



**Staff Liaison**  
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## 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**

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**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

DocuSigned by:

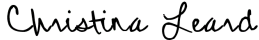


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Howdy Goudey, Chair

This is to clarify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of March 14, 2023 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

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Christina Leard, Staff Liaison