



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=e97674027af8ec754c43b9250174da6c4>

Staff Liaison

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7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING – Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Howdy Goudey, Daniel Hamilton, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: None
Also Present: Janet Abelson, City Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; and Laureteen Brazil, City of El Cerrito Waste Prevention Specialist
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Chris Lynch made public comments and noted his interest in joining the EQC. Cathy Bleier, a member of the City's Urban Forest Committee, expressed the Committee's interest in collaborating with the EQC and on reducing fire risk in open spaces.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Council Member Abelson spoke about new development projects being constructed around the City and she invited the EQC to visit them. She shared their unique names and innovative approaches. She also gave an update on the City's budget challenges, including that the reserves should be adequately healthy in 2026. Provost provided updates including on a Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction project being completed in the Hillside Natural Area, staffing updates regarding his promotion and Maria Sanders' part-time role with the Public Works Department, and that hiring of a new Analyst would likely take place at a later date.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on October 13, 2020.
Moved/Second: Members O'Connor/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 13, 2020 EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** Tarbet

5. EQC Work Plan 2021

There was a robust discussion that took place to finalize the 2021 EQC Work Plan. Committee members reviewed and commented on the Draft EQC Work Plan, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding updating the Work Plan for 2021.

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/Hamilton **Action:** Passed a motion to approve of the EQC Workplan for 2021 as amended **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None.

6. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Committee participated in discussion and considered activities that can take place outdoors, virtually, and/or in a self-guided manner during COVID-19.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops - Updates
- Green Team Cleanups / Broom Pulls: - Updates
 - Oct. 24 – Northern Entryways
 - Baxter Creek (Bi)Monthly Cleanups
- EV 101 Workshop (Dec. 9) - register at <https://tinyurl.com/electricvehicles101>
- Fix-it Clinic(s)
- SunShares 2020 – Ends Nov. 30 (register at www.bayareasunshares.org)
- Earth Day 2021 – Updates
- Electrification Workshop
- 7th/8th Annual Hillside Festival – May 2021?
- Baxter Creek Work Parties – 1st Saturday each month - Updates

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee briefly discussed potential steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion, and the idea of developing an environmental, social, and racial framework or assessment tool to guide future EQC efforts. The idea of forming an ad-hoc sub-committee at the next meeting was discussed.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

EQC members briefly discussed potential next steps to implement the Climate Action Plan and to move the process forward for updating the Climate Action Plan.

9. PLASTIC REDUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD WARE ORDINANCE

Provost provided a brief update on the current status and timeline of the Expanded Food Ware Ordinance.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Miner highlighted an upcoming Sudden Oak Death (S.O.D.) Blitz Event, Weinstein mentioned a series of events being hosted by the City of El Cerrito's Human Relations Commission titled Truth & Reconciliation, providing an inclusive space to share stories about racism. Other items noted on the agenda include:

- Committee Education/Training on Equity and Environmental Justice
- Briefing from the Fire Department / How can the EQC help with preparedness?

- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoffs
- 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
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- EQC Skills/Resource List

11. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.



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 **November 10, 2020** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison