



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

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

Absent: Member Spitalnik

Also Present: Paul Fadelli, Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison;

Kaiya Levine, Climate Corps Fellow

- Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Council Liaison Fadelli announced that the City Council is working to fine tune City Policies including the Specific Plan and the General Plan. He also discussed Washington D.C.'s efforts to prohibit plastic straws and praised the EQC for their efforts to take action against plastics. Miner informed members that Provost has been interim manager for Maria Sanders while she is away. Provost discussed the City's efforts to pursue a grant for a Hillside Natural Area Master Plan as well as a grant for fire mitigation and hazard removal. He also noted that a volunteer is still needed to help coordinate food and kitchen responsibilities during the Earth Day celebration.
- Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Cordell Hindler, Richmond, invited members to view Humble Boy at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre. He went on to request that the new City Clerk give a Brown Act presentation to the Committee members and the public. Paul Duncan, a member of Make El Cerrito Fire Safe, stated that the organization's goal is to mitigate fire hazards throughout El Cerrito. Steve Price announced that as an Arbor day event, a group of volunteers will be clearing out fire hazards from under Eucalyptus trees in the Hillside Natural Area. The event will take place on March 9th at 10 am. Jean Harte strongly urged the EQC to implement the "Green Mondays" program in which the City supports efforts to serve plant-based foods one day a week in an effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions.
- Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, January 8th minutes (Tsutsui, Milliken, unanimous)
- Presentation on Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention** – The Fire Marshal and Battalion Chief of the El Cerrito Fire Department, Chief David Gibson, gave a presentation to members on fire preparedness and prevention. Gibson showed images of the Coffey Park neighborhood in Santa Rosa to illustrate that fires are not just a hillside problem. Despite California having a great system in place for fighting fires, once the fires begin, they are a struggle to get enough people and equipment on the scene to respond. The best thing to do is

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 Will Provost, Staff Liaison at 525-7622 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

to minimize fire hazards by properly maintaining trees and shrubs. He went on to discuss CalFire's Ready Set Go! Program and comprehensive and free mobile app to help people be prepared. Chief Gibson strongly encouraged activism and community participation in fire preparedness and prevention. There will be several presentations in El Cerrito and Kensington throughout the next couple months to educate all residents on fire prevention.

5. **EQC Budget and Calendar of Events** – Milliken reported that the electrification event was very successful and many cities and residents are hoping to learn more about electrification. Slide decks are available for anyone who would like to see them. The Committee also heard updates, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding planning for the EQC calendar of events including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - Earth Day (April 13)
 - Work party in the morning and a lunch celebration in the afternoon.
 - EQC plans to show a film during the Earth Day lunch.
 - City Nature Challenge in HNA (April 27)
 - Tsutsui reported that there is a group of graduate students who are willing to volunteer and teach people about local species in the Hillside Natural Area.
 - 6th Annual Hillside Festival (May 3-5)
 - Bike to Work Day (May 9)
 - 4th of July-
 - The Committee discussed a big push for reducing plastics around 4th of July.
 - National Drive Electric Week Event
 - Berkeley Event (Saturday, Sept 14, 2019)
 - Richmond Event (weekday, Sept 2019, TBD)
 - SunShares 2019 Participation (August – November)
 - Fixit Clinics 2019
 - Hoping to move to the Community Center to be able to continue to grow.
- **Green Team Cleanups:** Weinstein noted that the Cerrito Creek cleanup had a successful turn out, but one EQC member was injured climbing over a log. The log will no longer be used during cleanups.
 - Feb. 16, Saturday, Madera Property Broom Pull
 - March 10, Sunday, Del Norte BART to Baxter Creek
 - April 13, Saturday, Earth Day, Cerrito and/or Baxter Creek
 - June 1, Saturday, Northern Entries and San Pablo Avenue
 - Aug. 17, Saturday, Central Park and Cerrito Creek or Ohlone Greenway
 - September 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Event
 - October date TBD, tree planting with Urban Forest Committee
 - Nov. 2, Saturday, Baxter Creek

6. **EQC “Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention” Implementation**– Provost updated members on the status of El Cerrito's draft expanded food ware ordinance that could prohibit the use of plastic straws at El Cerrito restaurants. A mark-up of the new ordinance and a timeline discussion is expected for the EQC meeting in March.

7. **Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards** –The EQC discussed formalizing the award process for future environmental awards and recommending that the City Council name the awards the “Ron Eggherman Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards” as a way to recognize

Egherman's volunteer efforts. The Committee decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting after talking to Egherman's family.

8. **Climate Action Plan Implementation** – Members considered the consequences of the PG&E bankruptcy and how it may affect ratepayers. Members look forward to hearing a report in a later meeting on how successfully El Cerrito has implemented Climate Action Plan strategies and discussing next steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
9. **Announcements and future agenda items** – Milliken announced that the SunShares numbers showed El Cerrito had 7 contracts signed and was one of the top 5 outreach partners.

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.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- 2 City Purchased Vehicles
- 3 Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- 4 Green Infrastructure Plan Public Meeting
- 5 Climate Action Plan Implementation Update
- 6 Brown Act Presentation from City Clerk
- 7 Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
- 8 Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates – Discuss Implementation/Promotion of Program

Committee members would like to discuss the Green Mondays program and potential film events at a future meeting.

10. Adjournment – 9:10

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.