



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

Will Provost | (510) 559-7684

wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81588761495?pwd=d3p4aDZLdCtZa09PSjhQTUhuK0JVQT09>

Meeting ID: 815 8876 1495 **Password:** 2154350
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

This advisory body is currently meeting by teleconference, consistent with the Brown Act as amended by AB 361 (2021). Under the amended rules, teleconference restrictions of the Brown Act are suspended and the City will not provide a physical location for members of the public to participate in the teleconference 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, as well as introduction by individuals interested in serving on the advisory body. 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 Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama may report on policies, priorities, and 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 February 8, 2022.
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE** *(10 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the City's Urban Forest Committee.
 - Arbor Week Workday at the Memorial Grove in the Hillside Natural Area, Sunday March 13 at 10am
6. **EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS** *(10 min.)*
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment new members to the EQC.
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK** *(40 min.)*
Discuss potential next 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.
 - Ad-Hoc Subcommittee report
 - Draft EQC Environmental Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Evaluation Tool

8. **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:

- Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration, August 5, 2022
 - City Council Resolution (Staff to bring forward around June), Budgetary Needs
- Earth Day 2022 – April 23, 2022
- Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022
- East Bay Green Home Tour – May 14-15, 2022
- Bike to Work Day – May 20, 2022
- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Feb. 20, Cerrito Creek & Feb. 26, HNA Broom Pull – Debriefs
 - Mar. 26, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull
 - Apr. 23, Saturday, Earth Day, neighborhood cleanups, locations TBD
 - Apr. 23, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull
 - May 21, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull
 - Jun. 5, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - Oct. 2, Sunday, Northern Gateways
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- 4th of July Planning

9. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION** (10 min.)

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

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments

10. **EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!”** (10 min.)

Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the EQC’s workplan theme for 2022 to “Go Electric!”.

- Electrification Education
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- MCE Deep Green Enrollment

11. **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:

- Elections of EQC Chair and Vice-Chair (April)
- EQC Return to In-person Meetings
- 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)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education

12. **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.

Proposed EQC JEDI Tool

(Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)

These questions are proposed for internal use by the EQC. The questions are intended to help members determine the degree to which its outreach and programs align with our environmental justice goals.

How can outreach for EQC activities be broadened, so that people who may not have participated before in EQC activities have a chance to learn about them and participate?

- Do outreach materials reflect the diversity of our community?
- Do our outreach processes reach all parts of the community? Is information distributed via diverse media, not just online media?

Are meetings and workshops scheduled at times and locations that enable participation by working people, those without cars?

Do all neighborhoods within El Cerrito have an opportunity to participate in activities?

Are the benefits of EQC activities shared equitably by residents and neighborhoods within the city?

Are EQC activities overall designed to give residents from the diversity of cultures and economic levels within our city equal opportunities to participate?

(Thanks to Paloma for “JEDI”)



PUBLIC WORKS

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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89530730300?pwd=MW9JUDR6Z2NmYlJ2TVFVdXRmM0U4QT09>

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., starting the meeting with a land acknowledgment recognizing the Huichin people who once lived on the land that is now El Cerrito.

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Ellen Spitalnik (8:30), Sheila Tabet, and Rose Vekony

Absent: Members Paloma Pavel and Dave Weinstein

Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

El Cerrito resident Robin Mitchell announced that the El Cerrito Progressives are coordinating a “Sweets for Shumi” campaign with proceeds going to the Sogorea Te Land Trust. El Cerrito resident Indy Rishi Singh noted his interest in the work of the EQC and his potential interest in becoming a member. El Cerrito resident and the City’s current Poet Laureate, Evelyn Mitchell, reiterated her interest in the work of the EQC and that she would like to write a poem for the Recycling Center’s 50th Anniversary. Fred Bialy also stated his interest in potentially serving on the Committee.

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

Staff Liaison Will Provost highlighted that the City applied for a \$30,000 grant to fund activities under SB 1383 (the mandatory composting legislation) and that the City has made an offer to a potential new Management Analyst for the Operations and Environmental Services Division and is hopeful that they will be able to start in March.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on January 11, 2022.

Move/Second: Members Milliken/Tsutsui **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 11, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstain:** O'Connor

- 5. CLIMATE PRESENTATION FROM EL CERRITO YOUTH**

EQC Member Akacić introduced a presentation from Climate Strike El Cerrito, youth activists in the city of El Cerrito who are coordinating action on climate change locally including weekly events outside of El Cerrito City Hall. Mae Rabinovici and Eleanor Pilling Chappelle provided a presentation followed by comments and questions from the EQC.

- 6. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell highlighted for the EQC that Arbor Day is coming up in March.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion. Akacić provided information based on recent research he's completed. Tarbet noted that she created a draft Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion tool for the EQC modeled off of other documents the group has reviewed and can share that for discussion at the next meeting.

8. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff and Committee members provided updates on recent events the EQC has supported and discussed plans for future events in 2022, including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Jan. 15, Broom Pull - Debrief
 - Feb. 20, Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - Apr. 23, Saturday, Earth Day, neighborhood cleanups, locations TBD
 - Jun. 5, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - Oct. 1, Saturday, Northern Gateways
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022
 - Draft City Council Resolution
 - Budgetary Needs
 - Earth Day 2022 – April 23, 2022
 - Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022
 - East Bay Green Home Tour – May 14-15, 2022

Move/Second: Members Milliken/Molnar **Action:** Passed a motion to provide the draft resolution to City Staff, recognizing the Recycling Center's 50th Anniversary and Joel Witherell, for Staff to develop and bring forward for City Council consideration **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

EQC Members heard brief updates on items relating to implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the following:

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments

Milliken reported that the CPUC's proposed decision to change the Net Energy Metering rules has been delayed. Goudey mentioned the MCE Sync program which helps electric vehicle owners charge at home when energy is less expensive and there's less demand on the grid. It was also noted the new Bay Area Air Quality Management District emissions standards being considered may have the effect of requiring many new appliances to be electric rather than gas.

10. EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!”

The Committee participated in discussion regarding implementation of the EQC's workplan theme for 2022 to “Go Electric!”.

- Electrification Education
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- MCE Deep Green Enrollment

Milliken discussed the developing Induction Burner Loaner Program and relayed resources for interested Committee members and the community to help them go electric, she noted that two of the most helpful websites are www.bayren.org and www.switchison.org.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. It was noted that elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the EQC will take place in April.

- EQC Return to In-person Meetings
- 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)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education

Cordell Hindler invited Committee Members to see a showing of “As You Like it” at the Masquers Playhouse in Richmond.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 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 **February 8, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison