



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Roll Call: Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Miller, O'Connor, Pavel, and Weinstein

Absent: Members Hargrove, Mackie, Schaadt, Solari, and Spitalnik

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison; Will Provost, Environmental Analyst; Justin Marquez, CivicSpark Fellow

- 1. Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** –Councilmember Janet Abelson reported on City matters including the School District's decision to not renew the City's lease of the Senior Center property. Sanders gave an update on the Hillside Natural Area Cape Ivy Fly proposal, explaining that the City and USDA was having difficulties negotiating indemnification and liability terms. Currently, the USDA expects the City to assume all liability for work done on City property regarding the research project. Sanders reported that Mackie is not able to return to the EQC after her extended leave of absence, and is thus considered to have resigned. She is able to reapply when she feels she is able resume her duties as a Committee member.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** –Richmond Resident Cordell Hindler announced the latest performance at CCCT, "In the Heights." Brianna Fairbanks requested that the City commit to the Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" campaign for 100% renewable energy by 2050. Neil Tsutsui re-introduced himself and his interest in applying to be a member of the EQC.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the May 9th minutes. (Weinstein, O'Connor, Unanimous)
- 4. Presentation on Potential Funding to Reduce GHG Pollution**–Preston Jordan of Carbon Neutral Albany gave a presentation on potential revenue sources to fund greenhouse gas pollution reduction measures by restructuring Utility User Taxes (UUTr and UUTe) to disincentivize the use of natural gas, which is a potent greenhouse gas. The presentation can be found in a binder located at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Mr. Preston asked that the Committee consider actions to request that the CPUC compel PG&E to

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

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accommodate cities with tiered utility taxes. The EQC will discuss this proposal further at the next meeting.

5. Climate Action Plan Implementation – 8:00

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the following:

- MCE and Deep Green Enrollments (Centennial Deep Green Push)—Milliken reported that MCE received 13 new Deep Green enrollments for El Cerrito in May. Motion to have the EQC approve \$50 for five \$10 El Cerrito Natural Grocery gift certificates to use at the July 4th Festival as incentives for MCE Deep Green enrollment, to be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. (Milliken, O'Connor, Unanimous) Vice-Chair Milliken reported that the new 100x100 postcards have been printed.
- CCA & CPUC Updates
 - SB 692: Transmission Access Charges (TAC)—Miner provided an update on SB 692 stating the bill is being reviewed by the Energy Committee, and an official letter of support is no longer needed by the City. Chair Miner will keep the EQC informed as the bill moves through the legislature.
 - SB 618: CCA Integrated Resource Plans—Miner provided an update on the status of SB 618 stating that the portions of the bill that would negatively effect CCAs have been cut from the bill, and the EQC no longer needs to follow the bill.
- MCE Deep Green Munis—Goudey announced that the City passed its budget to go Deep Green, opting for 100% renewable energy for municipal accounts. Motion to write and present a thank you letter to city staff and city council for their work in achieving 100% renewable energy (Goudey, Milliken, Unanimous).
- MCE Community Power Coalition—Sanders reiterated that the EQC is an advisory body to the City Council and thus could not officially represent the City with outside agencies. EQC members are of course able to participate in any group as individual citizens. Sanders will provide the City's policy statement on this matter at the next meeting.
- EV Discount Program(s) for City Employees—Per a suggestion provided by Goudey, City staff investigated whether the City could participate in a special offer provided by Nissan to discount their electric cars for municipal employees. Sanders reported that the City does not normally advertise one manufacturer or product over others. Thus the City will not participate in this offer at this time.
- Sunshares Program—El Cerrito has until June 30th to sign up as promotional partner. Sanders will report at next EQC meeting whether El Cerrito will participate.

6. EQC Budget and Calendar of Events – 8:30

Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- July 4th Festival – O'Connor and Milliken will staff the EQC table.
- Green Teams –
 - Northern Gateway Clean-Up –June 25th – Weinstein reported that the clean-up will happen and requested that the City provide outreach support.
 - O'Connor requested that the EQC consider Huber Park July Clean-up

- Bike to Work Day – May 11– Goudey announced that it went well and solicited several Deep Green sign-ups during the event.
- Hillside Festival – May 21 –Weinstein announced that the festival went well but without an increase in participation. They collected \$1,100 in donations. He is proposing that next year, the event occur over 3 days. Motion to change the Hillside Fest into a 3-day festival (O’Connor, Weinstein, Unanimous). Milliken thanked Weinstein and the planning committee for their efforts.
- Film and/or Educational Events
 - National Drive Electric Week – September 9-17—No new updates to report.
 - StopWaste Energy Upgrade Workshop, October 17, Albany Community Center—Provost reported that El Cerrito is co-sponsoring the workshop and will help with promotion.
 - *Before the Flood* Film Showing –Pavel indicated that she is waiting to hear back from City staff regarding dates for the showing, hoping for an early fall date. More discussion will take place at the next EQC meeting.

7. Announcements and future agenda items – 8:45

Hear committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Potentially engage in discussion and make decisions regarding logistics of EQC participation in the following.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- 2 Huber Park Invasive Plant Removal
- 3 Drones in Hillside Natural Area—Miner will request that this move agenda item move to the Parks and Recreation Committee
- 4 Invite John Gioia
- 5 City Purchased Vehicles
- 6 Changes to Federal Environmental Policy
- 7 Potential New EQC Member Interviews
- 8 UUTr and UUTe Proposal

8. Adjournment – 9:15

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.