



**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Staff Liaison**

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**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
Environmental Quality Committee**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

**JOIN VIA ZOOM:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89970312632?pwd=WWtxZU84WHhuTEpKUzdIY1BPelFHdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 899 7031 2632 **Password:** 2154350  
**or Dial in:** 1-408-638-0968

**CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Eevelyn Mitchell, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet, Neil Tsutsui, and Dave Weinstein **Absent:** Members Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, and Ellen Spitalnik  
**Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
El Cerrito residents [Janet Byron](#), [Steve Price](#), [Mara Hernandez](#), and [Pamela Austin](#) provided public comment on items not on the agenda. Ms. [Byron](#) expressed her concern around plastic produce bag distribution at the El Cerrito Farmer's Market. Mr. [Price](#) announced that Gig Car Share is now available in El Cerrito, joining Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda and Emeryville in the service area. Ms. [Hernandez](#) asked the Committee for support for upcoming Swap It events, both with community outreach and brainstorming alternate locations for future events. Ms. [Austin](#) introduced herself to the EQC.
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**  
Chair [Goudey](#) presented environmental art by Tanja Geis. He also asked for committee members to provide environmental art for upcoming meetings, and Members [Akacić](#) and [Mitchell](#) volunteered. Member [Mitchell](#) shared an inspirational poem she wrote with the EQC.
4. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
Staff Liaison [Leard](#) provided updates from the City, including the availability of sandbags for residents and businesses at the Recycling Center. She also announced that the City has open recruitments for a Recycling Driver and a Recycling Maintenance Worker.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on December 13, 2022.  
**Move/Second:** Members [Tsutsui/Weinstein](#) **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the December 13, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Members Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Bialy, Dhoot, Mitchell, Tarbet, Tsutsui, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Pavel
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**  
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave an update from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.
7. **SAFE TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER (SAFETREC) EL CERRITO AND RICHMOND ANNEX SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**  
EQC Members received a presentation from [Janet Byron](#), President of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, and [Steve Price](#) on the [SafeTREC El Cerrito and Richmond Annex Summary and Recommendations Report](#) and participated in discussion on how the EQC might support the goals of the report.

## 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 2023, including:

- Green Team 2023 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
  - Jan. 21, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull
  - Jan. 28, Saturday, Creekside Park cleanup
  - Feb. 12, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull
  - Mar. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
  - Mar. 26, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull
  - Apr. 8, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull
  - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup location TBD
  - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day broom pull location TBD
  - June 10, Saturday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup
  - Aug. 13, Sunday, Creekside Park cleanup
  - Sept. 16, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park cleanup
  - Oct. 22, Sunday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup
  - Dec. 3, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Earth Day, April 15, 2023
- Hillside Festival, May 6 and 7, 2023 (EQC co-promote with Trail Trekkers)

## 9. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Staff Liaison Christina Leard noted that three (3) current committee members have terms ending March 1, 2023, and would need to submit applications for re-appointment and need to be interviewed before the February EQC meeting in order to prevent a lapse in membership. Chair Goudey appointed members Bialy, Pavel, and Tarbet to interview the members immediately prior to the next EQC meeting on February 14 beginning at 6:15 pm.

## 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)
  - Report from Ad Hoc subcommittee on EQC early input – Committee members agreed to give the document further review and bring it back at the February meeting for further discussion.
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
  - CPUC's adopted successor to NEM 2.0

## 11. EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICIES

The discussion regarding the El Cerrito Compostable Product and Recycled Organics Purchasing Policy and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy was postponed to the February meeting.

## 12. EQC MEMO TO THE CITY MANAGER ON COMMUNICATION

EQC members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding the October 2022 EQC memo to the City Manager on communication.

**Move/Second:** Members Goudey/Tsutsui **Action:** Passed a motion to send the Memo that was sent to the City Manager to the City Council as public comment for the next City Council meeting. **Ayes:** Members Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Bialy, Dhoot, Mitchell, Pavel, Tarbet, Tsutsui, and Weinstein **Noes:** None

## 13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework - Link to the [JEDI Tool](#)
- Sustainable Transportation report from City Staff
- 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)
- Open Space Preservation
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act

**14. 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 **January 10, 2023** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

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Christina Leard, Staff Liaison