



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, **January 12, 2016**, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call To Order: 7:10 PM

Roll Call: Chair Goudey, Vice-Chair Schaadt, Members Hargrove, Milliken, Miner, Pavel, Solari, Spitalnik,

Absent: Members Mackie, Weinstein

Also Present: Council Member Gabe Quinto; Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison

1. **Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Council Member Quinto introduced himself and said that he was excited to serve as EQC liaison this year. He invited all EQC members to attend the upcoming MLK Jr Day Parade.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – El Cerrito resident Sean O'Connor made several comments about his wish list for environmental legislation in California, including such items as litter reduction and clean water.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting on December 8, 2015 (Spitalnik/Schaadt/Unanimous).
4. **Transmission Access Charge for Electricity and Distributed Generation** – Miner introduced information regarding the Transmission Access Charge (TAC), which is included as a charge per kilowatt hour on rate payers' bills. A handout regarding this fee was distributed and is contained in the EQC binder. This fee is charged even on distributed generation projects, even though these projects don't use the long-distance transmission lines that this charge is meant to fund. The non-profit organization, Clean Coalition, is currently asking for letters of support to change how the TAC is currently being calculated so that local power projects are more fairly assessed this charge. Goudey asked if there was majority support to continue investigating the issue and possibly review/ recommend to Council a letter of support for Clean California's position. Members consent.
5. **EQC Budget and Calendar of Events**
 - Workshop Debrief: Residential Rooftop Solar - Milliken reported that the workshop was well attended and a great success. Fifty-six people attended. She received numerous comments about how informative all the speakers were.
 - Cool California Challenge– Goudey asked if members had additional ideas for creating more outreach for residents to participate in the Challenge. Spitalnik suggested pushing it out to teachers in the high school.

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.

- Green Teams – Schaadt reported that the next Green Team Clean-up was originally schedule to be held on January 31, 2016. But due to Weinstein's schedule, Schaadt asked to reschedule the event for Sunday, February 21, proposing Cerrito Creek at the El Cerrito Plaza as the location. Motion to change the date to February 21 and hold the event at Cerrito Creek. (Schaadt/Goudey/Unanimous). Goudey relayed a proposal from the Tree Committee for the Green Teams to assist them with outreach for an Arbor Day Planting in early March.
 - Eco-Film Showings –Milliken reported that the Rialto has confirmed March 5 for a showing of “This Changes Everything” at the Cerrito Theater. Members discussed logistics, including possibly providing childcare and topics for a post-film discussion to be held either in the Theater’s side room or at a local restaurant. Milliken said that, as a co-sponsor of the event, the Ecology Center will pay for half of the film licensing fee. Motion to authorize spending up to \$500 of the EQC budget to cover costs for the screening fee and other event related expenses (Schaadt, Spitalnik, Unanimous).
 - We Love Our Volunteers Event – No activities were reported.
 - Drought Awareness – No activities were reported.
6. **EQC Work Plan 2016** – Due to time, Goudey asked to defer discussion on this item until next meeting. No objections.
7. **Announcements and future agenda items** – Miner announced that Trail Trekkers, at their annual meeting, had Raptors are the Solution (RATS), a nonprofit education group, present on the effect of rat poison on birds of prey. He asked whether the EQC would be interested in investigating policy that could help mitigate this problem. He also mentioned AB 708, a Consumer Products Content Information. Pavel asked to have an update on the EQC budget at the February meeting.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 EQC Budget – Feb
- 2 CPUC Decision - Feb
- 3 Grey Water Education – TBD
- 4 Presentations from other environmental stakeholders in the City – TBD
- 5 Rat Poison and AB 708 Consumer Products Content Information- TBD
- 6 Recap of Paris Climate Summit - TBD

8. **Adjournment – 9:09**

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 p.m.