



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Staff Liaison

Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338  
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## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

### JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82683160159?pwd=bVpRRURkSTJ2WUZTOWxCdXlUdERjZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 826 8316 0159 **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](mailto:cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) prior to the meeting.

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### 7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, 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 August 9, 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. **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.
8. **GOALS OF THE EQC** *(35 min.)*  
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding the goals of the EQC.
  - Memo from member Weinstein to the EQC

**9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE (35 min.)**

Hear updates, provide input, and participate in discussion regarding a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) process being undertaken by the City to update the Climate Action Plan.

**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:

- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
  - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek - Debrief
  - Oct. 2, Sunday, Northern Gateways
  - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park, September 17
- Berkeley Ride Electric event, October 15
  - EQC interest in being a Community Partner?
  - <https://tinyurl.com/RideElectric2022>

**11. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (5 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
  - 100% renewable (deep green) power as the default electrical power source

**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:

- 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
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act
- EQC Annual Work Plan

**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.



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Staff Liaison

Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338  
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## DRAFT MINUTES

### 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)

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**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, Eevelyn Mitchell, Beth Molnar, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Neil Tsutsui, and Dave Weinstein **Absent:** None  
**Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
El Cerrito resident Vanessa Warheit expressed her interest in transparency and requested that members of the public be allowed to be visible on camera during public meetings.
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ART** (5 min.)  
Member Molnar presented artwork created by Olga Ziemska entitled “Listen.”
- 4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
Staff Liaison Christina Leard announced that the City is looking to replace the baler at the Recycling Center, and that the item is on the Consent Calendar for the August 16 City Council meeting. She also announced that the City Council passed an amended foodware ordinance to incorporate AB 1276, foodware by request only, on the first reading and will also be on the Consent Calendar for final adoption at the August 16 City Council meeting. Additionally, she reported that the City is working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) to update the Climate Action Plan and will be bringing it for discussion and feedback at the September EQC meeting. Lastly, she reported that work is underway on the City’s Clean Water Program annual report.
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on July 12, 2022.  
**Move/Second:** Members O’Connor/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the July 12, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Milliken, Miner, Mitchell, Molnar, O’Connor, Pavel, Tarbet, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Tsutsui, Spitalnik
- 6. PRESENTATION ON THE SAN PABLO AVENUE SPECIFIC PLAN**  
The Committee received a presentation from Sean Moss, Planning Manager in the Community Development Department, with support from Chris Dugan, Consultant with MIG, on the draft update of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, and participated in discussion. Public Comments were made by El Cerrito residents Vanessa Warheit, Steve Price, and Robin Mitchell.

**Move/Second:** Members Goudey/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion for the EQC to recommend to the Planning Commission and Council that the SEIR not be certified without addressing additional climate actions to meet stated climate goals, including all-electric buildings, increased EV infrastructure readiness and reducing embodied GHG emissions associated with construction materials. The EQC also recommends analysis of recent federal legislation, as well as state and regional funding opportunities supporting the funding of greenhouse gas emission reductions. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

## 7. **PRESENTATION ON THE DEL NORTE COMPLETE STREETS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The Committee received a presentation from consultants Jason Chen of Anchor and Robert Stevens of CSWST2 on behalf of the Public Works Department on the [Del Norte Complete Streets Improvement Project](#) and participated in discussion. Public Comments were made by El Cerrito residents Vanessa Warheit, Steve Price, and Robin Mitchell.

## 8. **EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

Staff Liaison Christina Leard noted that a potential new EQC Member, Simrun Dhoot, submitted her application to serve on the Committee.

**Move/Second:** Members Akacić/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to appoint members Tsutsui and Vekony to a subcommittee to interview the potential new member prior to the next EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

## 9. **GOALS OF THE EQC**

The Committee received a Memo from member Weinstein regarding the goals of the EQC and tabled the item for discussion at the September meeting.

## 10. **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:

- Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Event – July 25, 2022 - Debrief
- Recycling Center 50<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

- 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
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act (Ellen)

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

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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 **August 9, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

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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.”