



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85332691482?pwd=Z2FEV2ZsdFJpOUx2b29MZUlvdVZXUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 3269 1482 **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 cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us prior to the meeting.

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Beth Molnar, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Neil Tsutsui, 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. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART** *(5 min.)*
Discuss a standing agenda item for presenting environmental art.
4. **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.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on June 14, 2022.
6. **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.
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK** *(10 min.)*
Discuss next steps to promote diversity and inclusion, and how to utilize the EQC’s “JEDI” Tool to guide future EQC efforts, including by utilizing it to assess a current initiative.

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:

- 4th of July -Debrief
- Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Event – July 25, 2022
- Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration, August 5, 2022
 - City Council Resolution (Staff to bring forward in July), Budgetary Needs
- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - Oct. 2, Sunday, Northern Gateways
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Berkeley e-bike event, TBD

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (35 min.)

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

- Recommendations to the Council Climate Action Ad Hoc Subcommittee
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - 100% renewable (deep green) power as the default electrical power source
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments

10. GOALS OF THE EQC (10 min.)

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding the goals of the EQC.

- Memo from member Weinstein to the EQC

11. EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!” (15 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
- PGE/Frontier Induction Burner Loaner Program
 - https://pge-induction.myturn.com/library/?WT.mc_id=Vanity_inductionloaner

12. 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:

- 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)
- Drought outreach
- Open Space Preservation

13. 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.



Staff Liaison
Will Provost | (510) 559-7684
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DRAFT MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Environmental Quality Committee
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85938650771?pwd=ay9xVGtMcWpIS2M0dDJVQ0psKzc3dz09>

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Vice-Chair Vekony called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Beth Molnar, Sean O’Connor, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein **Absent:** Members Neil Tsutsui, Eevelyn Mitchell, Paloma Pavel **Also Present:** Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Christina Leard, Staff

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

El Cerrito resident Simrun Dhoot expressed interest in joining the EQC and noted she has been an El Cerrito resident for almost 6 years and works as an air quality engineer at the Bay Area Air District.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama gave a brief update on the FY 22-23 draft budget. Staff Liaison Will Provost provided updates on the following: plans for the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update, CivicSpark fellow recruitment, the recently approved East Bay Sanitary Services Franchise Agreement, the upcoming Napa Recycling and Waste Services Post-Collection Agreement (PCA) Agreement, and the MRP 3.0 Stormwater Permit.

Member Goudey requested recycling statistics from Napa Recycling and Waste Services, specifically information on the percentage of plastic received that actually gets recycled. There was Public Comment from El Cerrito resident Vanessa Warheit, who echoed Member Goudey’s request – and also requested paper recycling statistics.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on May 10, 2022. **Move/Second:** Members O’Connor/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the May 10, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Members Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Milliken, Miner, O’Connor, Spitalnik, **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Members Molnar and Tarbet

5. 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. Member Miner will attend the next UFC meeting to collaborate on drought education.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ART

The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion. Member Molnar volunteered to lead as curator collecting art to promote at EQC meetings.

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 in July), Budgetary Needs
- Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022 - Debrief
- East Bay Green Home Tour – May 14-15, 2022 - Debrief
- Bike to Work Day – May 20, 2022 - Debrief
- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - May 21, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull - Debrief
 - June 5, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers) - Debrief
 - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - Oct. 2, Sunday, Northern Gateways
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- 4th of July Planning
- Berkeley e-bike event, summer 2022 TBD

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - 100% renewable (deep green) power as the default electrical power
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments
- Recommendations to the Council Climate Action Ad Hoc Subcommittee
 - **Move/Second:** Members Goudey/Spitalnik **Action:** Passed a motion to create an ad hoc subcommittee of members Goudey, Weinstein, and Miner to bring ideas for near-term climate action for discussion to the next meeting, with the intent to make recommendations to the City Council Climate Action Ad Hoc Subcommittee **Ayes:** Unanimous

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

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

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)

New items for future consideration:

- Drought outreach

- Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Event on July 25
- Open Space Preservation
- Research/Discuss Role of the EQC

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 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 **June 14, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison

Memo to EQC on change in our goals

From: Dave Weinstein, member, EQC

June 29, 2022

To Chair Goudey, vice chair Vekony, and members of the EQC

I have proposed an agenda item to discuss what the EQC has as its purpose. This was prompted because the current description of the EQC posted on the city website, which unless I am wrong we had no hand in formulating, differs than our original charge.

It describes a committee that is more about community outreach and education than about proposing policies. The description also drops the idea that the EQC should advise not just the council but “staff, other boards, commissions, and committees,” as stated in the resolution that established the EQC in 2008.

While the text on the website does say that the EQC should “develop programs to reduce citywide environmental impacts,” it also says we should “review requests for policies pertaining to the environment.”

“Reviewing requests” is very different than proposing policies. And programs are not policies. What this means is, rather than ideas for policies originating with the EQC, when the City Council or staff wants us to weigh in on an environmental issue, they bring it to us.

So, for example, as a policy is being developed at staff level for presentation to the council, we are called upon, for example, to hold a hearing on plastic foodware. But when we do propose policy or procedural changes, for example on natural gas versus electrification in new developments, our recommendations are ignored.

I believe the EQC should consider if we are playing the role that was originally intended for us, which was to spur City Council, city staff, and other committees and commissions to be more aggressive in addressing environmental issues.

Below are both the current EQC description, and an excerpt from our original charge, part of our establishing resolutions. I have highlighted sections that I think show the change in our role shown by these two documents. The changes emphasize community outreach, downplay policy development, and eliminate “advisory capacity” over city boards and staff.

Current website description of the EQC:

<https://www.el-cerrito.org/104/Environmental-Quality-Committee>

What does the EQC do?

EQC members are currently working to:

- Act as **ambassadors** for citywide environmental quality efforts
- **Review requests for policies** pertaining to the environment
- **Develop programs** to reduce citywide environmental impacts
- **Educate** and involve residents in City environmental programs and activities
- **Involve** more members of the community in order to expand the range of areas where the Committee can promote environmental quality

Resolution that established the EQC, 2008:

This is Resolution 2008-13, with a link on our website, and I have excerpted relevant portions:

“duties and responsibilities:

- To serve in an **advisory capacity to the City Council, staff, other boards,** commissions, and committees, and the residents of the City with regard to environmental quality issues within the City of El Cerrito;
- To **recommend programs, policies and ordinances** to the City Council and promote the City’s environmental quality efforts; and
- Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito residents regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts.”

Oh and by the way, somewhere else on an official city site I found this brief description of the EQC which, in my mind, only further emphasizes the way we have been de-clawed:

“The Environmental Quality Committee (or EQC) is a Council-appointed body of residents and businesses who **work to involve the community** directly in understanding and reducing our impact on the environment.”