



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

Will Provost | (510) 559-7684
wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/j/91018223131?pwd=aXNGd3dhQlZGdmdOeURzd3o4K2Vadz09>

Meeting ID: 910 1822 3131 **Password:** 2154350
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

Pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, and in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Teleconference Restrictions of the Brown Act Have Been Suspended, as Well as the Requirement to Provide a Physical Location for Members of the Public to Participate in the Meeting. Any person wishing to speak to the Environmental Quality Committee on any of these matters is invited to participate via web-conference as described above. The City encourages submission of written comments in advance to the Environmental Quality Committee by emailing wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us prior to the meeting.

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

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
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** *(Estimated time: 5 minutes)*
Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first, remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** *(5 min.)*
Staff and/or Mayor Paul Fadelli may report on policies, priorities, and significant actions taken by the City Council, and/or on matters of general interest to the EQC.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on July 13, 2021
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE** *(5 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the City's Urban Forest Committee.
6. **PLASTIC REDUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD WARE ORDINANCE** *(10 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the EQC's Plastic Pollution Prevention efforts.
 - Planned Presentation and Public Meeting for EQC September Meeting
 - Meeting will discuss the proposed Expanded Food Ware Ordinance and will also include an update on Senate Bill 1383 (Mandatory Composting) and the City's required new ordinance and programs under that law
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK** *(20 min.)*
Discuss potential next 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.
 - Ad-Hoc Subcommittee report

- Letter of Appreciation from the EQC commending the Breakthrough Communities Gaia Program Interns and showing appreciation for their leading of an Environmental Justice, Equity, and Anti-Racism training at the June 8, 2021 meeting.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (45 min.)

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

- Climate Action Plan Update Recommendations for City Council Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
 - EQC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Report
- BART Corridor Access Plan
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates

9. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS (20 min.)

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
 - Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Aug. 15, Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - September, TBD, Coastal Cleanup
 - Oct. 16, Saturday, Northern Gateway Cleanup
 - Dec. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek
- National Drive Electric Week – October 2, Berkeley
- SunShares 2021
- Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022
 - Plaque for Joel Witherell

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (5 min.)

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:

- EQC Meeting Schedule / Return to In-person Meetings
- Tree Planting / Project Commemorating Maria Sanders
- Briefing from the Fire Department / How can the EQC help with preparedness?
- Recycling Update and EQC Support in Implementing 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
- 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

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, Will Provost, at (510) 559-7684. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) during normal business hours.

Draft Climate Action Recommendations from EQC to City Council 8/10/2021

Two years have passed since the Council adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration and formed a Council Subcommittee with the intention to swiftly bring recommendations back to Council for prompt climate action. The August 2021 IPCC report states in the [Summary for Policymakers](#): “Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.” and “Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.”

The following recommendations from the EQC are made to the Council Climate Subcommittee, as well as the full Council, to help fulfill crucial climate action. Serious financial and public health emergencies have taken resources and attention from this topic, but the climate emergency has not gone away and remains as important as ever. The EQC urges expedient climate action.

The EQC supports the goal of revising the city’s GHG emissions target goals and the Climate Action Plan (CAP); however, we also suggest the Council consider, and explicitly identify, both near-term incremental climate actions (independent of the wider planning process), as well as pursuing a more comprehensive planning process. There is no time to waste waiting for the completion of a CAP. In the spirit of the Climate Emergency Declaration, there are many meaningful steps that can be taken immediately, and independently of the CAP update, that must be moved forward with urgency. ([link to previous two EQC letters](#))

Updated GHG emissions target recommendation (based on BAAQMD/CARB/CA):

1. At a minimum, consistency with the most recent draft of the [AB 32 Scoping Plan by the California Air Resources Board \(CARB\)](#), and the [2030 GHG targets established in SB 32](#)
2. Consistency with the State’s long-term climate goals of reaching carbon neutrality by 2045 and achieving GHG emissions reductions equivalent to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050
3. Incorporate the GHG emissions targets above into the San Pablo Specific Plan supplemental EIR and update (GHG threshold of significance), as well as integration of these targets into an upcoming CAP, if not superseded by updated state targets before the CAP is adopted

Near-term climate actions:

1. The EQC’s highest priority recommendation for immediate action is to enact a City-wide electric only ordinance (no gas, or minimal exceptions) for new construction (or at least integrate electric only construction into San Pablo Ave Specific Plan update)

2. Implement expanded EV charging readiness fractions in the San Pablo Specific Plan update, minimum 50% Level 2, with the rest at least Level 1 (currently 10% Level 2)
3. Require on-site solar or 100% renewable “Deep Green” electricity for projects in the San Pablo Specific Plan update

Climate Action Plan update or longer-term actions:

Arranged by categories without an intended priority order. Any item can be moved up for more immediate action. All CAP policy and program development is expected to apply an equity lens, including asking the questions: Who benefits, who is impacted, who is left behind? *Items marked with an asterisk identify particular actions that can advance equity in important areas*

- **Transportation**

- a. *Planning and building out the “last mile” bicycle/ped network* (including bike and e-bikeshare)
- b. *Plan and build out off-street and protected bikeways*
- c. *Establish temporary and permanent car-free areas*
- d. Incentivize electric bike and bike stations/infrastructure at BART stations
 - i. Incentive E-mobility for income qualified (e.g. Justin Dawe at [FreeBike](#) is working with the City of Oakland on a 500 e-bike lending library program for low income neighborhoods. To be launched hopefully late this year.)
 - ii. Comprehensive [list of e-bike incentives](#)
- e. Do not sacrifice bikeway space in the road to accommodate increased reliance on street parking with coming Plaza BART parking reductions.
- f. *Enhanced local recreation and local businesses/services*
- g. Require EVSE ready construction in all new construction and major remodels
 - i. Minimum fraction of Level 2 capacity (minimum 50%, round up)
 - ii. Minimum Level 1 charging capacity for all parking spaces - Palo Alto has pilot
- h. EVSE options for reduced off street parking situations (curbside charging)
 - i. [Seattle's cord cover guidance](#)
 - ii. [Vancouver's cord cover program](#)

- **Green Energy and Buildings**

- a. Expand scope of building electrification ordinance from initially adopted version
 - i. See [examples from a City of Berkeley presentation](#) for this and other items below
- b. Provide funding/incentives to support energy efficiency and electrification upgrades at time of sale, time of replacement, time of (major) renovation
 - i. Expand code requirements for EV charging readiness and other electric readiness at time of other work
- c. *Include indoor air quality range hood requirements/program*

- d. *Incentives for storage and other resiliency measures (community resource centers for power, clean air, etc.)*
 - e. Programs for grid-interactive efficient buildings (electrical and thermal storage and grid signals interacting with appliances)
 - f. Incentives/requirements for electric landscaping tools city wide
 - g. Incentives/requirements to reduce embodied carbon in building materials (concrete, etc.)
 - i. reduce cement in concrete mix by at least 25%; using cement alternatives such as fly ash, slag, silica fume, rice hull ash
 - h. Reduction of construction waste (single use plastic and other materials)
 - i. Implement programs to encourage salvage and material recycling/reuse from deconstruction
 - i. Enable easier permitting (appendix Q) for tiny houses (less than 400 sq ft)
 - j. Develop community funded loan funds (public banking?) to finance efficiency and renewable energy upgrades/projects
- **Waste**
 - a. Expand single use plastic ordinance
 - b. Actively promote/require reusable foodware and reusable goods in favor of disposable
 - c. *Support the reuse and repair economy with a community reuse and repair program and tool lending library*
 - d. Implement policies to minimize and prevent refrigerant pollution
 - e. *Strengthen infrastructure and partnerships for edible food recovery*
 - f. Eliminate disposal of compostable organic materials to landfills
 - g. Implement a local worm compost facility (at RERC) using commercial waste food stream for local high quality short cycling compost, rather than export
 - **Water**
 - a. “Future proofing” water systems in new construction (drought resiliency)
 - i. Separate greywater drains (on-site reuse)
 - ii. Non-potable plumbing (re-used water for toilet flushing, etc.)
 - b. Enable easier permitting of graywater, non-potable water re-use and composting toilet installations
 - **Municipal Leadership**
 - a. Aggressively move to an EV Fleet and do not replace with fossil fuel vehicles
 - b. Reduce GHG employee commutes (workplace EV charging, e-bikes and more) [find resources here](#)
 - c. Municipal building/facility electrification
 - d. Move pool heat from gas to solar thermal and/or heat pump
 - e. All-electric appliances/equipment (forklifts, mowers, blowers, etc.)