



Staff Liaison
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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, June 13, 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 Simrun Dhoot; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Fred Bialy, Mark Miner, Evelyn Mitchell, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony
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. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the Special EQC meeting May 11, 2023.
5. **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION REPORT** *(20 min.)*
Receive a presentation from the Sustainable Transportation Program Manager and participate in discussion regarding sustainable transportation in El Cerrito.
6. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART** *(10 min.)*
Discuss a standing agenda item for presenting environmental art.
7. **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.
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:
 - May 13, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull; 1 to 3pm (debrief)
 - June 10, Saturday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup (debrief)
 - 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)
 - Bike to Work Day, Thursday May 18 (debrief)
 - East Bay Green Home Tour, Saturday May 20 (debrief)
 - 4th of July Planning & promotion of water bottle refill station & CAAP
 - Potential Co-Sponsored film screening (The Street Project) with EC Strollers and Rollers

9. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) (10 min.)

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

10. PRESENTATION FROM EQC MEMBER PALOMA PAVEL (35 min)

Hear a presentation from EQC member Paloma Pavel about her experiences on a 3-month Fulbright residence in Norway last fall and her attendance at the United Nations Climate Summit in Egypt (COP 27) in November 2022.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (5 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
- BAAQMD update from Member Dhoot
- 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

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.



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DRAFT MINUTES

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

CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Simrun Dhoot; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Fred Bialy, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel (arrived late), Sheila Tarbet **Absent:** Members Eevelyn Mitchell and Rose Vekony **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison; Mayor Lisa Motoyama, Council Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** (*Estimated time: 5 minutes*)
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave an update from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting. El Cerrito residents Tom Gehling and Steve Price provided public comment on items not on the agenda.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** (*2 min.*)
Council Liaison Mayor Lisa Motoyama provided a summary of the recent City Council Budget Workshop that took place on Tuesday, May 9 and provided updates on the budget process and timeline.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (*2 min.*)
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting April 11, 2023.
Move/Second: O'Connor/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the April 11, 2023 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Goudey, Dhoot, Akacić, Austin, Miner, O'Connor, Tarbet **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Bialy **Absent:** Pavel
5. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS** (*3 min.*)
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:
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup Northern Gateways cleanup (debrief)
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day work party, PG&E site on Mooser 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.)

EQC Members received a presentation from Maddie Seibert of Cascadia Consulting Group, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding development of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, including:

- CAAP Overview, Early Win Actions, Building Electrification Ordinance, and Engagement Approach
- EQC members viewed a list of 14 early win actions the City is considering and provided feedback to assist the City with choosing a shortlist of actions to prioritize, rank, and implement. EQC members also provided comments on individual early win actions and voted on the actions they thought the City should consider moving forward as early wins. The actions that received the most votes were:
 - 9 votes: #3: City building electrification
 - 8 votes: #12: Tree planting and #15: Broad outreach campaign
 - 7 votes: #6: Public EV charging and #16: Regional involvement
 - 6 votes: #9: Bike share program and #14: Climate dashboard
- Chair Goudey appointed members Bialy, Miner, Pavel, Austin and Goudey to a 4th of July ad-hoc subcommittee to support community engagement of the CAAP, with member Austin as chair.
- See additional meeting summary notes from Cascadia (attached).

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (3 min.)

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

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- Sustainable Transportation report from City Staff (June)
- BAAQMD report from member Simrun Dhoot
- Fulbright residence on Climate Justice in Norway report from member Paloma Pavel
- 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**

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.



El Cerrito CAAP EQC

Meeting #1 Summary

Meeting Overview

This document summarizes participation, activities, and feedback from the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) Phase 1 Meeting on Thursday, May 11th from 7:00-9:00pm. The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Provide an overview of the CAAP project, Early Win Actions, and Building Electrification Ordinance
- Discuss and prioritize the top 5-7 Early Win Actions for evaluation
- Discuss and hear feedback on the Building Electrification Ordinance
- Discuss engagement approach and EQC's potential role in engagement

The meeting was held in-person at the El Cerrito City Hall Council Chambers and there were 9 total EQC participants. Attendees included:

- **EQC members:** Howdy Goudey, Simrun Dhoot, Sheila Tarbet, Mark Miner, Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Paloma Pavel, Pamela Austin, Sean O'Connor
- **City staff:** Christina Leard and Will Provost
- **Cascadia Consulting facilitator:** Maddie Seibert
- **Members of the public:** Steve Price (Strollers and Rollers), Tom Gehling (Canyon Trail Park Volunteers), and three others.

Meeting Agenda

The portion of the EQC meeting agenda dedicated to the CAAP lasted 105 minutes.

Time	Topic
7:10-7:15	Welcome and introduce participants and walk-through meeting purpose and agenda
7:15-7:25	Orient EQC members to the CAAP
7:25-7:55	Provide Overview of Early Win Actions; Discuss and Prioritize
7:55-8:25	Provide Overview of Building Electrification Ordinance and Discuss Details
8:25-8:50	Vet engagement approach and identify EQC's potential role
8:50-8:55	Review next steps



Meeting Outcomes

Early Win Prioritization

EQC Discussion

During this agenda item, EQC members viewed a list of 14 early win actions the City was considering and provided feedback to assist the City with choosing a shortlist of actions to prioritize, rank, and implement. EQC members discussed these questions:

- Which actions should move towards an early win?
- What should we consider as we implement these? Do you have any concerns about them? Who needs to be involved?

Overarching comments from the discussion associated with this agenda item are in the table below. Comments are paraphrased.

Discussion Theme	Comments
Community engagement should be a high priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on SAG meeting feedback, concerned about buy-in to climate action. ▪ We should not assume that people know the basics of climate science.
Discussion about criteria for early win actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How are early wins being defined? Some seem like low-hanging fruit, while others seem like longer-term efforts. ▪ Early wins should be actions that are easy to identify and move forward. ▪ Visibility should be considered as a criteria to rank early wins. Will the community see it? Can it help build momentum around climate action?
New early win action ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise the transfer tax rebate so as not to give rebates on gas appliances. ▪ Refresh the City’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy. ▪ Aim for regional education and alignment through Bay Can Adapt. El Cerrito should join Bay Can Adapt.

EQC members also provided comments on individual early win actions. At the end, they voted on the actions they thought the City should consider moving forward as early wins. Each EQC member had 6 votes. The actions that received the most votes were:

- **9 votes:** #3: City building electrification
- **8 votes:** #12: Tree planting and #15: Broad outreach campaign
- **7 votes:** #6: Public EV charging and #16: Regional involvement
- **6 votes:** #9: Bike share program and #14: Climate dashboard

There is some alignment with actions the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) voted for during the Phase 1 SAG meeting. **The actions with the most SAG votes were: #6 Public EV charging, #8 Gas-powered leaf blower ban, #12 Tree planting, and #14 Climate dashboard.**

Comments on individual early win actions and the number of votes each received are below.

Action #	Focus Area	Action Short Name	# of Votes	Comments
1	Buildings & Energy	MCE Default	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should also be assistance for people to buy electric appliances. • Support for this, but recognize that it is still in pilot phase. Not sure the timing is ideal.
2	Buildings & Energy	Outdoor seating natural gas ban	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should this item be rolled into an electrification ordinance?
3	Buildings & Energy	City building electrification	9	N/A
4	Buildings & Energy	On-site solar and energy storage at City facilities	5	N/A
5	Buildings & Energy	Ban on wood fire smoke/fireplaces	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for this, but there might be pushback. Consider switching to an incentive instead of a ban.
6	Transportation	Public EV charging	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for charging at home. • Make sure chargers are universal. • Support for this action – lack of infrastructure is a barrier to EV use. • Support for this action, but it warrants further conversation – it is not likely to be a quick win due to the details that need to be worked out.
7	Transportation	EV charging at City facilities	3	N/A
8	Transportation	Gas-powered leaf blower ban	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for this. • Could be possible to combine this with an electrification ordinance, but might be valuable to separate it so it is more understandable.
9	Transportation	Bike-share program	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for an electric bike-sharing program. • Further discussion needed around where bike docks should be.
10	Water & Natural Systems	HNAP carbon sequestration	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing of the upcoming HNAP could make this ideal as an early win, but this will need some technical capacity to understand.
11	Water & Natural Systems	Miyawaki forests	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Miyawaki forests to maximize engagement and partnerships. • People need to be educated about what these are.



Action #	Focus Area	Action Short Name	# of Votes	Comments
12	Water & Natural Systems	Tree planting	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for tree planting and maintaining City trees.
13	Community Resilience & Adaptation	Community gardens	3	N/A
14	Municipal & Policy	Climate dashboard	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for this.
15	Overarching	Broad outreach campaign	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EQC members proposed this action to acknowledge importance of community buy-in.
16	Municipal & Policy	Regional involvement	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EQC members proposed this action that could include joining Bay Can Adapt to align with other local jurisdictions on climate planning.

Public Comments

Comments received from members of the public who attended the meeting are paraphrased below:

- **Support for updating the City Tree Inventory** to monitor and improve the health of the City’s tree population.
- **Support for public EV charging infrastructure** and a note that it gets complicated to charge in multifamily housing – ensuring there are plugs, determining who pays and how much. This topic will need discussion to understand the details.
- **Bike-sharing warrants further discussion.** The City should understand if it would be best in the hills or in the flats.
- **Actions should be visible to the public** in order to create buy-in.
- **Concern that members of the public do not have any background information** about climate change – provide more information than you think is needed.

Building Electrification Ordinance

EQC Discussion

EQC members received an overview of the Building Electrification Ordinance and an update that progress on drafting it has paused while the City understands available legal paths forward. Then, EQC members discussed these questions:

- In what circumstances should the ordinance apply?
- What exceptions should be included?



Comments are paraphrased below.

Building Electrification Ordinance Theme	Comments
Public education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public education will be a critical component – this may be controversial. The City will need to consider how to get buy-in from restaurants.
Other comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest in understanding the best legal path forward. Agreement with input the EQC already provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No building type/size exceptions, but limited language can be included to allow exceptions for demonstrated infeasibility due to technical infrastructure limitations. Restaurant and commercial cooking applications without a viable electric option can be met with bottled gas. Include major retrofit (work modifying/adding >40% of original floor area)

Public Comments

There were no public comments recorded for this agenda item.

EQC Role in Community Engagement

EQC Discussion

First, EQC members heard about the community engagement approach and materials. Then, they discussed:

- How do you see your role in promoting the CAAP?
- What support would be helpful?

Overall, EQC members expressed that they are willing to engage the public around the CAAP. They decided to bring activities related to climate action, including potentially an induction burner demo, to the El Cerrito July 4th street fair. They recommended clustering related booths so that information and activities related to climate action are together.

The members voted to form a community engagement subcommittee to organize a presence at the July 4th street fair including Fred, Mark, Pam, Paloma, and Howdy with Pam as subcommittee chair.

There was also support for providing food and music at the June 3rd CAAP public workshop.

Public Comments

There were no public comments recorded for this agenda item.