



**Staff Liaison**  
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## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

#### JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/95123857486?pwd=bXJkR1lweW92RjFTY2NPamNFNk1WZz09>

**7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** – Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

**1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein

**Absent:** EQC Members Chris Lynch and Jeff Sobul

**Also Present:** Laureteen Brazil, City of El Cerrito Waste Prevention Specialist, and Eddie Nodal, Administrative Clerk Specialist

#### **2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

El Cerrito resident Indy Rishi Singh encouraged everyone to take deep breaths, acknowledge the indigenous people, treat land with love and respect and to honor all ancestors. He also suggested as a future agenda item to ban gas powered leaf blowers in the city.

#### **3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

City Staff, Laureteen Brazil, made no announcements to allow more time for the Environmental/Racial Justice and Equity presentation. Chair Neil Tsutsui gave an update on the Committee's budget, relaying that the EQC Staff Liaison, Will Provost, announced that the EQC's budget for FY2021 had been eliminated due to the ongoing budget crisis. Tsutsui also highlighted the Brown Act protocols for the meeting and particularly for the structure of the upcoming presentation.

#### **4. GROWING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT THE EQC: CENTERING EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM TRAINING**

A robust and thorough 60-minute environmental justice training was presented by Breakthrough Communities staff, with Paloma Pavel and Carl Anthony providing an introduction and the training being solely conducted by their Gaia Program Interns, Zack Spicer, Matt Krivan, and Sydney Merrill. The presentation focused on Land Acknowledgments, Body Wisdom and Centering, the Spectrum of Community Engagement, Equity by Design, and Dismantling White Supremacy Culture.

#### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK**

Member Rebecca Milliken reported on the Sogorea Te' Land Trust. Members discussed next steps for the Committee to move related EQC initiatives forward.

## 6. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The committee participated in discussions about events. Updates were provided by members Weinstein and Milliken.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Hillside Festival – Debrief
    - Dave Weinstein provided an update
  - Green Homes Tour (June 6 and June 15)
  - Recycling Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2002
    - Plaque for Joe Witherall
  - Green Team 2020 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
    - Baxter Creek Cleanup (June 6)
    - Cerrito Creek (Aug 15)
    - Coastal Cleanup Event (Sept) TBD
    - Northern Gateway Cleanup (Oct 16)
    - Baxter Gateway Cleanup (Dec 5)

## 7. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission
- Climate Action Plan 2.0 Recommendations
  - Goudey provided an update

It was noted that the Committee will plan to take up this item more fully at the July meeting.

## 8. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE (UFC)

UFC member, Robin Mitchell, announced there will be a June 27<sup>th</sup> work party at the Memorial Grove entrance to the Hillside Natural Area to try and protect the trees at that location during the drought. Also, on June 14<sup>th</sup>, at the next UFC meeting there will be a presentation from Amos White, the Founder and Chief Planting Officer of 100K Trees for Humanity.

## 9. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on May 11, 2021.

**Move/Second:** Members Akacić / Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the May 11, 2021 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

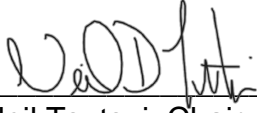
## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee tabled this discussion until the next meeting.

- Briefing from the Fire Department / How can the EQC help with preparedness?
- Recycling Update and EQC Support in Implementation of Recent Legislation
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Integrated Pest Management Report from City Staff
- 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

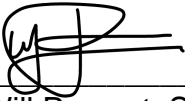
**11. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.



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Neil Tsutsui, Chair

This is to clarify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **June 8, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



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Will Provost, Staff Liaison