

El Cerrito Welcomes New City Manager



KAREN PINKOS became El Cerrito's new city manager on December 26, 2018.

Although she is a newly appointed city manager, Karen is not new to the City. She was one of former City Manager Scott

Hanin's first hires in 2001 and they worked closely together until Scott's retirement last December. Karen is the first woman in the City's history to be appointed to the permanent position of City Manager.

Karen hails from the Detroit, Michigan, area, where she served as the Assistant to the City Manager of the City of Oak Park. She was hired as Assistant to the City Manager in El Cerrito in 2001 and became Assistant City Manager in 2006. Since 2006, she has served as interim Environmental and Development Services Director, interim Human Resources Manager, and liaison to the Arts and Culture and Human Relations Commissions, among many other roles. She often refers to herself as a "utility player" and has worn many hats in over 20 years of local government management experience.

In addition to the many roles she plays in El Cerrito, Karen has been a leader in the

profession of local government management. She has served on boards and in leadership roles in several professional organizations, including the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), California City Management Foundation (CCMF), the League of California Cities City Managers Department, and Cal-ICMA. Last year, Karen became ICMA President, and her appointment made her an ambassador for our City as well as for the profession of local government. During her tenure she will visit Romania, China, New Zealand, and cities all over the United States, sharing the great things happening here in our city, while representing all local government managers.

Karen says she is honored, humbled, and excited to continue serving the residents of El Cerrito. "I remain committed to the mission of El Cerrito and will work diligently to implement our strategic goals. I will continue to serve this wonderful community to the best of my ability, to be responsive and creative, provide steady leadership, and to enthusiastically guide our staff."

Karen was the featured speaker at January's El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce luncheon. She said that her tenure will be marked by a theme of "continuous improvement" and she wished residents to see her new

role as an "evolution, not a revolution," like the evolution of the community as it builds on the foundation laid in the last several years.

Karen holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. She is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and of the UC Berkeley Executive Program.

An avid sports fan with two roomies, her cats Chloe and Sydney, Karen also has an infectious laugh. She welcomes your ideas. Follow her on Twitter at [@kepinkos](#) or email citymanager@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

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Fire Reduction Is a Community Effort

CALIFORNIA NO LONGER has a single fire season; now, we face the possibility of wildfires throughout the year. Creating defensible space around your home before it is under threat is critical to the preservation of all that we as a community hold dear and value. As we all saw just last year, catastrophic wildfires can result in the loss of homes, businesses and, sadly, lives.

Our message is simple: *We need our residents' help to reduce the threat of fire.* Clearing seasonal weeds, brush, and combustible debris from your property on an ongoing basis reduces fire threat. This year, all properties in El Cerrito will receive a fire hazard analysis, beginning in April. Please make a commitment to help by addressing any issues before the analysis. For information on the City of El Cerrito's vegetation management standards, please go to el-cerrito.org/FirePrevention.

THE CITY OF EL CERRITO serves, leads and supports our diverse and transit-rich community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 6

Spring Book Sale

**El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave.
10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Friends of the El Cerrito Library present their Spring Book Sale featuring books, DVDs, CDs, and other items for children and adults. For details, go to friendselcerritolibrary.wordpress.com.

Weekends, April 12–May 5

All the Way

by Robert Schenkkan

**Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave.
Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.**

November 1963: An assassin's bullet catapults LBJ into the presidency. This charismatic, conflicted Texan hurls himself into the passage of the Civil Rights Act, even as he campaigns for re-election in his own right. An enthralling look at the morality of power. Tickets and information at ccct.org/.

Saturday, April 13

El Cerrito's Annual Earth Day Celebration

Work parties at various locations around El Cerrito, 9 a.m.–noon

Lunch at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, noon–1:30 p.m.

The City celebrates Earth Day with a morning of work party volunteerism followed by our Volunteer Appreciation lunch. Register your work party at el-cerrito.org/earthday. For more information, email City staff at earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call 559-7686.



Saturday, April 20

Annual Spring Egg Hunt

**Arlington Park, 1120 Arlington Blvd.
10 a.m., sharp!**

Free event for ages 0–12—rain or shine. Bring your basket and be sure to get there on time because the hunt for candy and treats is over within minutes! After the hunt, meet a very special bunny and play in beautiful Arlington Park.



Friday through Sunday, May 3–5

6th Annual Hillside Festival

**Hillside Natural Area, 7451 Schmidt Lane
Event times to be determined**

Enjoy El Cerrito's 6th Annual Hillside Festival, designed to showcase the natural and cultural beauty of the Hillside Natural Area. This free event includes nature walks, hikes, music, and poetry. Visit ectrailltrekkers.org for details.

Sunday, May 5

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

**Various Alameda and Contra Costa locations
10 a.m.–5 p.m.**

Discover California native plants with a free self-guided tour of local gardens. Information at bringingbackthenatives.net.

Thursday, May 9

Bike to Work Day

Ohlone Greenway near the bike lockers at El Cerrito Plaza BART Station, 7–9 a.m.

Join over 100,000 Bay Area residents who will pedal-power their commute on Bike to Work Day! For more information, go to el-cerrito.org/BiketoWorkDay or see the story on page 3.

Saturday, May 18

Spring Citywide Garage Sale

**Register by April 12 at 4 p.m.
Garage Sale, May 18, at various locations
in El Cerrito, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Keep waste out of the landfill while finding great deals and discovering your community. To host a sale, complete the Registration Form by April 12 at 4 p.m. To register or for more information, visit el-cerrito.org/GarageSale.

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day Holiday

City administrative offices will be closed

Saturdays:

June 1, August 17, and September 21

El Cerrito Green Teams

**Various El Cerrito locations
Cleanup details to be determined**

Join one of El Cerrito's Green Teams for a clean up at one of many locations in El Cerrito. For more information, go to el-cerrito.org/NewGreen or contact the Operations + Environmental Services Division at green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4350.

Monday, June 10

Summer Camp Begins!

**Register now for summer camp,
beginning June 10**



Saturday, June 22

Pickleball Relish Tournament

**Castro Park Tennis Courts, 1420 Norvell St.
8 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Register by May 22 for the Women's Recreational Division Tournament (3.0 and below). Medals will be awarded to the top 3 winners. Entry fee is \$25 per player, space is limited. To register, mail registration form, payment, and release form to the Midtown Activity Center, 10940 San Pablo Ave. For more information, call 559-7677.

1st Wednesday of each Month

Free Tour of the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center

**El Cerrito Recycling Center
7501 Schmidt Lane, 3 p.m.**

Join the City for a behind-the-scenes look at the LEED Platinum Certified Recycling Center. Tours at different times can also be arranged for a fee. For information, call City staff at 559-7686.

Recycling Center Spring/Summer Hours

The Recycling Center is on its spring/summer schedule through October 31.

Drop-off your recyclables

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5:45 p.m.
Weekends, 9 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste

Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Improvements to Storm Water Infrastructure

THE CITY OF El Cerrito is currently developing a Green Infrastructure Plan to identify and prioritize green infrastructure projects that will reduce stormwater pollution. *Green infrastructure* refers to projects that utilize natural processes to slow water down, thereby reducing flood risk and improving water quality. The City hopes to use these methods to reach new pollution reduction targets for PCBs and mercury by 2020, 2030, and 2040.

The benefits of green infrastructure include: improvements to water quality, replenishment of groundwater supplies, flood mitigation, habitat creation, creek and wetland restoration, and community improvements such as urban greening and traffic slowing.

Living roofs and rain gardens are the most common types of green infrastructure. A *living roof* is one that is covered



Green infrastructure at El Cerrito City Hall

with vegetation—an example can be found at El Cerrito's Korematsu Middle School. A *rain garden* holds runoff from hard surfaces such as rooftops and sidewalks. The water slowly soaks into the soil while plants, mulch, and the soil itself remove pollutants. Several rain gardens have also been built within the City of El Cerrito. Locations include the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center; City Hall and Public Safety buildings; on the Ohlone Greenway at Fairmount Avenue; on San Pablo Avenue at Eureka Avenue; and on San Pablo Avenue at Madison Avenue.

The Green Infrastructure Plan, which will be available for public comment in spring or summer of this year, will be focused on integrating green infrastructure into projects already identified in the Storm Drain Master Plan update, currently in development, and in other planning documents. The Plan will prioritize projects for implementation and set target dates that will continue through 2040.

For more information about the Green Infrastructure Plan or to submit comments, contact the City's Clean Water Program Coordinator, Will Provost, at **525-7622** or **wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us**.



FLORASOURCE, LTD.

Living roof located at El Cerrito's Korematsu Middle School



Attend a CERT Boot Camp

LEARN TO SURVIVE in an emergency at a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Boot Camp on May 4 in El Cerrito.

In a disaster, you may be on your own. Learn what you can do to help yourself and your neighbors at a CERT training. CERT teaches:

- disaster first aid training
- disaster preparedness
- basic firefighting
- light search and rescue
- damage assessment
- how to turn off utilities . . . and more!

The El Cerrito Fire Department will hold a one-day, non-certified CERT Boot Camp on Saturday, May 4, at the El Cerrito Community Center, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is required and space is limited. Sign up at **el-cerrito.org/CERT**.

Bike to Work Day

ON THURSDAY, MAY 9, over 100,000 Bay Area residents will visit hundreds of energizer stations and bike their commutes for Bike to Work Day.

Visit El Cerrito's Energizer Station on the Ohlone Greenway near the bike lockers at the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station, from 7 to 9 a.m. You'll receive a free goodie bag full of bike-friendly swag. Whether you're bicycling to work, school, or just around your neighborhood, we look forward to seeing you!

For more information, visit **el-cerrito.org/BiketoWorkDay**.



CPR & First Aid Classes

THE EL CERRITO Fire Department will again offer CPR and First Aid classes to the public this spring. Join us and learn life-saving skills, including:

- adult CPR with AED (automatic external defibrillator)
- child and infant CPR
- basic first aid

Spring classes will be held on Saturday, March 23, and Saturday, May 18. Registration is required. Resident fee is \$42 for CPR or \$84 for CPR and First Aid. Space is limited and priority is given to El Cerrito and Kensington residents. Call **215-4450** or email fire@ci-el-cerrito.ca.us to sign up for this important training.

Register Your Security Camera at City Hall



YOU CAN HELP solve crime and keep our community safe by registering your personal surveillance camera with the Citizen Security Camera Registration Program. Registering your camera will assist the Police Department in its overall crime prevention strategy. It's fast, simple, and participation is always 100% voluntary.

Many residents currently operate surveillance systems at their homes and use them when they are victims of a crime. But the systems can also capture information about nearby crimes. Residents are not always aware of all of the information on their systems and, in turn, the police do not know who may provide potentially vital information that could help solve a crime.

The ECPD is asking El Cerrito residents to register all privately owned surveillance camera systems. After registering your camera, you will be contacted only if there is a criminal incident in the vicinity of your security camera, and you can decide at that time if you wish to participate.

Help make El Cerrito an undesirable place for criminals to commit crimes! To register your security camera, please visit el-cerrito.org/Camera.

San Pablo Avenue Corridor Project

IN 2018, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) began work on the San Pablo Avenue Corridor Project, a multiagency effort to improve transit along this critical regional route. The area covered by the project includes San Pablo Avenue from Hilltop Mall in Richmond to downtown Oakland, including parallel routes and perpendicular connections within a half mile of the avenue.

The project aims to accommodate projected growth and address competing demands from all users. It will identify a set of near- and long-term improvements to increase the corridor's effectiveness,

with a focus on safety, reliability, comfort, and connectivity for transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Potential outcomes could include modernizing signals, building better bus stops and stations, implementing bus rapid transit, and expanding BART connections for both bike riders and pedestrians.

Multiple public agencies and local governments are responsible for and committed to working cooperatively on this project. The agencies include ACTC as sponsoring agency, Caltrans, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC), Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, and the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART). City governments include San Pablo, Richmond, El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, and Oakland. El Cerrito City staff serve on the Technical Advisory Committee and an El Cerrito City Council member will serve on the Policy Advisory Committee.

The project endeavors to build upon past planning efforts, including El Cerrito's San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan (adopted by the City Council in 2014). Many of the cities and agencies along the corridor have produced their own studies within the last decade. ACTC and all partnering agencies understand the challenge of reconciling the competing details of the individual plans. But all share the goals of increasing mobility, ensuring safety, promoting economic development, and maintaining a sense of place.

At this point in Phase 1, several key concepts have already been identified and participating agencies are cooperating in the selection and evaluation of near- and long-term goals. ACTC began targeted outreach to stakeholders and focus groups in early February and is currently launching an online survey. It will hold a series of public workshops in April. To access the survey and get more information about the workshops, please visit the ACTC website at alamedactc.org/programs-projects/multimodal-arterial-roads/sanpabloave/. You may also contact the City Public Works Department at **215-4382** or streets@ci-el-cerrito.ca.us.



San Pablo Avenue is the focus of the Alameda County Transportation Commission Project.

El Cerrito Voters Approve Charter City Measure

IN LAST NOVEMBER'S election, residents approved Measure V, designating El Cerrito as a *Charter City*. Prior to the vote, El Cerrito was a *General Law City*. Under California law, a charter city is authorized to control its municipal affairs, and the city's charter becomes the constitution. The measure passed with over 54% of the vote.

The passage of Measure V also authorized the city to collect a real property transfer tax (RPTT) on all property sales, equal to \$12 for every \$1000 in sales price. The RPTT went into effect on January 14 of this year and is currently being collected on all sales that occurred on or after that date. For instructions and more detailed information on the RPTT, please go to el-cerrito.org/RealPropertyTransferTax.

EXEMPTIONS AND RPTT REBATES

Not all property sales are taxed. Some exemptions are available. Per the charter, these include, among others: government entities; transfers due to bankruptcy; deed in lieu of foreclosure; transfer of affordable housing units; transfers

between spouses and domestic partners, with conditions; and transfers that confirm or correct a recorded deed.

In addition, there is a rebate program focusing on seismic upgrades and conservation projects. Below is a table of improvements that can qualify for rebates. Multiple rebate applications can be submitted, but the total rebate amount cannot exceed one-third of the total transfer tax amount.

Qualifying seismic and energy or water conservation upgrades must be completed either up to one year prior to the transfer of real property or within one year after the transfer. If the work qualifying for a rebate is completed prior to the transfer of the real property, the buyer and seller may decide who will apply for and receive the rebate. See the City's website for further information, including procedures to apply for the rebate, at el-cerrito.org/TransferTaxRebate.



The plaza at Hana Gardens displays signage honoring the Japanese–American flower growing community.

Hana Gardens Completed

HANA GARDENS, the City's newest mixed-use development, is now complete and open. An official Grand Opening celebration will be held later this spring, on Monday, May 13. For more details about the event, visit el-cerrito.org/AffordableHousing.

Hana Gardens is a 63-unit senior affordable housing community located next to City Hall. "Hana" is often translated from Japanese into English as "flower." In addition to the 63 residential units, the project features a public plaza with interpretive signage honoring both the history of the Japanese–American flower growing community and the Japanese–American internment experience during World War II. Residents also share a community garden and a fitness room. Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. of ground floor commercial space will be open to the public for adult programs, community meetings, and private events to be scheduled by the City.

The City first acquired the property, formerly the Tradeway Furniture Site and Contra Costa Florist Building, from the Successor Agency to the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency and transferred it to Eden Housing, a non-profit developer, in 2017. Eden, in partnership with the City, began construction on the 40,000 sq. ft. site in January 2017 and received a Certificate of Occupancy in November 2018.

For more information about the City's Affordable Housing Program, contact Aissia Ashoori at aashoori@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4361.

Improvement Projects that Qualify for Rebates

Other seismic and conservation projects may be considered for approval by the City's Building Official.

SEISMIC

- work that would qualify for the California Earthquake Brace + Bolt program
- corrective work on buildings listed on the City of El Cerrito inventory of potentially hazardous, unreinforced masonry buildings
- work found by the building official to substantially increase the capability of structures on the property to withstand destruction or damage in the event of an earthquake, including but not limited to such work on buildings that use soft-story construction

ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION

- installation of electric vehicle supply equipment or electric vehicle charging stations
- installation of rooftop solar energy systems
- voluntary measures listed in the California Green Building Standards Code for Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency and Conservation, or Water Reuse
- upgrades to residential, multi-family, and commercial properties that would qualify for the Bay Area Regional Energy Network program
- installation of stormwater retention systems that comply with the California Plumbing Code

How to Get Help with Rats and Mice

RUDMER ZWERNER



RATS AND mice are a growing problem in El Cerrito.

The number of requests to the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District for help with these rodents has doubled over the past five years.

Rats and mice spread disease. They transmit viruses and bacteria to humans through their waste products and nesting material. Once they gain access to your home, they will leave these unhealthy materials all over—both inside and outside.

The first step to rodent control is to contact the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District for a free inspection and report. The district will provide recommendations and information for control and prevention of rats and mice, emphasizing trapping rather than poisons.

“As a public health agency, we recommend homeowners consider trapping before using rat or mouse poison to reduce the risk of unintended or secondary poisoning,” said District Program Supervisor Jonathan Rehana.

Give Back to El Cerrito

EL CERRITO invites you to consider serving on an advisory board, commission, or committee. Members of these groups provide an invaluable service, advising the City Council on a variety of topics, and making recommendations on policy matters. There are several advisory groups, covering a range of topics, such as senior issues, crime prevention, economic development, environmental quality, human relations, urban forest, recreation, and planning. For a list of current vacancies or to download an application, please visit el-cerrito.org/Commissions. For more information, email the City Clerk’s office at cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call 215-4305.

Trapping

1. When using traps, always read trap labels, follow instructions, and check traps daily.
2. Wooden snap traps come in separate sizes for rats and mice and are easily set and reusable.
3. Traps are best used indoors, out of reach of children or pets.
4. For outdoor use, place a box with a small hole on each side over the trap to reduce the risk of trapping larger animals.

Rodenticides can kill animals other than rats or mice if the animals ingest the poison directly or consume a poisoned rat or mouse (secondary poisoning). Consider this before using poison.

Volunteers in Police Service

IN 2012, the El Cerrito Police Department began a volunteer program in conjunction with the national organization Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). The program partners citizens with police in support of crime prevention and community policing efforts.

The Police Department currently has 20 VIPS who donated over 2000 hours of time to our community in 2018.

The program continues to grow and is a vital part of Police Department day-to-day operations. VIPS handle a variety of assignments, helping with property and evidence storage; oral and written translation services; computer data entry; fleet maintenance support; City events such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade, worldOne Festival/July 4th celebration, and National Night Out; and community outreach programs and events, such as Coffee with a Cop.

The department is currently seeking a wide range of volunteers, including retirees, employed residents, and students; people at all levels of income; and those of different

Poisons

1. Always read and follow the rodenticide instructions.
2. Rat poison, also called bait, should always be secured inside a tamper-resistant bait station to prevent non-target animals from gaining access.
3. Bait stations should be placed outdoors.
4. Check the stations on a weekly basis.

For more information on rat and mouse prevention and control, or to request the district’s free inspection and report, go online to contracostamosquito.com/rats_mice.htm.



VIPS volunteer Jimmy Louie builds a fort for the ECPD Back to School Water Play event.

ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds—to better reflect the community’s diversity. Minimum requirements are: you must be 18 years of age; pass a background check (criminal history, reference check, no felony convictions); demonstrate the ability to support and interact with the Police Department in a law enforcement environment that could include people-related emergencies and crisis management; complete an El Cerrito Police Department Citizen Academy course; be available for community events; and commit to 8 hours of volunteer time per month.

For more information regarding the VIPS program, go to el-cerrito.org/VIPS or contact Sergeant David Wentworth at 215-4446.

New Faces at City Hall

AS STAFF RETIRE or transition into other jobs, new faces are appearing at City Hall and some old faces are taking on new roles.



One of the latter is **Fire Chief Michael Pignoni**. Michael grew up in Sonoma County and has worked in fire service since the age of 16. Although he is new to the role of Fire Chief, he is not new to El Cerrito, having worked here since 1995. Most recently he served as Battalion Chief. As Fire Chief, his primary focus will be on vegetation management programs and emergency operations.



A recent hire in El Cerrito, **City Clerk Holly M. Charléty** has been a municipal clerk for over eight years, working in Sacramento and

a special district in Vallejo. Holly says, "I am passionate about the role of City Clerk. Being a clerk means always focusing on transparency." Contact Holly at cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.



Assistant City Manager Alexandra Orologas (Alex) was most recently employed by the City of Oakland. A hands-on employee, she is

accustomed to working independently and shepherding projects from beginning to end. "I am absolutely honored and thrilled to be selected as Assistant City Manager. I look forward to working with a collaborative team of professionals all focused on providing high quality services to the El Cerrito community," Alex said. You can reach Alex at citymanager@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

Meet Holly and Alex at City Council meetings, held on first and third Tuesdays of each month!

Development on San Pablo Avenue

GROUND BREAKING!

A new mixed-use housing project, consisting of 32 townhomes, is now under construction at the site of the former Guitar Center at 10300 San Pablo Avenue. The project, scheduled for completion in summer 2020, will feature attractive public plaza areas and two live/work units. The developers have also contributed funds to the completion of nearby Centennial Park. For more information on this and other mixed-use residential and commercial projects along San Pablo Avenue, visit el-cerrito.org/MajorProjects, or contact the Community Development Department at 215-4362 or community@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

BUILDING PERMITS

The Mayfair, a mixed-use project at 11600–11690 San Pablo Avenue, adjacent to the Del Norte BART Station, received its planning approvals last year. The project will include: 156 market rate units, 67 affordable housing units, and almost 9,000 sq. ft. of new commercial space, public open space, and public art. The Mayfair is a joint venture between Holliday Development, the market rate developer, and BRIDGE Housing, a non-profit, affordable housing developer. The market rate developer recently applied to the City for building permits, with the intention of breaking ground on the first of two buildings.

Holliday will construct the project off-site at Factory OS, located on Mare Island in Vallejo, using prefabricated "modular" building technology. Once delivered to the project site, modular technology allows the various pieces to be stacked together (much like Lego bricks), ultimately reducing community impacts typically associated with on-site construction, as well as construction costs. City staff anticipate issuing the building permits this spring and the project is on track to be completed in summer 2020. BRIDGE Housing is currently securing financing for the affordable housing component and expects to break ground in 2021. For more information, visit el-cerrito.org/MajorProjects, or contact the Community Development Department at community@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

PLAN UPDATE

El Cerrito is on track to see long awaited changes on and near San Pablo Avenue, as envisioned in the City's San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan. The plan, adopted in 2014, laid the groundwork for increased economic activity and new development in the San Pablo Avenue corridor. Its objective is to create a vibrant, walkable, sustainable, and transit-oriented corridor and to attract new residential and commercial development and investment. The City is currently working to update components of the plan and invites members of the community to participate and provide input. This effort is made possible through funding from a Metropolitan Transportation Commission Priority Development Area Grant. To learn more about the update and upcoming meetings, please visit el-cerrito.org/SPASP.



Developers expect to break ground on the Mayfair project this spring and to complete construction in the summer of 2020.

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL:
 PLEASE DELIVER BY APRIL 5, 2019**

POSTAL CUSTOMER



DIRECTORY

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL
Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto,
 Mayor
Greg Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem
Janet Abelson
Paul Fadelli
Gabe Quinto

CITY WEBSITE
el-cerrito.org

CITY COUNCIL
SPRING MEETINGS
April 2 and 16
May 7 and 21
June 4 and 18
July 2 and 16

Regular City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at City Hall. Schedules are subject to change; check the website for updates. Regular Council meetings are also broadcast live on Comcast Cable channel 28 and KECG, 88.1 FM radio.

To watch meetings online, go to el-cerrito.org and click on **City Council**.

The City Council meeting agenda packets are available online, three days prior to City Council meetings, at el-cerrito.org/archive.

SPRING CITY HALL HOLIDAYS
(offices closed)

Memorial Day
May 27
Independence Day
July 4

TELEPHONE NUMBERS
 (Area codes 510, unless otherwise listed)

CITY HALL
10890 San Pablo Ave.

City Management
 City Clerk 215-4305
 City Council 215-4305
 City Manager 215-4300
 Human Resources 215-4315

Community Development
 Building 215-4360
 Code Enforcement 215-4363
 Planning..... 215-4359
 Economic
 Development 215-4362
 Housing..... 215-4361

Finance
 Finance Office..... 215-4323

Public Works
 After-hours/
 Emergency 215-4369
 Maintenance/
 Corporation Yard... 215-4369
 Engineering 215-4382
 Recycling & Waste
 Management..... 215-4350
 Recycling + Environmental
 Resource Center
 7501 Schmidt Lane... 215-4350

COMMUNITY CENTER
7007 Moeser Lane
 Recreation
 Department..... 559-7000
 Park/Facility Rentals .. 559-7004
 Swim Center 559-7011

MIDTOWN ACTIVITY CENTER
10940 San Pablo Ave.
 Adult Programs
 & Services 559-7677

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
10900 San Pablo Ave.
Emergency 911
 Police Dispatch
 (non-emergency).... 237-3233
 Fire/Medical
 Dispatch (925) 951-3330
 Fire Administration ... 215-4450
 Police
 Administration 215-4400

CALLING 9-1-1

CALL 911 only for time sensitive emergencies requiring immediate response of police, fire, or emergency medical personnel.

You can also reach the Police Dispatch Center directly by calling **237-3233**. Please listen to the prompts, as the menu has recently changed.

The phone number to directly reach the dispatch center for El Cerrito Fire or Medical has changed to **(925) 941-3330**. Please note the **925** area code for this number.

Public Trees and Shrubs

CITY STAFF have been working with the El Cerrito Urban Forest Committee (UFC) to clarify the existing municipal code language regarding trees in public places and rights-of-way. The City has drafted an updated and expanded ordinance that is intended to establish clear guidelines for the planting, maintenance, removal, and protection of these trees. This ordinance will serve to improve the health of El Cerrito's urban



forest and meet a prerequisite necessary for the City to receive the Tree City USA designation.

A public meeting was held on January 7 to discuss the public draft of the ordinance. The meeting was well attended, and a robust discussion took place. Public Works staff will continue to work with the UFC and members of the public to incorporate comments and concerns and to refine the proposed ordinance. For details, go online to el-cerrito.org/TreeOrdinance. To submit comments, contact Will Provost, Management Analyst, at wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or **525-7622**.