

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**Staff Liaison**  
Will Provost | (510) 525-7622  
wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

City Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible**

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**7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Milliken called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m., once a quorum of members was present.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Rebecca Milliken; Members Howdy Goudey, Daniel Hamilton, Alison Moreno, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel (8:05pm), Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein  
**Absent:** Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Mark Miner, Elizabeth (Beth) Molnar, Jeff Sobul, Ellen Spitalnik, Gisele Verrier, and Renee Solari  
**Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC –** Nathalie Zaldivar, representing the City of Richmond, formally invited the City of El Cerrito and the Environmental Quality Committee to participate in Richmond's National Drive Electric Week event on September 19, 2019. Cordell Hindler, Richmond, mentioned the upcoming Mayor's Conference and an interest in hearing a presentation on the Brown Act for City committees.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS –** Staff Liaison Will Provost discussed a recent workshop facilitated by the City to identify potential options for constructing a new and modern library in the City of El Cerrito. He also highlighted an email he received from Member Ellen Spitalnik stating a desire for the EQC to focus more attention on the domestic processing of plastics and other recyclables.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on July 18, 2019.  
**Moved/Second:** Members O'Conner/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the **July 18, 2019** EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:
  - Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - National Drive Electric Week Event

- Berkeley Event (Saturday, Sept 14, 11 AM – 3PM)
  - Milliken noted that they are still looking for volunteers
- Richmond Event (Thursday, Sept 19, 12 PM – 3PM)
- SunShares 2019 Participation (August – November)
  - El Cerrito Workshop, October 3, 6:30 PM at City Hall
- EV 101 Workshop
  - Milliken provided background on the EV 101 Workshops held in other cities and proposed holding one in El Cerrito in January, February, or March.

**Moved/Second:** Members Milliken/Hamilton **Action:** Passed a motion to host an EV101 workshop in early 2020. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

- Film Event
  - Pavel provided an update from the Ad-hoc Film Subcommittee and mentioned their interest in showing the film “Trees in Trouble”, potentially in collaboration with the Urban Forest Committee. The film group intends to provide a written proposal for EQC consideration.
  - Members discussed planning for a film event in early 2020. Staff reiterated a need to plan and prioritize a film event in the EQC work plan relative to other EQC priorities and staff capacity.
- Green Team Cleanups:
  - August 17, Saturday, Ohlone Greenway
  - September 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Event
  - November 2, Saturday, Baxter Creek

## 6. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- Climate Emergency Declaration
  - Provost provided an update on the draft resolution declaring a Climate Emergency, that will be presented for Council consideration on August 20, 2019.
- Update to the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan
  - Special Joint Workshop for City Advisory Bodies - July 29 (debrief)
  - Goudey presented draft recommendations for the City in completing the Specific Plan Update. He will consult with the ad-hoc subcommittee to refine the recommendations for the EQC to consider at the next meeting.
- MCE Deep Green Initiative - “20K by 2020”
- CCA & CPUC Updates
  - New “Fuel Switching” test (aka 3-prong test) to allow electrification
  - Members noted that this change is a significant change that will enable more people to “fuel-switch” from natural gas to electricity.
- Implementation and Financing Options

**7. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the City's Urban Forest Committee (UFC).

- Members spoke of an interest in increasing collaboration with the UFC on film events, tree plantings, and other programs. Members can attend UFC meetings and read the meeting minutes to stay apprised of UFC discussions.

**8. EQC "YEAR OF PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION" IMPLEMENTATION**

Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the EQC's "Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention".

- Update on Development of Expanded Food Ware Ordinance
- Educate Community on Recycling Market Changes

Hamilton highlighted the recent closure of California's largest recycling center business, RePlanet, and the State's movement to develop legislation that will help keep recycling centers going statewide.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

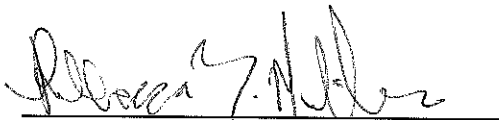
Hear committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Potentially engage in discussion and make decisions regarding logistics of EQC consideration of items including:

- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Brown Act Presentation from City Clerk
- Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
- Collapse of Insect Population
- Meatless "Green Mondays"
- Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards – Formalizing and Renaming
- Lending Libraries for Tools, Toys, etc.
- Pest Management and Local Wildlife (e.g. raptors)
- Coyote Education
- RPTT Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoff
- EQC Skills/ Resource List

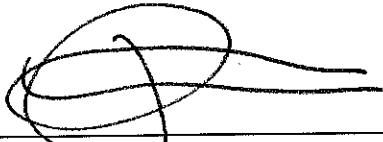
Members discussed how to prioritize the list of ideas in upcoming meetings and in the EQC's workplan.

Tarbet invited EQC members and members of the public to an upcoming event hosted by Elders for Climate Action.

**10. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

  
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Rebecca Milliken, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **August 13, 2019** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Will Provost, Staff Liaison