



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Environmental Quality Committee**

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

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82164625858?pwd=SmhrMis5VythQIMwOWI0VTJRWnorUT09>

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 Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Sean O'Connor, Sheila Tarbet, Neil Tsutsui, and Dave Weinstein **Absent:** Members Paloma Pavel and Ellen Spitalnik **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison and Will Provost, Staff

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL ART**

Chair Goudey presented environmental art created by winners of the Annual NOAA Marine Debris Program Art Contest.

- 4. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Staff Liaison Leard announced that beginning March 1 all committees will return to in-person meetings. New legislation (AB 2449) will allow for teleconferencing under limited circumstances and staff will come back in the new year with more details. The Committee, as well as members of the public, provided feedback and suggestions for hybrid meeting options.

Next, Ms. Leard provided a brief update to the EQC on a memo sent by the EQC to the City Manager in October 2022 on proposals to improve communication between the Committee and the City Council, Staff, and other Boards. She reported that the memo had been shared with the City Manager and that no action is being taken on the proposals recommended in the memo and noted that the City is working to be consistent across all committees, board and commissions to standardize how communications are put forward.

- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on November 8, 2022.

Move/Second: Members Goudey/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the November 8, 2022 EQC meeting with amendment to include more specific details for Agenda Item 12: Goals of the EQC. **Ayes:** Members Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Bialy, Dhoot, Miner, Mitchell, O'Connor, Tsutsui, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Tarbet

- 6. APPROVAL OF THE 2023 MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE EQC**

Consider a motion to approve the regular meeting schedule for 2023.

Move/Second: Members Tsutsui/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the 2023 Meeting Calendar for the EQC. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

- 7. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

Urban Forest Committee Chair Robin Mitchell reported that the Committee would like to collaborate with the EQC on providing input for the forthcoming Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. She also shared that the State Coastal Conservancy still has a lot of money available for grants, including coastal climate resilience projects.

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 in the final document.

Move/Second: Members Weinstein/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the 2023 EQC Annual Work Plan with the amendments discussed. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

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 (Debrief)
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park (with regular Baxter volunteers) (Debrief)
 - Dec. 11, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area (Debrief)
 - 2023 events planning:
 - Jan. 21, Saturday, Broom pull at Hillside Natural Area
 - Jan. 28, Saturday, Cleanup at Cerrito Creek
 - Feb. 12, Sunday, Broom pull at Madera Open Space
 - Other locations for broom pulls: Motorcycle Hill
- Earth Day 2023

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)
 - Staff Liaison Leard provided updates on recent action taken by the City related to Climate Action, including approval of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update which includes a ban on natural gas in new construction and increased electric vehicle charging requirements, and the contract award to Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc. for the forthcoming CAAP at the December 6 City Council meeting. She also outlined the CAAP process and next steps.
 - Chair Goudey appointed EQC Members Goudey, Miner, Dhoot, Bialy, and Tarbot to an Ad-Hoc subcommittee for the EQC to provide early input on the CAAP
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - CPUC's imminent replacement of NEM 2.0
- Discuss alternatives to fossil gas outdoor heating (outdoor restaurant dining) and consider possible recommendations for the interim urgency ordinance for outdoor dining that will be extended by City Council in January
 - **Move/Second:** Members Weinstein/Dhoot **Action:** Passed a motion to make a recommendation to City Council to include encouragement to choose electric outdoor heating over fossil gas outdoor heating in the outdoor dining and retail program guidelines when renewed by City Council in January 2023.
Ayes: Unanimous **Noes:** None **Absent:** O'Connor

11. SAFE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER (SAFETREC) EL CERRITO AND RICHMOND ANNEX SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Vice-Chair Vekony provided EQC Members with a brief summary of the [SafeTREC El Cerrito and Richmond Annex Summary and Recommendations Report](#) in preparation for a full discussion at the January 10 EQC meeting.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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](#)
- El Cerrito Compostable Product and Recycled Organics Purchasing Policy
- Fossil Fuel Yard Equipment
- 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

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

DocuSigned by:




797074E418D241D...

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 December 13, 2022 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

DocuSigned by:



8E85536647E940D...

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison