



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81452887136?pwd=U0d2dG9MaTI5WFpYS2hsNjZQVE5Ldz09>

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Rebecca Milliken, Eevelyn Mitchell, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel (8:16), Ellen Spitalnik, Neil Tsutsui, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: Members Beth Molnar, Sheila Tarbet, and Mark Miner
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Christina Leard, Staff
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito resident Steve Price announced that the El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers received a grant from the Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Training (CPBST) Project to facilitate a workshop that will include a walking and biking assessment for the City of El Cerrito and asked if any EQC members would be interested in volunteering.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Will Provost noted that staff member Christina Leard would be taking on more Staff Liaison duties in the coming months, eventually transitioning to be the lead Liaison. He gave an update that the City has been in negotiations with East Bay Sanitary Service for a contract extension for organics and trash collection services and the agreement was scheduled to go to Council for consideration on May 17th. Lastly, Staff Liaison Will Provost mentioned that the City received final approval for a grant from CalRecycle for \$36,000 to implement SB 1383.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on April 8, 2022.
Move/Second: Members Tsutsui/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the April 8, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel
5. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
The Committee welcomed new member Eevelyn Mitchell. Chair Goudey opened up discussion for a standing agenda item for presenting environmental art. The item was tabled for further discussion at the June EQC meeting.
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell and EQC Member Sean O'Connor gave updates from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting, which they both attended.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion.

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:

- Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration, August 5, 2022
 - City Council Resolution (Staff to bring forward around June), Budgetary Needs
- Earth Day 2022 – Debrief
- 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:
 - Apr. 23, Saturday, Earth Day, neighborhood cleanups
 - Apr. 23, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull - Debrief
 - 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
 - Member Milliken will send sign-up sheet to Christina to distribute.
 - Members discussed promoting the 50th Anniversary event
- Berkeley e-bike event, summer 2022 TBD

Move/Second: Members Goudey/Tsutsui **Action:** Passed a motion for EQC to be a community partner of the e-bike event. **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:

- Climate Pledges / Cleaner Contra Costa
 - Take the Jump (UK based; takethejump.org)
 - Vice Chair Vekony led a discussion on promoting Climate Pledge campaigns Take the Jump and Cleaner Contra Costa.
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
 - The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote electric appliance rebates over available gas appliance rebates.
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - Member Goudey reported that he attended an MCE meeting and that some changes are coming in regard to potentially receiving a larger credit for renewable energy.
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments
 - This item will be brought back at the June or July meeting

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
- PGE/Frontier Induction Burner Loaner Program
 - https://pge-induction.myturn.com/library/?WT.mc_id=Vanity_inductionloaner
 - Member Milliken reported to the Committee on a new induction burner loaner program.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and Committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- Presentation on El Cerrito Trails and Pathways
- 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)


12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.



Howdy Goudey, 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 **May 10, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison