



# Minutes

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**

### **Call to Order: 7:03 PM**

**Roll Call:** Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Hargrove, Miller, O'Connor, Schaadt, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, and Weinstein

**Absent:** Members Pavel and Tsutsui

**Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Gabrielle Ruxin, El Cerrito CivicSpark Fellow

1. **Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** –Will Provost announced that the EQC should finalize dates for spring events. Provost also introduced the new CivicSpark Fellow, Gabrielle Ruxin, and reviewed best practices for email correspondence between members in order to comply with the Brown Act.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** –
  - a. Cordell Hindler recommended members see the show “Cabaret” at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Hindler also recommended the EQC invite John Gioia to a future meeting, who can discuss county-wide efforts.
  - b. Steve Price, chair of the Urban Forest Committee, announced a tree planting event for the City’s Centennial to take place on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm. To commemorate the City’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Urban Forest Committee will be planting a valley oak tree at the Ashbury median, just north of the Albany/El Cerrito border.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the September 12<sup>th</sup> minutes (O’Connor, Milliken, unanimous)
4. **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 centennial event had the highest number of sign-ups in the shortest time period (11 sign-ups)
    - More than 6% of all accounts in El Cerrito have enrolled in Deep Green

### **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.***

- Goudey noted that percentage was 4% last year and the EQC campaign made a real impact over the course of their 100x100 campaign
- MCE email campaign that went out to light green customers was very effective
- MCE LIFT (Low Income Family and Tenant Program)
  - Goudey announced that the LIFT program will be launching this month. The program targets energy efficiency upgrades for low income households, mostly multifamily units, and offers no cost energy assessments and rebates.
  - Goudey expressed that LIFT could benefit from EQC assistance in reaching out to multifamily tenants and residents
- Business Outreach
  - Restaurant Week Oct 16 – 22nd
  - Milliken provided an example of a display that could be used to highlight the 100x100 campaign at restaurants. Committee members discussed how to reach out to remaining restaurants.
- CCA & CPUC Updates
  - Milliken reported that at least 10 pieces of legislation at the state-level dealt with community choice aggregation in some way. Miner noted that these efforts are likely to continue in the next legislative session.
  - Goudey discussed the current effort to provide more transparency in exit fee calculations. Goudey also provided an overview of a recent CPUC meeting on transportation electrification.

## 5. Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan –

- Stakeholder Group Interviews, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the community center
  - The Committee discussed the Master Planning effort and Goudey volunteered to represent the EQC at the upcoming stakeholder meeting.
  - Weinstein voiced concerns about ensuring that members of the public have access to participate in this meeting and other outreach meetings that will occur as part of the Master Planning process. Miner will contact Chris Jones, Recreation Director, to find out more information.

## 6. EQC Budget and Calendar of Events –

Heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Green Teams –
  - Cerrito Creek Clean-Up – Successful cleanup, EQC was well represented
  - November 12<sup>th</sup> Clean-Up- Will take place at North-end of town, likely near BART
    - Weinstein will generate flyers and send to members as more information becomes available
- Film and/or Educational Events
  - Hillside Natural Area Hike- October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM
    - Weinstein will send a flyer to Provost, who will distribute to EQC members and other interested parties.
  - 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>
  - Film Showing – TBD
    - Gaining Ground

- A filmmaking group wishes to partner with the EQC to premier their film “Gaining Ground” at the Cerrito Theater. The film features Urban Tilth, an urban agriculture nonprofit in Richmond.
- Motion to empower the film committee to screen “Gaining Ground” and other films and to make decision on the film to be selected before the next meeting (Weinstein, Milliken, Unanimous).
- Future workshops:
  - Workshop on Pollinators and Monarch Butterflies (**Spring ‘18**)
    - Provost announced that committee member Tsutsui was able to secure someone from UC Berkeley to talk about pollinators, if the EQC is interested. Spitalnik offered to contact the head of the UC Botanical Garden to speak.
    - Motion to formalize a subcommittee to plan the workshop, including members Tsutsui, Goudey, Schaadt, Miller, and Miner (Spitalnik, Milliken, Unanimous).

## 7. EQC Work Plan 2018 –

EQC members participated in a discussion and considered possible action items regarding updating the Work Plan for 2018.

- Updating the work plan will involve reading the latest Work Plan and providing edits by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The selected editor, Sobul, will provide a draft 2018 work plan with suggested edits by the next meeting, when members can discuss the work plan in more depth. Solari will also assist in editing as needed.
- What is the major EQC campaign or initiative for 2018?
  - One idea mentioned by EQC Committee members was to do a “Year of the Monarch/Pollinator” with a focus on eliminating toxics in households and making yards mini-ecosystems for pollinators.

## 8. Announcements and future agenda items –

Heard committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- Weinstein reported that recent city work caused damage to the Cerrito Creek and destroyed a portion of work completed by Friends of Five Creeks (FOFC). He would like to see the EQC discuss the City’s current creek maintenance practices and procedures.
  - Goudey proposed making a new agenda item on maintenance practices in creeks.
- Spitalnik proposed reviewing fire vegetation management practices.
- O’Connor proposed having a presentation on colony collapse and prevention tactics.

## 9. Adjournment – 9:09 PM

*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.*