



**Staff Liaison**  
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## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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 7:00 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Rebecca Milliken; Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Howdy Goudey, Daniel Hamilton, Mark Miner, Beth Molnar, Alison Moreno, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Sheila Tarbet, and Gisele Verrier  
**Absent:** Members Ellen Spitalnik and Dave Weinstein  
**Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Robert Hrubes, vice-chair of the City's Urban Forest Committee, spoke in support of greater collaboration and communication between both committees. John Anderson reiterated his interest in having the City take action to prohibit leaf blowers, citing concerns around noise and environmental quality.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
Staff Liaison Will Provost highlighted the forthcoming public process to develop a new Strategic Plan for the City of El Cerrito. He also mentioned that the City recently entered into an agreement with Contra Costa County that allows Kensington residents to drop off their fluorescent light bulbs at the El Cerrito Recycling Center free of charge. The City will instead bill the County for the cost of providing this service. El Cerrito residents can still drop off their fluorescent bulbs and tubes at no cost.
4. **PRESENTATION ON COYOTES**  
Janet Kessler provided a presentation on coyotes, titled "Coyote Citizens: Who they are, and how to get along". The presentation, followed by a lively discussion, covered coyote characteristics, coyote family interactions, and safety concerns for people and pets.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on Dec. 10, 2019.  
**Moved/Second:** Members O'Conner/Molnar **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the **Decber 10, 2019** EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

6. **TOOL/TOY LENDING LIBRARY**

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding the development of a tool, toy, or other lending library in the City of El Cerrito.

Due to time constraints, the Committee decided to discuss this item at the February meeting.

7. **COLLABORATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN EL CERRITO**

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding the development of a program to engage young people on environmental issues.

Due to time constraints, the Committee decided to discuss this item at the February meeting.

8. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding the planning of the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - Green Team Cleanups:
    - Jan. 18, Mar. 8, Apr. 18, Jun. 6, Aug. 16, Oct. 23
  - Electric Vehicle 101 Workshop – January 29 at 6:30pm
    - Register at <http://elcerritoev101.eventbrite.com>
  - BayRen Energy Efficiency Workshop (March 31, 6pm-8pm)
  - Earth Day 2020 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (April 18)
  - 7th Annual Hillside Festival – May 1 – 3
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Film Event 2020
  - SunShares 2019 Debrief / SunShares 2020 (Aug – Nov)
- Elections (April)

**Moved/Second:** Members Goudey/O’Conner **Action:** Passed a motion to hold two additional volunteer work parties on February 15 and March 21. The events are planned to be Broom Pulls at the Madera Property. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Committee members briefly discussed items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including:

- MCE Deep Green Initiative - “20K by 2020”
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- Implementation and Financing Options

Provost discussed the recent meetings of the City Council’s Ad Hoc Sub-committee on Climate Action.

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

Committee members heard updates and discussed how to increase collaboration with the City’s Urban Forest Committee (UFC).

EQC Members and the UFC Members in attendance, Robert Hrubes and Robin Mitchell, discussed potential areas of collaboration between the Urban Forest Committee and the Environmental Quality Committee. Ideas included supporting or participating in the UFC's new Tree Care Corps program, focusing on resiliency and wildfire preparedness, or tree planting. Resident Sue Duncan, on behalf of Make El Cerrito Fire Safe, spoke of concerns about eucalyptus trees and evacuation routes. She noted that Make El Cerrito Fire Safe has drafted a resolution to make wildfire prevention and safety a top priority for El Cerrito.

Solari volunteered to attend the next UFC meeting.

#### 11. **PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION IMPLEMENTATION**

The EQC heard updates and participated in a discussion regarding implementation of the EQC's "Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention".

Update on Development of Expanded Foodware Ordinance

Provost provided an update on the timeline for the Public Draft of the proposed Expanded Foodware Ordinance and how the City will be engaging the public and the business community to collect feedback and input on the draft. Milliken noted a recent complaint received about the use of plastic bags at the El Cerrito Farmers' Market. Barbara Chan noted that she and others on the El Cerrito Progressives are interested in volunteering to support the City's outreach efforts. EQC members echoed that support and interest. O'Conner stated his interest in reaching out to corporations to stop using plastic packaging.

#### 12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Committee members made announcements and discussed suggestions for future EQC agenda items, including:


- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoffs
- EQC Skills/Resource List

Solari highlighted the upcoming El Cerrito Trail Trekkers Annual Meeting, which will include a presentation by Dr. Ann Riley, titled "Restoring Unlikely Urban Environments".

#### 13. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

  
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 **January 14, 2020** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



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Will Provost, Staff Liaison