



## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

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

**Staff Liaison**  
Will Provost | (510) 559-7684  
[wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

**JOIN VIA ZOOM:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/91018223131?pwd=aXNGd3dhQlZGdmdOeURzd3o4K2Vadz09>

**7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** – Vice-Chair Beth Molnar called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

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

**Absent:** EQC Chair Neil Tsutsui; Member Paloma Pavel **Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison and Laureteen Brazil, Waste Prevention Specialist

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

El Cerrito resident Fred Bialy asked if there were requirements for planting or replacing trees alongside new construction. He also mentioned his interest in efforts to remove invasive species.

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

Provost announced that EQC meetings may be in-person starting in October. Hybrid meetings, hosted both in-person and virtually, will likely be conducted by the City Council. Committee meetings may have a hybrid option, but that is still being discussed internally. Provost confirmed that EQC members must be at least 18 years old to participate on the Committee. He also announced that Chris Lynch has moved to Chicago and subsequently resigned from the EQC. Last, Provost announced that there is a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the City Council on August 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the El Cerrito Plaza BART Transit-oriented development project.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on July 13, 2021.

**Move/Second:** Members O’Connor/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the July 13, 2021 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

- 5. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

Urban Forest Committee (UFC) member, Robin Mitchell confirmed that the UFC met the day prior to the EQC, on August 9, 2021. Mitchell provided a recap of the UFC meeting, outlining the City’s planned dead tree removals including Monterey Pines on Motorcycle Hill, encouraging volunteers to pull young seedlings and availability to

provide training, and an update on the San Pablo Avenue tree pruning schedule. Mitchell also noted the UFC's interest in supporting the Climate Action Plan updates and the development of short-term goals.

## 6. PLASTIC REDUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD WARE ORDINANCE

Provost announced that the City is relaunching public outreach around the proposed Expanded Food Ware Ordinance. The outreach includes mailers, an updated fact sheet, multiple presentations, and a public meeting to hear from impacted businesses. Provost noted that the City 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, at the next EQC meeting. The City will also invite businesses and other community members to provide their input at that meeting.

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

EQC Members shared thoughts and discussed next steps.

- The Ad Hoc Subcommittee representative and member, Tarbet, spoke confirming no new updates and that they will re-group and report back
- Member Spitalnik confirmed that she will have the letter of Appreciation for the Breakthrough Communities Gaia Program Interns for review at the next meeting

## 8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Updates from committee members Milliken, Miner, and Tarbet regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- Climate Action Plan Update Recommendations for City Council Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
  - Member Goudey provided additional updates and recommendations
  - EQC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Report
- BART Corridor Access Plan – Members Vekony and Goudey shared comments
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission

**Move/Second:** Members Weinstein/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to send a letter of recommendations to the City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Climate Action, with amendments discussed at the meeting and to be finalized by the EQC's Ad Hoc Subcommittee **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

## 9. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Provost shared that he would provide the FY 22 EQC budget when available.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
    - Aug. 15, Sunday, Cerrito Creek
      - Member Weinstein provided an update
    - September, TBD, Coastal Cleanup
    - Oct. 16, Saturday, Northern Gateway Cleanup
    - Dec. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek
  - National Drive Electric Week – October 2, Berkeley
    - Member Milliken provided an update
  - SunShares 2021 – Provost confirmed the City is promoting the program
  - Recycling Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2022
    - Plaque for Joe Witherall – No updates

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

EQC Members had a discussion about electrification and induction burners, and the development a “loaner program” in El Cerrito.

- 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 Updates 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

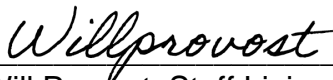
**11. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.



---

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 **August 10, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



---

Will Provost, Staff Liaison