



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

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet
- 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. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** *(5 min.)*
Staff and/or Mayor Lisa Motoyama may report on policies, priorities, and actions taken by the City Council, and/or on matters of general interest to the EQC.
- 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ART** *(10 min.)*
Discuss a standing agenda item for presenting environmental art.
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting March 14, 2023.
- 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. ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR** *(10 min.)*
Nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for an annual term beginning April 2023.
- 8. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *(20 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 2023 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Mar. 26, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull (debrief)
 - Apr. 8, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull (debrief)
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup Northern Gateways cleanup
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day work party, PG&E site on Moeser ROW
 - 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 cleanup
 - Dec. 3, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Earth Day, Saturday, April 15, 2023
 - Hillside Festival, May 6 and 7, 2023
 - Bike to Work Day, Thursday May 18

- East Bay Green Home Tour, Saturday May 20
 - Consider a motion for EQC co-sponsorship/Community Partnership
- 4th of July Planning & promotion of water bottle refill station
 - Update on sponsorship funding

9. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) (40 min.)

Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding development of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, including:

- Updates from Staff:
 - Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) meeting 4/25 at 7pm
 - Presentation from Cascadia at May 9 meeting
 - Public Workshop #1: Saturday June 3
- Discussion of CAAP ideas and research
 - Cascadia's [El Cerrito CAAP proposal](#)
 - Cascadia [CAAP for Albany](#)
 - [Oakland equitable CAP](#)

10. DISCUSS POTENTIAL RESCHEDULING OF MAY MEETING (10 min.)

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding potentially rescheduling the May 9 EQC meeting to Thursday May 4 or Thursday May 11 due to conflict with Special City Council Budget meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (10 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:

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- 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

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, Christina Leard, at (510) 215-4338. 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.



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

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet **Absent:** None
Also Present: Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito resident Tom Gehling expressed that the room/meeting layout made it difficult for him to hear what was being said as some EQC members backs were to the audience.
- 3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Christina Leard informed the EQC that the Swap It event originally planned for April will instead be held in May or June. She also announced that the City will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Hillside Natural Area Management Plan, and also that the City is looking into grants to pay for electrified forklifts for the Recycling Center. Lastly, she reported that the City is looking into electrifying the pool heating systems, what the costs would be and is seeking available sources of funding.
- 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
The item was delayed to later in the meeting when Member Mitchell had arrived. Member Mitchell presented photos of atmospheric rivers taken from Point Emery off I-80.
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting February 14, 2023.
Move/Second: Members Bialy/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the February 14, 2023 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous of members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Mitchell
- 6. EQC RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT ANTI-OIL AND GAS DRILLING RESOLUTION**
EQC Members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding a recommendation to City Council for El Cerrito to pass a resolution Urging Contra Costa County to End New Permitting of Oil and Gas Drilling in Contra Costa County and Phase out Existing Oil and Gas Development Activities and Associated Infrastructure.
Members of the public Shoshana Wechsler, Amanda Millstein, and Pamela Austin spoke in support of the recommendation.
Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to make a recommendation to City Council for El Cerrito to pass a resolution Urging Contra Costa County to End New Permitting of Oil and Gas Drilling in Contra Costa County and Phase out Existing Oil and Gas Development Activities and Associated Infrastructure, and to include the draft resolution and letters of public comment with the recommendation.
Ayes: Unanimous of members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Mitchell

7. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave an update from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.

8. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

EQC members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment members to the EQC.

Move/Second: Members Goudey/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend to City Council that Pamela Austin be appointed to the EQC. **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 2023, including:

- Green Team 2023 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Mar. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with Baxter volunteers) (debrief)
 - Mar. 26, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull
 - Apr. 8, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup Northern Gateways Park cleanup
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day work party, PG&E site on Moeser ROW
 - 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
 - Members suggested the EQC sponsor a movie to be shown on Earth Day at the Community Center.
- Hillside Festival May 6 and 7, 2023
- 4th of July Planning
 - EQC interest in sponsoring water refill station

Move/Second: Members Pavel/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to use EQC funds to sponsor a water bottle refill station for the 4th of July celebration, using FY 22-23 funds if possible, and with the understanding that the refill station will be publicly promoted prior to the event. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

EQC Members heard brief updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)
 - Status Update from Staff – Staff Liaison Leard provided updates on the progress of the CAAP, including:
 - The Engagement Plan is being finalized
 - The City received a draft Communitywide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, and the Municipal Inventory and Consumption Based Inventories are still being developed
 - The Natural Gas Ban ordinance is under development
 - First Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) meeting agenda will likely include 1) Intro/Project overview, 2) Role of the SAG, 3) Review the Engagement Plan, and 4) Work Items: Urban Carbon Sequestration options for the GHG Inventory and Early Win input.
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates

11. EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICIES

EQC Members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding the El Cerrito Compostable Product and Recycled Organics Purchasing Policy and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Election for EQC Chair and Vice Chair
- 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

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 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 March 14, 2023 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison