



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89070740619?pwd=bzZrQ05ITINH
K1BJZHFOd0FBOVZYdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89070740619?pwd=bzZrQ05ITINHK1BJZHFOd0FBOVZYdz09)

Meeting ID: 890 7074 0619 **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 July 12, 2022.
6. **PRESENTATION ON THE SAN PABLO AVENUE SPECIFIC PLAN** *(30 min.)*
Hear a presentation from the Community Development Department on the draft update of the [San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report](#), participate in discussion and consider possible action.
7. **PRESENTATION ON THE DEL NORTE COMPLETE STREETS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** *(30 min.)*
Hear a presentation from the Public Works Department on the [Del Norte Complete Streets Improvement Project](#) and participate in discussion and consider possible action.

8. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS (5 min.)

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment new members to the EQC.

9. GOALS OF THE EQC (25 min.)

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

- Memo from member Weinstein to the EQC

10. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS (5 min.)

Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Event – July 25, 2022 - Debrief
- Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration, August 5, 2022 - Debrief
- 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

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:

- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework
 - Link to the [JEDI Tool](#)
- 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

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.



PUBLIC WORKS

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DRAFT MINUTES

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=Z2FEV2ZsdFJpOUx2b29MZUJvdVZXUT09>

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, Mark Miner, Evelyn Mitchell, Beth Molnar, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein **Absent:** Members Neil Tsutsui and Ellen Spitalnik **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison and Will Provost, 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. El Cerrito resident Beckie Denio also expressed interest in joining the EQC. El Cerrito resident Steve Price announced that the El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers received lots of signups at the 4th of July event, and that there is now a website (ecstrollroll.org).
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
Member Molnar presented artwork created by Brian Jungen, an artist from British Columbia, who created a life size whale skeleton using white plastic lawn chairs.
4. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Outgoing Staff Liaison Will Provost announced that staff member Christina Leard will be taking over as Staff Liaison effective this meeting.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on June 14, 2022.
Move/Second: Members Milliken/Molnar **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the June 14, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Passed unanimously **Noes:** None
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave updates from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting, which she attended. There was public comment by Beckie Denio who noted that PG&E tree requirements differ from those of the City.
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK**
The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion, including adding the JEDI tool as a link on upcoming agendas.
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:

- 4th of July -Debrief
 - **Move/Second:** Members O'Connor/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to send a thank you note to Corey Mason for putting on the worldOne 4th of July Festival. **Ayes:** Passed unanimously **Noes:** None
- 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 (E-mobility Expo)
- Ride Electric – Berkeley – Oct 1

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Recommendations to the Council Climate Action Ad Hoc Subcommittee
 - The EQC received Public Comment from Fred Bialy.
 - **Move/Second:** Members Weinstein/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to send to City Council the Climate Action Recommendations made by the EQC subcommittee (as amended based on discussion) **Ayes:** Goudey, Vekony, Milliken, Miner, Mitchell, Molnar, O'Connor, Pavel, Tabet, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Akacić **Absent:** Tsutsui and Spitalnik
- 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

The Committee received a Memo from member Weinstein regarding the goals of the EQC and participated in brief discussion. Due to time constraints, the item will be brought back for discussion at the next meeting.

11. 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

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Member Vekony announced that BART is having an open house meeting on 7/20
- 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

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 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 **July 12, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, 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.”