



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 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, Kittleson, Molnar, Moreno, O'Connor, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, Tarbet, Tsutsui, Weinstein, Verrier

Absent: Members Pavel

Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, City Council Liaison; Kaiya Levine, City Climate Corps Fellow

- 1. Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – City Council Liaison Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto announced that statewide legislation was passed to require food vendors to give out plastic straws to customers upon request only and that the City Council passed a resolution in support of El Cerrito's Measure V, which will be on the ballot this November. Pardue-Okimoto mentioned that in August, the Mayor sent out a letter to the Air Resources Board in support of innovative clean transit and the deployment of zero emissions buses statewide. She also discussed MCE's presentation on their EV program which offers \$1.5 million in rebates to install charging ports and allows EV access to low income households. Lastly, she reported the City is studying approaches to affordable housing, including rental protection, rent control, and just cause eviction. Provost announced that at the League of California Cities Conference this week, the Mayor will be accepting a Beacon Spotlight Award for El Cerrito's successes in reducing energy use and greenhouse gases.
- 2. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items-** None.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, August 14th minutes (Tsutsui, O'Connor, unanimous; Abstain: Milliken).
- 4. Plastic Waste and Plastic Pollution**– Committee discussed the EQC's role in addressing the plastic issue in El Cerrito and whether an expanded prohibition on plastic straw use or food ware should be implemented. Motion to approve an ad hoc sub-committee to consider a policy, including ordinances controlling single-use plastic food ware, outreach, and related issues. (Spitalnik, O'Connor, unanimous).
- 5. The Brown Act and Committee Policies and Procedures-** City Staff is working to coordinate a formal presentation/training from the City Clerk or City Attorney on the Brown Act. EQC Members discussed how ad hoc subcommittees may not contain a majority of committee members, cannot include members of the public, must be temporary, and must be assigned to complete a specific task. Provost also stated that ad hoc subcommittees may not make any decisions and that the EQC cannot discuss or act on items not on the agenda. Provost also discussed the Committee's Administrative policies around Boards and Committees.

- 6. EQC Budget and Calendar 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:
- Volunteer recognition event- October 4, 6:30pm-8:00pm
 - Three awards being given away
 - Motion to approve funding for event not to exceed \$600 (Milliken, O'Connor, unanimous)
 - Fixit Clinic- October 27, 12:30pm-4:00pm
 - All members are welcome and encouraged to register through the event link.
 - Motion to approve funding for event not to exceed \$200 (Goudey, O'Connor, unanimous)
 - National Ride Electric Week Event- September 15, 11am-3pm
 - In Downtown Berkeley at Civic Center Park, 1940 Allston Way
 - Volunteers are needed to help
 - Green Team Cleanups:
 - September, 15- Cerrito Creek Cleanup, Coastal Cleanup Day 10am
 - Will be co-sponsored by the El Cerrito Girl Scouts
 - November 18- Northern Gateways-Baxter Creek
 - Will be co-sponsored by Genesys
- 7. SunShares (Starting August 2018)-** Committee members discussed open enrollment and efforts to promote the workshop events in newsletters and flyers around the city. Workshops will be held in El Cerrito at City Hall (October 15th) and in Berkeley to help residents get discounts on solar panel installation and EVs and also to help educate people on clean energy. Milliken noted that the SunShares discounts this year are in addition to the Federal Tax Credit, so sign up by November if you want to participate in the rebates.
- 8. Climate Action Plan Implementation-** EQC Members discussed the current MCE Living Lightly initiatives and recent challenges facing CCA's, including exit fee negotiations with PG&E. Provost stated that the city is meeting or exceeding greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and is working to compile the data needed for an implementation report to share findings with the EQC, members of the public, and City Council. Miner talked about direct access service being allowed and studied, which lets nonresidents sign contracts for electricity with a third-party Electric Service Provider instead of a regulated electric provider.
- 9. Announcements and Future Agenda Items-** Provost stated that the six-month trial period with LimeBike has ended and the city is working on extending the pilot program while the City evaluates the program. Miner highlighted the release of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, Public Draft, and encouraged EQC members to review the draft and provide feedback.

10. Adjournment- 8:53 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.