



# Minutes

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**

**Call to Order: 7:02 PM**

**Roll Call:** Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Molnar, Moreno, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, Tsutsui, and Weinstein

**Absent:** Members Kittleson, O'Connor, Pavel, and Tarbet

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

- 1. Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports – Provost** announced that El Cerrito now has 18 “Deep Green” sign-ups through MCE’s Living Lightly campaign. He also announced that through AB 1884, proposed in the State Assembly, plastic straws would be provided upon request and the El Cerrito City Council will soon vote on whether to send a letter in support of this proposed legislation.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items –**Barbara Chan from the El Cerrito Progressive’s Environmental Justice Committee gave a presentation on plastic straws and urged EQC members to take action. She announced that the Progressives started a “Skip the Straw” campaign on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Progressive’s member Anne Ogonowski added that during her cleanups, she finds many straws. Robin Mitchell, an El Cerrito resident, noted that 500,000,000 straws are used every day. Residents Mei Mei Everson and Matéan Everson noted that marine life is greatly affected by plastic straws and that there are many alternatives.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes –** Motion to approve the Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> minutes (Milliken, Weinstein, unanimous; Abstain: Tsutsui).
- 4. Potential Property Transfer Tax Rebates– Provost** noted that the City Council is in support of providing a transfer tax rebate for energy efficiency upgrades and that if the real property transfer tax is approved, discussions on how to support the Building Division in implementing the rebate could come back to the EQC in winter.
  - Goudey added that there will be a cap on energy efficiency rebates. He also heard concerns at the meeting on how to access similar rebates when not selling or buying a house.
- 5. Storm Drain Master Plan/ Green Infrastructure Plan Update- Provost** announced that a consultant digitized all of the City’s storm drain maps and is noting where piping needs fixing. The Green Infrastructure Plan is regulatory driven, but it comes at a good time as green infrastructure projects can be added when storm drain infrastructure improvements are taking place. There will also be a public outreach portion to this plan.

- Spitalnik requested that the EQC may consider pushing for incentives for single family homes to get rid of hardscape and may look into working with EBMUD. Spitalnik also asked if climate change trends are going to be incorporated into the plan.
- Goudey and Robin Mitchell liked the idea of teaching homeowners how to increase infiltration.

**6. SunShares (Starting August 2018)** - Provost announced that the City signed a formal letter to be an official outreach partner. This program will launch in August and go through November and will offer cheaper pricing for EV chargers and solar panels.

- Milliken noted that SunShares is coordinated by the Business Council on Climate Change and they select vendors. Participants can then choose which vendor they want to connect with. It is open to anyone in the Bay Area and EQC members can conduct outreach through social media and their personal networks. At the workshops, there will be a slideshow about the process and people can speak with the vendors.
- EQC members created a subcommittee to conduct outreach for SunShares including Molnar, Sobul, Tsutsui, Spitalnik, Miner, and Milliken.
- Motion that the EQC supports a potential workshop with SunShares (Milliken, Spitalnik, unanimous).

**7. Climate Action Plan Implementation-**

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

- Living Lightly Campaign- MCE Deep Green
  - Milliken noted that she received a flyer from MCE that showed that 61% of MCE's Light Green power came from renewable sources in 2017.
- CCA & CPUC Updates
  - Milliken announced that the CPUC is adopting a disadvantaged communities program, which may give low income residents a way to get clean energy at a discounted rate. CCAs can participate and details are still being figured out.
  - Milliken mentioned that the CPUC is also holding proceedings on how efficiently dollars are spent. Currently, fuel switching is not incentivized and they are looking into changing this.
  - Goudey attended an MCE meeting where they discussed on bill financing, which would allow customers to pay off efficiency upgrades without the upfront costs. MCE used to have a program, but there was not much uptake.
  - Provost announced that MCE is coming to speak about their new EV program at the next Council meeting
    - Goudey noted that this program includes low income vehicle rebates and EV chargers for multifamily residences and businesses.

**8. EQC Budget and Calendar of Events-**

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

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops:
  - East Bay Electrification Expo (Feb 2019)
  - Electrification Homes Tour or Workshop

- June 9-Fixit Clinic- (10/27, 12-4pm)
  - Motion to co-sponsor the Fixit Clinic (Spitalnik, Sobul, unanimous).
- Green Team Cleanups:
  - July 8- Northern Gateway, Debrief
  - September 15- Cerrito Creek, Coastal Cleanup Week
    - Weinstein reported that the Girl Scouts co-sponsored this event.
  - November 18- Northern Gateways- Baxter Creek
- Other Events
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July (7/4)- Debrief
  - National Drive Electric Week Event in Berkeley (9/15)
    - Molnar will look into hosting a crafts reuse booth
    - Conditional motion to allocate up to \$500 for EQC craft activity and to co-host the event and create a subcommittee (Weinstein, Tsutsui, unanimous)
    - Subcommittee for National Drive Electric to include Goudey, Molnar and Milliken.
  - Volunteer Appreciation Event- TBD
    - Miner, Weinstein and Molnar offered to help plan the event.

#### 9. EQC Member Appointment Process-

Committee members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment new members to the EQC.

- Motion to recommend Gisele Verrier's appointment to the EQC (Miner, Solari, unanimous).

#### 10. Announcements and future agenda items-

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

- Goudey is interested in hearing Staff's perspective on how the plastic straw ordinance could be implemented.
- Milliken noted that the EQC may be interested in doing education to residents on the Green Infrastructure Plan.
- Goudey mentioned that he would be interested in hearing from LimeBike and seeing their data.

#### Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

1. Next Steps for Policies in Work Plan
2. Urban Greening Plan Implementation
3. City Purchased Vehicles
4. Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
5. Partner with LimeBike on event/education
6. Presentation and Discussion on Green Infrastructure
7. Climate Action Plan Implementation Update

#### 11. Adjournment- 9:13 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.*