



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, **February 9, 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, Mackie, Milliken, Miner, Pavel, Solari, Spitalnik, Weinstein

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison

- Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Sanders provided all EQC Members a handout (contained in EQC binder) regarding the Brown Act. She also announced that Council approval of the City's *Active Transportation Plan* may be considered at one of the City Council's meetings in March.
- Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Resident Robin Mitchell read a statement (contained in EQC binder) about her dissatisfaction with the City Council's recent decision approving the purchase of a Ford Escape SUV instead of a low-carbon emitting electric vehicle, including a request for the EQC to review the City purchasing guidelines.
- Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting on January 12, 2015 (Schaadt/Hargrove/Unanimous).
- CPUC Decisions Concerning Solar Net Energy Metering** – Milliken provided information regarding the recent California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) decisions regarding Time of Use electricity rates and Net Energy Metering. The CPUC upheld most of the current structure of net energy metering, though changes in Time of Use rates will change the financial payback of roof top solar systems. Miner announced that the CPUC will be holding an upcoming workshop regarding the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) exit fee that affects communities that have Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs.
- EQC Budget and Calendar of Events**
  - Eco-Film Showings – Milliken discussed logistics regarding the upcoming film showing of "This Changes Everything" at the Rialto Theater Cerrito, including the addition of 2 more co-sponsors to help in promotion of the event. Motion to add the League of Women Voters and the Resilient Communities Initiative Coalition. (Goudey, Schaadt, Unanimous). Motion to allocate an additional \$150 towards food costs, if needed. (Pavel, Solari, Unanimous).
  - Green Teams – Weinstein provided an update on the next planned Green Team event to be held on Sunday, February 21 on Cerrito Creek at the El Cerrito Plaza. Fiends of Albany Parks will also

### 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.***

participate in the event. Goudey discussed the upcoming tree planting sponsored by the Tree Committee at Arlington Park to be held during Arbor Week on March 12. Motion for the EQC to co-sponsor the Arlington Park tree planting and to provide assistance with outreach. (Weinstein/Miner/Unanimous). Robin Mitchell also volunteered to conduct outreach for the event through the Community Garden Network.

- Earth Day EQC Work Parties – El Cerrito’s Earth Day will be held on Saturday April 16. Goudey provided an update on work conducted by PG&E to restore native habitats on their Moeser Lane right of way and the desire of PG&E to co-sponsor an Earth Day work party to pull invasive weeds around stands of native plants. Motion for the EQC to partner with PG&E for a Moeser Lane Earth Day work party. (Schaadt/Spitalnik/Unanimous). Sanders announced that City staff is also considering a French Broom pull at the Recycling Center for Earth Day.
  - Hillside Festival– May 15, 2016, 10 AM to 5 PM. Weinstein provided an update on planning for this event, which is designed to get people to explore the Hillside Natural Area. Motion to allocate up to \$1000 towards Hillside Festival expenses. (Weinstein /Goudey/Unanimous). Weinstein will provide a detailed budget at the March EQC meeting. Sanders reports that the EQC has currently allocated \$2,950, including allocations made during this meeting, towards EQC sponsored events.
  - Cool California Challenge – No activities were reported.
  - We Love Our Volunteers Event – No activities were reported.
  - Drought Awareness – No activities were reported.
6. **EQC Work Plan 2016** –Goudey reminded committee members to review assignments in the EQC’s Annual work plan. Sanders announced Goudey will be providing a presentation on the EQC work plan to the City Council on March 1.
7. **Announcements and future agenda items** – Motion to add discussion of the City’s environmentally preferred purchasing policy at the next meeting. (Pavel/ Mackie/Unanimous). Weinstein would like to also add a discussion of people flying drones in the Hillside Natural Area.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 City’s Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy – March
- 2 Drone Flying in the Hillside Natural Area - TBD
- 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.*