



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 11, 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, Hargrove, Miller, O'Connor, Schaadt, Solari, Spitalnik, and Weinstein

Absent: Member Pavel

Also Present: Janet Abelson, Council Liaison; Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison; Will Provost, Environmental Analyst

- 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. Abelson also discussed the need for funding and developing a more modern library facility in the City. Sanders provided an update on the upcoming event at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center, "Where Recycling is a Pleasure", that will feature a tour and a discussion with founders of the original recycling facility. Provost gave an update on the City's monthly environmental newsletter and the City Council's recent decision to move all municipal accounts to MCE's Deep Green option.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** –Neil Tsutsui re-introduced himself and reiterated his interest in applying to be a member of the EQC. Jeff Sobul re-introduced himself and noted that he is also interested in EQC membership and has attended three consecutive meetings. Eric and Allison Kittleson learned about the EQC at the 4th of July Festival and announced that they are interested in learning more about the Committee and possibly getting involved in the future.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the June 13th minutes. (Schaadt, Weinstein, Unanimous)
- 4. EQC Member Appointment Process** –Committee members discussed the appointment process for adding new members to the EQC and scheduled interviews for 6:30 and 6:45 on August 8th, 2017 with prospective members Neil Tsutsui and Jeff Sobul. Miner, Goudey, and

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.

Schaadt, will serve on the interview panel. Following the interviews, an item may be placed on the City Council agenda to appoint the recommended members to the EQC.

5. Climate Action Plan Implementation

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 14 new Deep Green enrollments for El Cerrito, including 11 at the 4th of July Festival. MCE has offered to provide bags and other materials to the EQC to help enroll additional members. Milliken also reminded the committee that National Night Out, August 1st, will be a good opportunity to enroll new members. O’Conner, Miner, and Milliken are interested in recruiting at various National Night Out events. Goudey or O’Conner will make an announcement about Deep Green at the upcoming Centennial Event at the Recycling Center, “Where Recycling is a Pleasure”. Milliken asked if the EQC should purchase additional gift certificates to encourage sign-ups. The decision will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- Meeting with Economic Development Committee – Goudey, Miner, and Milliken will be meeting with the Economic Development Committee (EDC) to discuss the Green Business program, the Deep Green Campaign, and potential avenues to engage the business community.
- UUTr and UUTe Follow-up Discussion – Miner provided a review of Carbon Neutral Albany’s Utility Users Tax (UUT) presentation and current roadblocks for municipalities to charge tiered UUTs in order to disincentivize natural gas use, as PG&E’s billing system does not yet accommodate custom pricing structures. The Committee is waiting to review language from Berkeley or Albany that would encourage PG&E and/or the CPUC to make this change to the system. Milliken will reach out to Preston Jordan of Carbon Neutral Albany to track efforts in other cities.
- CCA & CPUC Updates
 - SB 692: Transmission Access Charges (TAC)—No new updates to report.
 - SB 618: CCA Integrated Resource Plans—Miner reported no new updates to report and thought there was no new need to monitor the legislation.
- MCE Deep Green Munis—Milliken discussed ways in which the EQC could promote the City’s recent decision to go Deep Green for all municipal accounts. Opportunities may include the City’s “News & Views” publication, the City’s home page online, the Economic Development Committee newsletter, and signs in City facilities. Miner suggested working with other communities to feature the CCA trend and El Cerrito in a larger newspaper. Goudey reported that he spoke at the most recent City Council meeting to thank Council and Staff for their decision to use 100% renewable energy. Motion to recommend that the City put up signs in high traffic buildings and appropriate locations that include a note about being powered by 100% renewable energy and about how residents and businesses can also sign up for MCE’s Deep Green option (O’Conner, Schaadt, Unanimous).
- MCE Community Power Coalition—Goudey discussed the goals of the MCE Community Power Coalition, and stated that given the EQC’s role it may be more appropriate for a local nonprofit to represent the community’s interests. Sanders shared the City policy regarding the role of City Committees and representation with outside

agencies and organizations. Sanders will ask the City Clerk for greater clarification on the ability of EQC members to interact with outside organizations on behalf of the EQC.

- Sunshares Program—Milliken discussed the SunShares program and the hope that the City of El Cerrito will participate next year.

6. Contra Costa Green Business Program – Miner reported on the current Green Business Program and recommended that the EQC encourage existing Green Businesses to seek recertification under the Program, and to encourage new businesses to become a Green Business. The Committee reached a consensus to pursue this at a later date in order to maintain a focus on MCE Deep Green enrollments. Miner will assess interest from the Economic Development Committee and the El Cerrito Progressives.

7. EQC Budget and Calendar of Events

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

- Green Teams –
 - Northern Gateway Clean-Up –June 25th – O’Conner reported that the clean-up went very well. The 8 volunteers, including Councilmember Fadelli and Councilmember Lyman, picked up 16 35-gallon bags of trash.
 - Weinstein suggested the Green Teams combine efforts with Friends of Five Creeks and Friends of Albany Hill for the September clean-up. Motion to move the clean up to Cerrito Creek on September 23rd (Weinstein, O’Conner, Unanimous). Solari discussed the potential to engage Scouts or schools at upcoming clean ups.
 - Sanders will coordinate with Stephen Prée (Environmental Programs Manager) on the need for volunteer assistance with the annual trash assessment.
 - Weinstein reported that the Rotary may be interested in cosponsoring a clean up in the future. Sanders announced that El Cerrito may also be participating in an annual Corporate Volunteer day, where employees from major corporations donate their time to help with a non-profit/governmental project.
- Film and/or Educational Events
 - July 4th Festival – Weinstein reported that the event went well. However, the EQC could have better signage to make the Committee’s role clearer. Goudey suggested making the booth more interactive in the future.
 - National Drive Electric Week – September 9-17—Milliken noted that the proposed event location will be closed for maintenance this year and that the event is being canceled. However, the event will be happening next year.
 - StopWaste Energy Upgrade Workshop, October 17, Albany Community Center—Provost reported that El Cerrito is co-sponsoring the workshop and will help with promotion.
 - Film Showing –Spitalnik will coordinate with Pavel to discuss plans for a film showing this fall. The specific film is to be determined.
 - Weinstein announced that the Hillside Festival will be the 4th, 5th, and 6th of May 2018.
 - Sanders suggested the EQC receive a presentation related to Coastal Cleanup Week in September. Motion to invite a speaker to September meeting related to Coastal Cleanup Week (Schaadt, O’Conner, Unanimous).

8. Announcements and future agenda items

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 – O’Conner recommended that the event should occur next spring and that the EQC should ask for the City’s assistance in removing large plants from the site.
- 3 Drones in Hillside Natural Area—Weinstein reiterated interest in a presentation on drones coming to the Committee.
- 4 City Purchased Vehicles – Goudey noted that the Nissan Leaf employee discount program has been extended and that the City could consider participating.
- 5 Electrification of Natural Gas Appliances

9. Adjournment – 8:58

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.