



**Staff Liaison**  
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## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, August 11, 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** – Vice-Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- ROLL CALL** – Chair Rebecca Milliken, Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Howdy Goudey, Beth Molnar, Paloma Pavel, Dave Weinstein, Mark Miner, and Sheila Tarbet  
**Absent:** Members Sean O’Connor, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Daniel Hamilton, and Ellen Spitalnik  
**Also Present:** Janet Abelson, City Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; and Laureteen Brazil, City of El Cerrito Waste Prevention Specialist
- ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Provost read written comments from El Cerrito resident, Sue Duncan, providing information about a FirewiseUSA neighborhood group and the Make El Cerrito Fire Safe group, that included goals for the coming year and a request for support from City committees.
- COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
Council Member Abelson gave a report from the City Council meeting and Budget Town Hall that included an overview of the City’s financial position and current proposed budget reductions. She highlighted reduced sales tax revenues and how the pandemic continues to be a factor.

Provost encouraged members to provide input on the budget. He spoke about a recent joint grant application with MCE to fund battery storage at the Recycling Center, provided an overview on the extension of the agreement with Napa Recycling & Waste Services for curbside processing, how COVID-19 continues to affect recycling center services/hours, a Swim Center write-up in the New York Times, and how Recreation’s Childcare services are adjusting to the threat of the virus. Provost described how the proposed Expanded Food Ware Ordinance is on hold while the City works to understand the economic impacts on small businesses stemming from the pandemic. He also confirmed the moratorium on the use of glyphosate in city landscapes will continue to be in effect after the one-year pilot ended. It was also noted that Gisele Verrier had to resign from the EQC due to her move outside of the City of El Cerrito.

#### 4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND JOINT MEETING MINUTES**

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on March 10, 2020 and the Joint EQC and HRC Meeting on July 1, 2020.

**Moved/Second:** Members Weinstein/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 10, 2020 EQC meeting and the July 1, 2020 Joint EQC and HRC Special meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

#### 5. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK** (30 min.)

EQC Members discussed the Joint Statement approved by the HRC and EQC at the July 1, 2020 Special Meeting, and potential steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion, and the idea of developing an environmental, social, and racial framework to guide future EQC efforts. The Committee discussed leveraging and promoting other programs, developing or implementing the use of an environmental justice assessment tool, recruiting a more diverse group of committee members, and other actions.

#### 6. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The Committee participated in discussion and considered activities that could take place outdoors and be self-guided during COVID-19.

- Citywide Budget Discussions
- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - Green Team Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
    - Proposed Dates (Pre-COVID): Aug. 16, Oct. 23
      - Socially Distanced Protocols
    - Coastal Cleanup Events – Self-guided Cleanups?
  - 7th Annual Hillside Festival (Postponed)
  - Bike to Work Day (Postponed to September 24, 2020)
  - BayRen Energy Efficiency Workshop
    - Online Workshop, 8/19, 5pm RSVP at <http://bayren819.eventbrite.com>
  - SunShares 2020 (Aug – Nov)
  - National Ride Electric Week Events?

**Moved/Second:** Members Milliken/Tsutsui **Action:** Passed a motion to grant EQC Member Dave Weinstein authority to choose a September or October Green Teams Clean-up Activity with a date and place to be determined and COVID-19 protocols in place. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

#### 7. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION** (15 min.)

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- MCEv Vehicle Rebate
  - Income Qualified Program for customers at 300% of Poverty Line
- MCEv Charging Grants for Workplaces and Multifamily Housing

#### 8. **ELECTIONS – NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The EQC nominated and elected the Chair and Vice Chair of the EQC for a term beginning August 2020 and ending April 2021.

Consider a motion to nominate Neil Tsutsui as Chair **Moved/Second:** Members Milliken/Molnar **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

Consider a motion to nominate Beth Molnar as Vice-Chair **Moved/Second:** Members Goudey/Pavel **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (10 min.)

EQC Members heard and provided announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- Collaboration with the Urban Forest Committee
- EQC Collaboration with Young People in El Cerrito
- Tool/Toy Lending Library
- City Support for Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763)
- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- 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

Tarbet announced an upcoming Climate Justice event featuring fellow EQC member Dr. Paloma Pavel.

10. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

  
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Neil Tsutsui, 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 11, 2020** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

  
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Will Provost, Staff Liaison