



Staff Liaison
Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
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AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Thursday, May 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 SPECIAL 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** *(2 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. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(2 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting April 11, 2023.
- 5. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *(3 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:
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup Northern Gateways cleanup (debrief)
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day work party, PG&E site on Moeser ROW (debrief)
 - **May 13**, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull; 1 to 3pm
(With El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and El Cerrito Cub Scout Pack 104)
 - 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 (debrief)
 - Hillside Festival, May 6 and 7, 2023 (debrief)
 - Bike to Work Day, Thursday May 18
 - East Bay Green Home Tour, Saturday May 20
 - 4th of July Planning & promotion of water bottle refill station
- 6. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)** *(105 min.)*
Receive a presentation from Cascadia Consulting Group, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding development of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, including:
 - CAAP Overview, Early Win Actions (see attachment), Building Electrification Ordinance, and Engagement Approach (see attachment)

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (3 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
- Sustainable Transportation report from City Staff (June)
- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework - Link to the [JEDI Tool](#)
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Films Series
- 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

8. **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.



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DRAFT MINUTES

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

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, Pamela Austin, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Evelyn Mitchell, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel (arrived during Item 7), Sheila Tarbet
Absent: Fred Bialy **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
There were no comments from members of the public.
- 3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Christina Leard informed the EQC that:
 - Recycling and Garbage cart color switch is coming this summer (trash will be black and recycling will be blue)
 - Budget Town Hall will be taking place on Saturday, April 22, 10am-2pm in City Council Chambers
 - California Fish Grill is now open in the EC Plaza; Grand opening was April 5.
- 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
Members Mitchell and Akacić presented recycled art created by member Akacić titled “Mother Earth.”
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting March 14, 2023.
Move/Second: Members O’Connor/Mitchell **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the March 14, 2023 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous of members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel
- 6. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave updates from the Urban Forest Committee, including information on an upcoming Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz taking place on May 12, 13, and 14.
- 7. ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**
Nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for an annual term beginning April 2023.
Move/Second: Members Akacić/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to appoint member Goudey as EQC Chair for an annual term beginning April 2023. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Goudey

Move/Second: Members O’Connor/Vekony **Action:** Passed a motion to appoint member Dhoot as EQC Vice-Chair for an annual term beginning April 2023 **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

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:
 - 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
 - Add a broom pull for May or June
 - 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
Move/Second: Members Miner/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion for the EQC to co-sponsor movie screening of 2040 proposed by Member Tarbet in honor of Earth Day. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
- Hillside Festival, May 6 and 7, 2023
 - **Reminder:** Trekkers requesting volunteers
 - Move/Second:** Members Miner/Dhoot **Action:** Passed a motion for the EQC to contribute \$100 for “Peach Jar” outreach to 4 elementary schools in support of the Hillside Festival. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
- Bike to Work Day, Thursday May 18
- East Bay Green Home Tour, Saturday May 20
 - Consider a motion for EQC co-sponsorship/Community Partnership
 - Move/Second:** Members Vekony/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion for the EQC to be a Community Partner with the East Bay Green Home Tour. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
- 4th of July Planning & promotion of water bottle refill station
 - Update on sponsorship funding
 - EQC sign on water bottle refill station

9. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)

EQC Members heard brief updates, participated in discussion and considered 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 (unless rescheduled)
 - Public Workshop #1: Saturday June 3, 10am in Council Chambers
- Discussion of CAAP ideas and research
 - Cascadia's [El Cerrito CAAP proposal](#)
 - Cascadia [CAAP for Albany](#)
 - [Oakland equitable CAP](#)

10. DISCUSS POTENTIAL RESHEDULING OF MAY MEETING

EQC Members participated in discussion and considered 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.

Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Miner **Action:** Passed a motion to reschedule the May 9 EQC meeting to Thursday May 11. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and Committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda 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 (June)
- 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
- BAAQMD Presentation
- Update on Advisory Body member training
- Environmental Films Series

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 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 April 11, 2023 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison

El Cerrito CAAP: Early Win Action Options

Early Win Action Options			
Action #	Focus Area	Action Short Name	Action Description
1	Buildings & Energy	MCE default	Implement a policy to default all existing energy customers to MCE's Deep Green electricity service, which provides 100% renewable energy.
2	Buildings & Energy	Outdoor seating natural gas ban	Adopt an ordinance that phases in a citywide ban on natural gas use for outdoor seating at all restaurants and establishments.
3	Buildings & Energy	City building electrification	Transition City building and facilities to electric systems, including the El Cerrito Swim Center swimming pool. Identify and prioritize buildings and facilities that a) currently consume large amounts of natural gas or other fossil fuel-based energy sources, and b) are candidates for relatively simple or quick electrification upgrades and retrofits.
4	Buildings & Energy	On-site solar and energy storage at City facilities	Begin installing on-site solar PV systems with energy storage at City facilities, using resources from BayREN and other regional energy networks and partners. Identify and prioritize buildings and facilities that a) currently consume large amounts of energy, and b) are candidates for relatively simple or quick electrification upgrades.
5	Buildings & Energy	Ban on wood fire smoke/fireplaces	Adopt an ordinance that phases in a citywide ban on wood fire smoke and fireplaces (and promotes electric heating).
6	Transportation	Public EV charging	Implement expanded public EV charging opportunities and provisions for street EV charging in both residential and commercial areas. Consider providing grants to fund and incentivize charging installations on commercial properties.
7	Transportation	EV charging at City facilities	Install EV charging stations at City facilities for City and public use. Prioritize City facilities and sites that are most accessible or most frequently visited by the community and/or City vehicles, such as the Community Center, Public Safety Building, Corporation Yard, parks, and recreation centers.
8	Transportation	Gas-powered leaf blower ban	Implement a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and other gas-powered off-road equipment.
9	Transportation	Bike-share program	Pilot a shared-use mobility program with bikes, e-bikes, and e-scooters. Provide outreach and education about the program, and consider subsidizing costs for lower-income residents.
10	Water & Natural Systems	HNAP carbon sequestration	Integrate natural carbon sequestration measures into the Hillside Natural Area Plan (under development). Optimize for maximum possible carbon sequestration and explore opportunities for verified (credited) carbon sequestration.
11	Water & Natural Systems	Miyawaki forests	Develop and implement programs to plant Miyawaki forests at schools and City properties. Partner with and use resources from the Green Pocket Forests initiative.
12	Water & Natural Systems	Tree planting	Develop and implement an urban tree planting program. Partner with CBOs and schools for outreach, education, volunteer recruitment, and decision-making on tree planting locations. Prioritize areas that experience extreme heat, have existing environmental or health disparities, or are frequently used by the community (churches, schools, playgrounds, etc.). This action could be combined with "Miyawaki forests."
13	Community Resilience & Adaptation	Community gardens	Provide financial and technical support to the ECCGN, CBOs, and schools to expand and add community gardens throughout the city. Support the development of community gardens at community buildings, churches, and multi-family properties.
14	Municipal & Policy	Climate dashboard	Develop a public-facing dashboard for key climate/sustainability metrics as part of the City's website.

El Cerrito Climate Action & Adaptation Plan: Key Messages for Engagement

These key messages are meant to guide community engagement around development of El Cerrito's 2023 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) – for example, to be used at tabling events and to answer questions from your networks.

1. **What is a climate action & adaptation plan? Why is it important?**
 - A climate action & adaptation plan (CAAP) is a plan to reduce a community's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate impacts.
 - By taking action to reduce El Cerrito's emissions and prepare for climate risks, the City will position itself to be ahead of the curve and protect the health and well-being of our residents and economy.
2. **Why should I participate in the process?**
 - This is an ongoing opportunity to tell us your priorities and concerns when it comes to a resilient El Cerrito, community practices, and policies related to sustainability and climate change.
 - By participating, you have an opportunity to guide the development of El Cerrito's climate action.
3. **How will my feedback be used?**
 - Public input will be an essential part of this climate action planning process. We will consider all public input along with input from City staff, community leaders, and partners throughout the planning process.
 - This public engagement strategy will inform a climate action plan that is part of an ongoing, iterative planning process that will evolve and grow over time. The CAAP is not just a guidance document; by participating, you have an influence on solutions—including public investments, actions for individual behavioral change, and business strategies and opportunities—for the whole El Cerrito community.
4. **How can I participate and learn more?**
 - Learn more by visiting the project website or by attending an upcoming community workshop.
 - There is a community workshop scheduled for Saturday, 6/3 at 10am at City Hall and there will be a second workshop in the fall, hosted online.
 - The project website is: el-cerrito.org/ClimateActionPlan (QR codes on the postcard and factsheet also lead to this site). There, you can also fill out a quick 5-minute survey and let us know your priorities.