



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338

cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

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

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89908288230?pwd=b1I4N3lySFFRSWY3ZXd2YTRPSE5sUT09>

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Neil Tsutsui, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: Members Buddy Akacić, Eevelyn Mitchell, Beth Molnar, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, and Sheila Tabet **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
There were no comments from the public.
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
Chair Goudey presented photos of cigarette butts collected along the Ohlone Greenway by El Cerrito resident Walter Williams.
- 4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama announced that the City received a grant for the Hillside Natural Area Master Plan in the amount of \$145,000. She also announced that the City is in discussion around ending the local emergency as of the end of December, noting that the State has decided to end the State of Emergency in February and the City's ordinance would follow that of the state and also end in February. She added that it triggers a six-month warning before the eviction moratorium would end.

Staff Liaison Christina Leard announced that the Climate Action Plan Consultant Award will be going to City Council for approval at the December 6 City Council meeting and noted that staff are recommending approval for a contract with Cascadia Consulting Group. She also shared that City Staff had taken a tour of the Napa Recycling Center and compost facility on November 3. She noted that new solid waste and recycling brochures would be in the mail to all households within the next two weeks. Lastly, she mentioned that solid waste rates will also be going to Council for approval at the December 6 Council meeting.

- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on October 11, 2022.
Member Weinstein noted his preference for more detailed meeting minutes. Staff Liaison Leard noted that anyone can request the meeting recordings and she would be happy to provide them by request.
Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Bialy **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the October 11, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Members Goudey, Vekony, Bialy, Dhoot, Miner, O'Connor, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Tsutsui
- 6. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell reported that the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

7. EL CERRITO TRAILS AND PATHWAYS: PRESENTATION ON THE BERKELEY PATH WANDERERS ASSOCIATION

EQC Members received a presentation from Janet Byron, President of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association and discussed how best the EQC can work with the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers to facilitate the improvement of impassable trails in the city.

8. EQC ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Vice Chair Vekony outlined the process for providing input to update the EQC's Workplan for 2023. The Committee reviewed the draft document and provided verbal comments on updates to be made prior to the next meeting. Member Vekony volunteered to make the edits as discussed before the workplan is distributed at the next meeting for final approval.

9. 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:

- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Nov. 19, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area (NEW)
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Dec. 11, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area (NEW)
- Berkeley Ride Electric event, October 15 (debrief)

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/SEIR – EQC Comments
- 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

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
- [BayREN has increased its induction cooktop rebate from \\$300 to \\$750](#)
- PGE/Frontier Induction Burner Loaner Program
 - https://pge-induction.myturn.com/library/?WT.mc_id=Vanity_inductionloaner

12. GOALS OF THE EQC

EQC members received an update from Staff Liaison Leard that the City Manager received the Memo from the EQC. No other updates were provided.

13. 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 from El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers
- Forthcoming Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) update
- Presentation on the City's Compostable Product & Recycled-Content Purchasing Policy
- 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

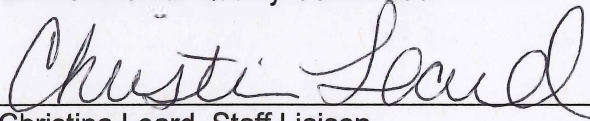
14. ADJOURNMENT

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 November 8, 2022 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Christina Leard, Staff Liaison