



# Minutes

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**

### **Call to Order: 7:04 PM**

**Roll Call:** Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Molnar, Moreno, O'Connor, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, Tarbet, Tsutsui, Verrier

**Absent:** Members Pavel, Weinstein

**Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Maria Sanders, Operations + Environmental Services Manager; Laureteen Brazil, Waste Prevention Specialist; Kaiya Levine, City Climate Corps Fellow

1. **Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Provost announced that EQC member Alison Kittleson has resigned. He also noted that the City has recently completed the Clean Water Program annual report on various activities related to stormwater quality. The City is on track to meet its target for a 100% reduction in the trash load by 2022. Provost also mentioned that the City extended the pilot agreement with the LimeBike bike-share program and that the Coastal Cleanup Event removed nearly 500 pounds of litter from Cerrito Creek.
2. **Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items** – None.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> minutes (O'Connor, Sobul, unanimous).
4. **Presentation on Recycling Markets and Plastic Free July** – Sanders and Brazil gave a presentation on new legislative changes relating to plastic pollution, recycling, and composting in commercial and multifamily buildings. The new mandates require the City to do outreach, education, monitoring, and to increase the amount of reporting on compliance. Recent legislation includes:
  1. AB 341 requires mandatory commercial recycling for businesses that generate at least four cubic yards of waste and for multifamily buildings with five or more units.
  2. AB 1826 requires that multifamily buildings and businesses have an organics recycling program. Multifamily buildings have to comply by having their landscape waste recycled, however, they can be exempt if they have no green waste.
  3. SB 1383 sets a statewide goal for 75% reduction in organic waste in landfills and 20% increase in edible food recovery. The legislation will require a large increase in the number of composting facilities throughout California.

4. AB 1884 requires full service restaurants to only give straws out upon request. This does not include fast food restaurants or require alternative options for straws.
  5. SB 452 was vetoed by the Governor, but it would have provided more funding to recycling centers and increased opportunities for consumers to recycle bottles and cans.
  6. SB 1335 prohibits non-recyclable and non-compostable takeout food service packaging materials at state facilities.
  7. SB 1263 directs the ocean protection council to develop a plan for stemming the growth of microplastics.
  8. SB 1422 requires that drinking water be tested for microplastic contamination.
- 5. Plastic Waste and Plastic Pollution – Verrier** stated that the Ad-hoc Plastic Subcommittee discussed options to go further with bans on plastic and plastic straws. They suggested doing more events, education, and outreach work to make the EQC’s 2019 workplan focused around plastic pollution. The Committee considered the ideas of taking action on plastic reduction and discussed how it may be worked into the development of the EQC’s workplan for the coming year.
- 6. EQC Budget and Calendar Events –** Committee members heard updates and participated in discussion.
- Fixit Clinic- October 27, 12:30pm-4:00pm
    - All members welcome and encouraged to register through the event link.
  - November 18- Northern Gateways-Baxter Creek
    - Will be co-sponsored by Genesys
- 7. Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards –** The EQC discussed formalizing the award process for future environmental awards and naming the award the “Ron Eggherman Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards” as a way to recognize Eggherman’s volunteer efforts. In the interest of time, the Committee decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting.
- 8. SunShares (Starting August 2018) – Provost** reminded members about the upcoming workshop on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the El Cerrito City Hall. Milliken suggested that the EQC should have a welcome table and promote EVs. She mentioned that at the workshop there will also be a push to encourage citizens to switch to MCE’s Deep Green.
- 9. Climate Action Plan Implementation – Miner** mentioned that there is an upcoming CPUC vote on the 13<sup>th</sup> to vote on two versions of the PCIA “exit fee” for CCAs.
- 10. Announcements and Future Agenda Items – Miner** announced that a community member requested that the EQC look at the noise and exhaust pollution from leaf blowers.
- 11. Adjournment – 9:15 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.*