



# Minutes

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 8, 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, Spitalnik, and Weinstein

**Absent:** Members Pavel and Solari

**Also Present:** Janet Abelson, Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Maria Sanders, Operations + Environmental Services Manager

- 1. Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Councilmember Janet Abelson discussed upcoming events for El Cerrito's Centennial, including a time capsule dedication on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, a movie showing on September 15<sup>th</sup>, a parade on September 16<sup>th</sup>, and a youth dance on the evening of September 16<sup>th</sup>. Will Provost introduced himself as the new Staff Liaison to the Environmental Quality Committee and provided a brief history of his background and interest in environmental issues. Maria Sanders discussed the Parks and Facilities Master Plan and announced the application process for members of the public that are interested in serving on the plan's Citizen Advisory Group.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Cordell Hindler asked the EQC to add a presentation from County Supervisor John Gioia back to the EQC agenda for an upcoming meeting. Hindler also highlighted the upcoming show of "Cabaret" at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Robin Mitchell of the Park and Recreation Commission discussed a very active thread on the NextDoor platform relating to butterflies and other pollinators. Given the strong interest from the community, Mitchell urged the EQC to host a workshop about monarch butterflies and other pollinators, in collaboration with the Community Garden Network.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the July 11th minutes (O'Conner, Weinstein, Unanimous).
- 4. EQC Member Appointment Process** – Goudey reviewed the interview process wherein an ad-hoc subcommittee interviewed the two candidates, Mr. Sobul and Mr. Tsutsui, to learn more about their backgrounds and interest in the EQC. Schaadt reported that Mr. Sobul is interested in integrated pest management and in supporting the general goals and initiatives of the

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committee. Schaadt noted that Mr. Sobul would be a great fit for the EQC. Goudey reported that Mr. Tsutsui is a U.C. Berkeley professor that is interested in pollinators, insects, and habitats, and that he would be an excellent candidate. Motion to recommend City Council appointment of Mr. Sobul and Mr. Tsutsui to the EQC (Goudey, O'Conner, Unanimous).

Mr. Tsutsui stated that he was excited to get started. Mr. Sobul thanked the Committee for the welcome and mentioned that he would be interested in championing an issue in the future. Provost offered to provide the most recent EQC work plan the two new candidates.

## 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 the City has had 36 Deep Green sign-ups through El Cerrito's page on the MCE website. Milliken noted that more people have likely signed up on the general MCE web page and that the last big push for the 100x100 campaign will be at the upcoming parade and fair on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Miner, Goudey, Milliken, and Spitalnik volunteered to host the table at the fair. Milliken also reported that MCE often highlight's El Cerrito's 100x100 campaign in their promotional materials. O'Conner mentioned that he will focus on enrolling his neighbor.
  - Update on Meeting with Economic Development Committee – Miner reported that he, along with Goudey and Milliken, met with the Economic Development Committee to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration. Restaurant week does not appear to be a natural fit, however, participating businesses could be a good group of businesses to target for future outreach. Milliken mentioned that the EDC is willing to put the 100x100 campaign into their newsletter and in their other outreach materials.
  - Business Outreach – Goudey reported that business owners expressed confusion about the cost of deep green and what enrollment entailed. Future outreach should be focused on making the decision easier to understand.
- CCA & CPUC Updates – Miner and Milliken reported on a recent MCE meeting they attended. They discussed the issues surrounding the CPUC and how it is still adapting to managing CCAs. Miner highlighted that MCE is the only CCA currently receiving state funding for efficiency upgrades. Goudey noted that Sonoma County's CCA is pushing for the expansion of electric vehicles, which may be due to a difference in the charter and/or mission of different CCAs. Spitalnik asked the Committee to consider making a recommendation to MCE encouraging them to fund the expansion of EVs in the future.
- MCE Deep Green Munis – Milliken highlighted a recent article that featured El Cerrito as one of 11 cities in the region that has opted up to 100% renewable energy. Provost provided an update on outreach materials he's received from MCE and their #OptUp campaign.
- Contra Costa Green Business Program – Miner reported that the Contra Costa program has not signed-up any new businesses recently and that they are hoping to revamp the effort and process.

## 6. 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 –

- Cerrito Creek Clean-Up – **September 23, 9 AM – 1 PM** – Weinstein discussed the upcoming clean-up and noted that the EQC should have flyers for the event at other upcoming events. Milliken is able to send flyer out to schools. O’Conner recommended cleaning Central Ave. near Adams St. at some point in the future.
- Film and/or Educational Events
  - "Where Recycling is a Pleasure" Historical Talk, July 19 – Debrief – Weinstein reported that the event was a success and was very well attended with more than 60 people in attendance.
  - Recharge Your Lunch: National Drive Electric Week Event, **Sept 9, 11am - 3pm**
    - Register here: <https://driveelectricweek.org/event.php?eventid=1064>
    - Milliken stated that after canceling the event, a new location was found and the National Drive Electric Week event is back on. The EQC could have a table, but that table would need to be staffed by a volunteer.
  - Centennial Parade – **Sept 16** – Sanders discussed the upcoming parade which will start at 10 am at the Safeway parking lot and end at Cerrito Vista Park. Hargrove, Miner, Spitalnik, and Milliken, offered to participate in the parade. Provost will send out an email to further coordinate.
  - StopWaste Energy Upgrade Workshop, **October 17**, Albany Community Center
    - Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berkeley-albany-el-cerrito-green-home-workshop-tickets-35467468152>
    - Provost reviewed the event and encouraged EQC members to attend.
  - Film Showing – TBD – Miner reported that the ideal date for the film showing is December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The film subcommittee still needs to select the exact film that will be shown.
  - Coastal Cleanup Week Presentation at September EQC Meeting – Provost reported that Martha Berthelsen of the Watershed Project in Richmond will be speaking to the committee about local watersheds and the global importance of keeping them clean at the Committee’s next regular meeting.
  - Future workshops – The EQC discussed the workshop idea introduced by Robin Mitchell during public comments. Miner noted that about 25 people are involved in the pollinator discussion online. Motion to co-sponsor a workshop with the Community Garden Network on pollinators and monarch butterflies to be held next spring (O’Conner, Weinstein, unanimous).

## 7. 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.

Miner discussed an idea for an event next year that highlights the efficiency upgrades made by members throughout the community. Weinstein noted that the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers have continued to win grants and that there will be a ribbon cutting event for the opening of the recently completed steps to Motorcycle Hill on August 18th. Milliken announced an upcoming CARB meeting on August 30th and that SunShares will be launching its 2017 effort on August 14th.

### Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Plastics presentation – Sept
- 2 Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- 3 Drones in Hillside Natural Area
- 4 City Purchased Vehicles

- 5 Electrification of Natural Gas Appliances
- 6 Hillside natural area interpretive trail – Miner announced that they received a \$10,000 grant from the Rotary.

**8. Adjournment – 9:04**

*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.*