



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, **March 8, 2016**, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call To Order: 7:05 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

1. **Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Sanders announced that the Council would be considering adoption of the Active Transportation Plan in one of their April meetings.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Residents Rob Foster and Ashley Foster introduced themselves and expressed an interest in applying to become EQC members.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting on February 9, 2016 (Weinstein /Spitalnik/Unanimous).
4. **Marin Clean Energy and PG&E Exit Fees** – Milliken provided information regarding a recent California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) workshop regarding the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) exit fee that affects communities that have Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs. She and Goudey reported that the workshop explored issues regarding when the PCIA is vintaged in a community that has chosen to exit PG&E electricity generation contracts.
5. **EQC Budget and Calendar of Events**
 - **Earth Day EQC Work Parties** – El Cerrito's Earth Day will be held on Saturday April 16. Kris Klerk, an Integrated Vegetation Management contractor with PG&E, provided an update on work conducted by PG&E to restore native habitats on their Moeser Lane right of way and their efforts to date in planning an Earth Day work party to pull invasive weeds around stands of native plants. He requested a pre-event planning meeting on site. Schaadt, Goudey and Miner volunteered to participate in the event. Sanders announced that the Tree Committee will be moving their March 12 Arlington tree planting event to Earth Day.
 - **EQC Work Plan Presentation** – Goudey reported that his presentation to the City Council on the EQC Work Plan went well, with the City Council conveying appreciation for the amount of work done by the EQC, as well as posing a couple questions regarding a statewide initiative to ban plastic bag bans and any thoughts on the role of Eucalyptus trees in El Cerrito's natural habitat. Miner volunteered to research the plastic bag issue and report back to the EQC.

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.

- Eco-Film Series Debrief – Milliken reported that the event went well, costing a total of \$563, with approximately ½ of the cost to be shared with the Ecology Center, the other main co-sponsor of the event. Pavel reported that the League of Women Voters, another co-sponsor of the event, debriefed on the event and had feedback on outreach and audience demographics. Pavel also conveyed that Supervisor John Gioia was interested in having the EQC host a film sometime before June on wetland restoration; however, no EQC member felt that they had the bandwidth to organize such an event at this time.
 - Green Teams – Weinstein and Schaadt reported that the Green Team event held on Sunday, February 21 on Cerrito Creek at the El Cerrito Plaza went very well, with about 15 volunteers participating. Weinstein felt that assistance from co-sponsoring organization Friends of Albany Parks was very helpful, and that the EQC should consider partnering with other organizations as much as possible on future Green Team events.
 - Hillside Festival – Weinstein provided an update on planning for this event, which is designed to get people to explore the Hillside Natural Area. He presented a more detailed budget (contained in EQC binder) for the event. Members expressed a concern that the current event budget of \$1000 might not be enough. Motion to allocate another \$500, for a total of \$1500 towards Hillside Festival expenses. (Weinstein /Miner/Unanimous).
 - Cool California Challenge – Miner reported that El Cerrito was currently in 12th place out of the 21 cities competing in the Challenge. The City has recruited 118 participants. Miner expressed a need for the current participants to go back to the website and go deeper into their commitments in order to log more points for the City.
 - We Love Our Volunteers Event – No activities were reported.
 - Environmental Workshops – No activities were reported.
6. **Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP)** –Goudey asked whether the Committee was interested in considering EPP as a policy initiative. Sanders distributed the City’s current EPP policy (contained in EQC binder). Both committee members and those in the audience felt that there was room for improvement in the City’s current policy. However, Schaadt expressed an opinion that just emailing the current policy to those making purchasing decisions or hosting brown bags would be enough to better implement the intent of the policy. Sanders reported that there was not enough City staff capacity at this current time for a staff to appropriately support the EQC in revising the EPP. Weinstein thought pursuing an EPP policy initiative would be a lot of work and divert the EQC from other important endeavors. Motion that the EQC not take on EPP as a policy initiative (Weinstein/Hargrove/Weinstein Aye, 9 Nays). Mackie felt that the EQC could research EPP policies and implementation tools in other communities and volunteers to do this research. Motion that the EQC continue to discuss EPP at a future meeting when Mackie could report back on her research (Schaadt/Spitalnik/Weinstein Abstains, 9 Ayes).
7. **Announcements and future agenda items –**

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Chair and Vice-Chair Elections in April
- 2 Grey Water Education – April
- 3 EPP – Mackie - May?
- 4 Trends in Solid Waste Management - June
- 5 Presentations from other environmental stakeholders in the City – TBD
- 6 Rat Poison and AB 708 Consumer Products Content Information- TBD
- 7 Recap of Paris Climate Summit - TBD
- 8 Drones in Hillside Natural Area – TBD
- 9 Plastic Bag Ban Initiative – Miner – TBD
- 10 Conversation with Supervisor John Gioia – TBD

8. Adjournment – 9:20

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.