online, go online to [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org) and click on the "Streaming Media" link.

The City Council meeting agenda packet is available at least three days prior to each City Council meeting at: <http://www.el-cerrito.org/archive>.

**CITY HALL (All area codes 510)**  
10890 San Pablo Ave.  
**City Management**  
City Clerk 215-4305  
City Council 215-4305  
City Manager 215-4300  
Human Resources 215-4315

**Community Development Department**  
Building 215-4360  
Code Enforcement 215-4374  
Planning 215-4330  
Economic Development 215-4385  
Housing 215-4358

**Finance** 215-4310

**Public Works**  
After-Hours Emergency 237-3233  
Corporation Yard 215-4369  
Engineering 215-4382  
Maintenance 215-4369  
Recycling & Waste Management 215-4350  
Recycling + Environmental Resource Center  
7501 Schmidt Lane

**Community Center**  
7007 Moeser Lane  
Recreation Department 559-7000  
Park/Facility Rentals 559-7004  
Swim Center 559-7011

**The Open House Senior Center**  
6500 Stockton Ave.  
Senior Services 559-7677

**Public Safety Building**  
10900 San Pablo Ave.  
Emergency 911  
Police/Fire/Medical Dispatch 237-3233  
Fire Administration 215-4450  
Police Administration 215-4400



## BYO Shopping Bags in El Cerrito

**A**S OF JANUARY 1, 2016, retail stores in El Cerrito (as well as those in San Pablo and Richmond) must charge a minimum of 10 cents for each paper or other type of reusable bag. Customers can avoid paying for bags by bringing their own bags to grocery, department, clothing, liquor, book, specialty, drug, convenience, and other stores.

A single-use plastic bag ban is intended to further encourage the use of reusable bags by both consumers and retailers.

For more information about the shopping bag regulations, go online to [www.el-cerrito.org/bagsandfoam](http://www.el-cerrito.org/bagsandfoam), contact the Operations + Environmental Services Division (OESD) at **215-4350**, or email [green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

For more tips on how you can go green to help the environment, visit [www.el-cerrito.org/green](http://www.el-cerrito.org/green), stop by the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center office, or contact the OESD.