MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Council announcements from Abelson were made prior to the meeting being called to order until a quorum was formed. Corwin called the meeting to order at 7:26 pm.

Roll Call
Chair Corwin, Vice Chair Miner, Members Eggerman, Goudey, Krueger and Weinstein

Absent: Benjamin, Dandridge, Spitalnik, Pavel and Solari

Also Present: Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison, and Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Manager

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items
No comments were made from the public.

2. Approval of the Minutes
Eggerman made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Committee meeting from October 9, 2012. Seconded by Miner. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recruitment Update and Interview Subcommittee Meeting
EQC applicant Anh-vu Doan introduced himself to the committee. He is 24 years old and a graduate from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in Urban Planning and an emphasis in atmospheric science. Anh-vu has lived in El Cerrito for 2 years. He already has attended 3 EQC meetings. Eggerman asked about the size of the interview panel. Schultz answered 3 people but no more than 5. Miner, Goudey and Corwin will interview Anh-vu at an Interview Subcommittee meeting on December 11 at 6:30 pm. Anh-vu has already been interviewed by the City Council to serve on the Tree Committee. Schultz explained the application process; the subcommittee interviews the applicant first. Then the subcommittee reports back to the EQC with a recommendation, then the EQC recommends the City Council make an appointment to the Committee.

Corwin announced she will be departing from the EQC at the end of the year and to brainstorm on how to recruit new members. Gary Hill, El Cerrito resident and who also served on the Design and Review Board 10 years ago suggested reaching out to professional organizations and an Alumni list. Mintz suggested having a green professional’s mixer “green drinks” as a possible holiday party to be held at the Recycling Center. Mintz said she along with Schultz and Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst will plan this event. Abelson suggested putting up a poster at the Recycling Center to join the committee. Robin Tucker suggested forwarding e-mail lists to other groups with similar interests.
Egherman announced after 4 years, he will be leaving the committee and this would be his last meeting. Abelson also suggested having an EQC table for recruitment at the Pancake breakfast held by the Recreation Dept. on Saturday, December 8th at 9:00 am. Mintz will pass suggestion along to Suzanne Iarla, Admin Analyst and Cheryl Morse, City Clerk. Anh-vu suggested using Facebook. Mintz said it is in the works and thinks social media is a good way for outreach.

4. Urban Greening Plan (Green Vision 2035)
Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Division Manager gave an update and power point presentation about the Urban Greening Plan. The city was awarded a $200,000 grant for an urban greening plan funded by Prop. 84. Establish and Advisory Committee with 2 members from the Parks and Recreation Committee and 2 members from the EQC and one member each from other Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Round 1 was awarded for the Ohlone Greenway natural area and the rain gardens along San Pablo Avenue. Round 2, there were 37 planning applications, 18 awards were given and El Cerrito ranked # 7. First step is to establish and advisory committee, select a consultant and decide on public outreach products. Second step would be public outreach programs and public events. Third step needs assessment and data collection (assets inventory, GIS baseline, and civic involvement). The fourth step, draft and finalize an Urban Greening Plan (a park’s mater plan). Abelson asked Mintz why the committee on Aging would be involved since she is the council liaison for that committee. Mintz answered because of their helpful input and they use things differently such as in the Ohlone Greenway project they suggested wider pathways and not to be yelled by bicyclist. Abelson also mentioned the flaw of the rain gardens that someone in a wheelchair could not get out of a vehicle parked along a rain garden on San Pablo Ave. due to the obstruction from the rain garden with a narrow path. Goudey, Krueger and Miner are interested in being on the advisory committee. Weinstein would like someone from Trail Trekkers to be on the committee, if not he would volunteer for the committee. Mintz will check with the Cheryl Morse, the City Clerk to make sure it would be ok and no quorums were violated. The first meeting is ideally scheduled for December.

5. STAR Communities Pilot Project
Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Manager gave a power point presentation about the STAR project. El Cerrito was the only northern California city chosen as a pilot city. Other cities chosen include, Austin, TX, Atlanta, GA, Riverside, CA and Seattle, WA. Cities chosen were selected by a point system. One reason El Cerrito was selected because of the State’s high standards for storm water and waste reduction. The duration of the pilot project would be one year.

6. Subcommittee Review and Updates
Corwin moved this agenda item to the next meeting due to limitation of time for discussion and small group break outs.

7. EQC Film Series: Updates and Action Items
Goudey reported to the committee that they have established an adhoc meeting with 3 films but Pavel has been busy and they have not met.

8. Green Team: Updates and Action Items
Weinstein reported on the Green Team event held on Saturday, November 10th on the Storm Season clean up along San Pablo Ave. 20 people participated in this event with 10 people in each group at the 2 different locations. It was a successful event with lots of litter cleaned up and 4 EQC members came to help. He did not know if the waste sheet from Steven Prée, Program Manager and City Arborist was effective and thought it was more guessing on what trash or debris was collected in the trash bags. Weinstein would like to schedule a clean up in January and have an event every other month. He would also like to build regular volunteers and suggested sending a thank you letter or e-
mail and possibly having an event to thank the volunteers who have participated. For the next meeting, Weinstein proposed to discuss different ideas on involvement and how to retain and attract more volunteers. Weinstein made the motion to have a clean up event on January 12th. Schultz suggested January 19th because the 12th conflicted with another event held by the Environmental Services Division. Weinstein wants the event themed as a “Welcome to El Cerrito” clean up, cleaning the 2 Bart Stations, Potrero Avenue, Baxter Creek and contacting Caltrans to clean along San Pablo Avenue. Eggerman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Announcements and Future Agenda Items
Abelson announced that El Cerrito won the Sustainable Contra Costa Gala Award for the Recycling Center and will be presented at the next city council meeting. She congratulated City Staff for their efforts. She gave an update from the November election results. El Cerrito had a city council election with 3 people running for 3 open city council seats. Council member Greg Lyman ran for re-election and Mark Friedman and Jan Bridges (former council members) also ran. Democrats gained lots of seats in the legislature making it easier to pass laws regarding Environmental issues, a positive outcome for the EQC. Prop. 30 passed and the city won’t lose funding for one of its police programs. Both measures passed for the school district although both measures were not expected to pass. The new council will meet on December 4th. Bill Jones and Ann Cheng will be leaving the council and Abelson invited everyone to come to the meeting for light refreshments celebrating their service.

Schultz announced December 15th is the deadline for the Environmental Services Division newsletter. He would like any submissions for the newsletter sent to him by December 4th and brought to the EQC meeting on December 10th to meet the printing deadline. The newsletter will mention recruitment for volunteers and event clean up schedules. There will be a municipal code change regarding conditional use permits for non exchange items taken from the recycling center with 2 council readings on November 20th and December 18th. East Bay Sanitary’s contract has been extended with changes to the rates to keep costs low and efficient. Tours of the Recycling Center are now offered every first Wednesday of the month. Goudey asked how tours are publicized and Corwin asked how many people attend the tours. Schultz answered tours are publicized on the website, calendars, news bill inserts and via e-mail. 5-10 people usually attend the monthly tours.

Corwin announced that at the next meeting nominations for a new EQC Chair and Vice Chair followed by an election will be held all at once at the meeting on December 11th.

10. Adjournment
Corwin adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Quality Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling Center Offices at 7501 Schmidt Ln., El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Green Vision 2035

The City of El Cerrito’s Urban Greening Plan
Background

• Proposition 84 /Urban Greening Program
  – Help State meet environmental goals & create healthy communities
  – Funds jurisdictions to create Urban Greening Plans
    • Master document guiding & coordinating greening projects in dense urban areas
  – Strategic Growth Council
    • Air & water quality, natural resources, agricultural lands, affordable housing, infrastructure, public health, and AB 32 goals
El Cerrito Green Vision 2035

- Proposition 84 Grant Application
  - Round 1: Awarded Ohlone Greenway Natural Area and Rain Garden (Project)
  - Round 2: 37 Planning Applications; 18 Awards; EC ranked #7
  - Round 3?
- Plan to “identify projects, policies & strategies to create an interconnected network of green places and accommodate infill growth”
- Application approved/recommended by EQC, Parks & Recreation, City Council
Work Products

Big Picture: Overlay of Green Projects 20+Year Planning & Implementation Horizon

– Benchmarks

1. Planning & Coordination
   • Advisory Committee; Consultant Selection; Public Outreach Products

2. Public Outreach Program
   • Public Events; Community Charrette; Citywide Needs Assessment/Survey

3. Needs Assessment & Data Collection
   • Assets Inventory; GIS Baseline; Existing Policies/Best Practices; Urban Greening Expansion Opportunities; Capacity Analysis
Work Products

– Benchmarks

4. Draft & Final Urban Greening Plan
   • Green El Cerrito Map
   • Plant Palette, Master Tree List and Urban Forest Recommendations
   • Public Place Planting, Maintenance & Resource Conservation Guidelines
   • Urban Greening Policy Recommendations
   • Urban Greening Project Recommendations
   • Implementation Strategy
   • Draft Urban Greening Plan
   • Final Urban Greening Plan
## Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Begin-Complete</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning &amp; Coordination</td>
<td>Advisory Committee; RFP; Council Award; Public Outreach Products</td>
<td>December 2012-March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Involvement</td>
<td>Community Charrette; Public Events; Citywide Needs Assessment/Survey</td>
<td>March 2013-January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs Assessment/Data Collection</td>
<td>Assets/Policy Inventory; GIS Baseline; Analysis</td>
<td>March 2013-January 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Plan</td>
<td>Maps; Plant Palette; Resource Conservation Guidelines; Recommendations; Implementation Strategy</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
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<td>Final Plan</td>
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<td>January 2015</td>
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Process/Next Steps

• Initiate Advisory Committee
  – 2 each EQC & Parks & Recreation
  – 1 Economic Development, DRB, Planning, Committee on Aging, Crime Prevention
  – First Task: Review RFP

• Select Consultant Team

• Outreach & Involvement Strategy
Nation’s first voluntary, self-reporting framework for evaluating, quantifying, and improving the livability and sustainability of U.S. communities.

- **Framework for sustainability encompassing social, economic & environmental dimensions**

- **A rating system that drives continuous improvement & fosters competition**

- **An online system that gathers, organizes, analyzes and presents information**

Partnership of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, US Green Building Council, Center for American Progress, and National League of Cities
STAR’s Sustainability Goals

- Built Environment
- Natural Systems
- Economy & Jobs
- Education, Arts & Community
- Equity & Empowerment
- Climate & Energy
- Health & Safety
## Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Built Environment</th>
<th>Climate &amp; Energy</th>
<th>Education, Arts, &amp; Culture</th>
<th>Economy &amp; Jobs</th>
<th>Equity &amp; Empowerment</th>
<th>Health &amp; Safety</th>
<th>Natural Systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambient Noise &amp; Light</td>
<td>Climate Adaptation</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>Business Retention &amp; Development</td>
<td>Civic Engagement</td>
<td>Active Living</td>
<td>Green Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Community Water Systems</td>
<td>Greenhouse Gas Mitigation</td>
<td>Community Cohesion</td>
<td>Green Market Development</td>
<td>Civil &amp; Human Rights</td>
<td>Community Health &amp; Health System</td>
<td>Invasive Species</td>
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<td>Compact &amp; Complete Communities</td>
<td>Greening the Energy Supply</td>
<td>Educational Opportunity &amp; Attainment</td>
<td>Local Economy</td>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>Emergency Prevention &amp; Response</td>
<td>Natural Resource Protection</td>
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<td>Housing Affordability</td>
<td>Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency</td>
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<td>Quality Jobs &amp; Living Wages</td>
<td>Equitable Services &amp; Access</td>
<td>Food Access &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>Outdoor Air Quality</td>
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<td>Public Spaces</td>
<td>Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure</td>
<td>Workforce Readiness</td>
<td>Poverty Prevention &amp; Alleviation</td>
<td>Natural &amp; Human Hazards</td>
<td>Working Lands</td>
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<td>Transportation Choices</td>
<td>Waste Minimization</td>
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<td>Safe Communities</td>
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Rating System Framework

GOAL
Comprehensive community-level aspirations toward achieving sustainability

OBJECTIVE
A clear, desired outcome intended to move the community toward the goal

COMMUNITY LEVEL OUTCOMES
Represent the actual state of a system and used to identify progress relative to Objective

LOCAL ACTIONS
Foundational or implementation based; proven effective and essential toward moving the needle
Scoring

The Innovation and Process Category addresses exemplary performance, innovation, best practices, and regional priorities.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>GOAL</th>
<th>POINTS AVAILABLE</th>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>700</td>
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Recognitions & Certifications

**Participating STAR Community:** Registered intent to use the rating system

**Reporting STAR Community (50-199 points):** Registered intent to report and met basic prerequisite of completing objectives in all 7 goal areas

**3-STAR Community (200-399 points)**
Recognized for sustainability leadership

**4-STAR Community (400-599 points)**
Recognized for national excellence

**5-STAR Community (600+ points)**
Recognized as top tier achiever in national sustainability
Pilot Program Participants
Pilot Program Participants

- Albany, NY
- Atlanta, GA*
- Austin, TX*
- Broward County, FL
- Chandler, AZ
- Chattanooga, TN*
- Cleveland, OH
- Davenport, IA
- DeKalb County, GA
- Des Moines, IA*
- El Cerrito, CA
- Evanston, IL
- Fort Collins, CO
- Indianapolis, IN
- King County, WA*
- Lee County, FL
- Northampton, MA
- Portland, OR
- Riverside, CA
- Rockingham County, NC
- Santa Fe, NM
- Santa Monica, CA
- St. Louis, MO*
- Seattle, WA
- Tacoma, WA
- Tucson, AZ
- Victoria, Canada
- Washington, DC*
- Woodbridge Township, NJ

*Asterisks denote Beta Communities*
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<tr>
<th>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</th>
<th>CLIMATE &amp; ENERGY</th>
<th>ECONOMY &amp; JOBS</th>
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<td><strong>COMPLETED</strong></td>
<td><strong>IN PROGRESS</strong></td>
<td><strong>NOT STARTED</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SCORE</strong></td>
<td><strong>SCORE</strong></td>
<td><strong>SCORE</strong></td>
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<td>100%</td>
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Minimize and manage ambient noise and light levels to protect public health and integrity of ecological systems.

**AMBIENT NOISE & LIGHT**

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- **Preliminary Step**
  - 1. Noise
  - 2. Light in the Community
  - 3. Light in the Night Sky

**Help Tip**

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### STAR Community Index – Framework of Goals & Objectives

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