MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Miner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Roll Call:
Chair Miner, Members Krueger, Benjamin, Dandridge, Spitalnik, Pavel, Solari and Weinstein

Absent: Vice-Chair Goudey

Also Present: Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison, Stephen Pree, Environmental Programs Manager and City Arborist

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items
   Kevin Wildenberg a recent El Cerrito resident since March 2012 introduced himself to the committee and expressed his interest in joining the EQC. Kevin has a degree in Environmental Policy from UC Santa Cruz and a degree in Environmental Planning from San Jose State. He works for an engineering firm specializing in ground and water engineering. Kevin has submitted an application to join the committee.

   Jenny Hammer, resident of El Cerrito, former EQC member and member of Trail Trekkers informed committee that a parcel (Security Owner/Busby Property) is for sale that connects Hillside North and Hillside South. Jenny urges the EQC to recommend to the City Council that it be purchased by the City and to help find funding. It would be beneficial for the City to buy this parcel that connects both Hillsides for recreational use, creek restoration and wildlife preservation.

2. Approval of the Minutes
   Weinstein made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Committee meeting from December 11, 2012 seconded by Krueger. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Short-Term Trash Reduction Plan
   Stephen Pree, Environmental Programs Manager and City Arborist presented a short term trash reduction plan. All agencies (cities including El Cerrito) that have a permit are required to have a plan to reduce trash 40% by 2014, 70% by 2017 and 100% by 2022. The single use plastic ban project in 2014 will help meet the 40% goal of trash reduction. Green Team Events (trash pick ups) will be scheduled 4 per year on land clean ups to measure volumes of trash collected. 700 gallons of trash were collected in the November 2012 clean up event. Pree committed to quarterly trash events and to characterize the trash that is collected. He also committed to 12 events per year for creek and shoreline clean ups. The City already has been having clean ups at Baxter Creek monthly. Miner

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION
To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison at 559-7684 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530  Tel: 510.559.7684  E-mail: gschultz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us
asked if the plastic bag ban for 2014 would be at County or City level. Schultz answered that if the plastic bag ban is adopted it would be at City level. Miner also asked if there would be any points for the Styrofoam ban ordinance. Pree answered yes but not for the 2014 plan. Weinstein suggested having green team clean up events every other month. Dandridge would like to create a spreadsheet so they know in advance where and when a clean up would take a place from residents who would like to organize a neighborhood clean up. Pree followed up to the suggestion that the volume of trash collected would have to be categorized.

4. Subcommittee Report and Recommendation
Miner and Krueger reported from EQC Interview Subcommittee meeting held on 1/8/13 at 6:30 pm and recommend to the EQC, that the EQC recommend to the City Council that Anh-vu Doan be appointed to the EQC on March 1st, 2013 per request of Anh-vu because he has travel plans to Vietnam in February. Anh-Vu has a B.S. degree in Environmental Science from U.C. Berkeley and is currently studying Library Science at San Jose State. Krueger made the motion that the EQC recommend to the City Council that Anh-vu Doan be appointed on March 1st seconded by Solari. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Green Team: Updates and Action Items
Weinstein reported that the next Green Team Event will be on Saturday, January 19th “Gateway to the City” clean up. Miner and Emily Corwin (former EQC Chair) will be there. Weinstein and Emily will be in the north part of town and Miner will be in the south side of town. Weinstein would like to have both North and South groups meet after for lunch. Friends of Five Creek and the EQC have an event on Saturday, January 26, 2013 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. Volunteers who are interested should meet at Douglass Drive off of Potrero Avenue.

6. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items
Pavel reported to the committee. The venue for the next film showing is yet to be determined depending on the availability of the Rialto Theater. If the Rialto Theater is unavailable it will be at Council Chambers at City Hall. Schultz will make a flier to promote event. The Human Rights Commission wants to show “Connected” a film about social change. The film Subcommittee will view the film to see if the EQC would like to co-sponsor the film showing with the Human Rights Commission. “Building Healthy Communities” a film by a physician from UCLA to be shown either in May (possibly early May after Earth Day) or in July. Pavel would like to bring the film maker for this event. She would also like to schedule a date for the pre screening of this film not using a city facility just to create a buzz before the event screening. Pavel asked for EQC members help to make fliers and inviting people to the screening of “Rising Waters”. Benjamin, Solari, Krueger and Spitalnik volunteered to help Pavel.

7. Announcements and future agenda
Abelson announced the new City Council had their first meeting in December 2012. The Council interviewed over 30 people interested in joining commissions and committees. A couple of audience members interested in joining the EQC were present at present meeting. The Recycling Center was certified with LEED Platinum from the Green Building Council which is the highest level of certification. City Hall is also certified as LEED but not platinum level.

Schultz announced there was a second reading of the change to the municipal code for the Rules of Conduct at the Recycling Center. There will be a public meeting at the Recycling Center about the Rules of Conduct on Thursday, February 21, 2013. The Environmental Services Division Newsletter was mailed to all city postal addresses. Schultz reviewed highlights from the newsletter. Increased services at Recycling Center now accepting fluorescent tubes/CFL’s and electronics. Garbage bills
had a rate increase although rates had not gone up in 2 years. East Bay Sanitary now offers new services for its customers with extended office hours, online bill pay, and offers more services than before. The EQC meeting on February 12, 2013 will have a large part of the meeting dedicated to the Climate Action Plan public workshop held by Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst. There will be a film shown about the history of the Recycling Center on May 3, 2013 at the Recycling Center. Plastic bag ban and Styrofoam ban will be worked on simultaneously to be reached by June 2013.

Weinstein suggested an agenda item to apply for a grant for greater trails and to connect trails as expressed in the public comments from Jenny Hammer. Schultz asked whether to put it on the agenda for February or March because a large part of the February meeting would be for the CAP workshop. Abelson stated that it has already been brought to the Council and that the Council has identified funding. Benjamin suggested a subcommittee about this topic. Abelson suggested putting on the agenda to have the EQC’s position on the acquisition of the land for sale. Weinstein also would like an information agenda item from Susan Schwartz, Friends of Five Creek about the Hillside Natural Area and how the City can improve taking care of the hillside to be scheduled for the meeting in March or April.

Miner suggested that he would like to have a day in May where people can trade their recyclables or reusable’s rather than just dropping them off at the Recycling Center.

Pavel took a moment to acknowledge Weinstein for all his efforts in land preservation and with the Trail Trekkers. She also would like to request funding for refreshments for the film “Rising Waters” for the next agenda.

A member from the public would like urban planting and community gardens on a future agenda. Someone suggested he should contact the EC Community Gardens group. Pavel liked his idea and also suggested having an educational session before or during an EQC meeting. The member from the public had a particular empty parcel as a great location for a community garden.

Abelson announced that on Monday, January 21, 2013, Martin Luther King Jr. Day there will be a parade starting at the DMV at 9:00 or 9:30 am. The parade marches along San Pablo Ave and ends at El Cerrito High School where there will be a program after the march showing the Presidential Inauguration and invited EQC members and members of the public to participate.

8. Adjournment
Miner adjourned the meeting at 8:23 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.
Background-
National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (MRP) requires permittees to reduce trash from their Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4s) by 40% before July 1, 2014, 70% by 2017 and 100% by 2022.

All municipal agencies were required to submit their Short Term Baseline and Trash Reduction Plan to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board by February 1, 2012. The City of El Cerrito’s plan includes the following:

5.0 SUMMARY OF TRASH CONTROL MEASURE enhancements

The City of El Cerrito is committed to reducing the potential for trash impacts in local water bodies in the San Francisco Bay Area. The planned enhanced trash control measures described in Section 3.0 are also listed in Table 4-1. The enhancements are intended to comply with the 40% trash load reduction goal in MRP provision C.10.

Our residents have shown support for a plastic bag ban in a recent poll conducted by the City’s Environmental Services Division in which 74% of residents supported such an ordinance. The El Cerrito City Council is expected to adopt the Plastic Bag Ban ordinance after CEQA review. The ordinance will take effect six months after adoption.

El Cerrito continues to make an elective contribution to water quality education through Kids for the Bay and participates at the local, county and regional level in increasing advertising and outreach campaigns promoting storm water quality. City staff are increasing educational outreach to the community on this topic at popular City events such as Earthday and the City Fourth of July celebration. The local public radio station has newly agreed to air public service announcements with the City to promote litter, pesticide use reduction and other water quality topics.

The City has installed forty six (46) full trash capture devices in commercial, retail, high density housing and public transportation areas in El Cerrito. Connector Pipe Screen units are now functioning in storm drain inlets located in the areas that are most associated with high levels of trash generation.

Dedicated volunteers and City staff increasingly perform creek and on-land trash clean-ups, since January 2012 a monthly creek clean-up and quarterly on-land litter pick-ups have been established. Both are diverting a substantial volume of trash from entering local creeks and San Francisco Bay. The City of El Cerrito has also demonstrated a commitment to clean water with the installation of rain gardens along San Pablo Avenue that filter storm water run off before it reaches the bay.
Table 5-1. Planned enhanced trash control measure implementation within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of El Cerrito and associated trash loads reduced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trash Control Measure</th>
<th>Summary Description of Control Measure</th>
<th>% Reduction (Credits)</th>
<th>Trash Load Reduced</th>
<th>Cumulative % Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-use Carryout Plastic Bag Ordinance (CR-1)</td>
<td>Enact an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags at all retail (except restaurants)</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1206 gals/year</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education and Outreach Programs (CR-3)</td>
<td>Increase quantity/quality of advertising, outreach to school-age children, media relations and community outreach events</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>965 gals/year</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced On-land Trash Cleanups (Volunteer and/or Municipal) (QF-1)</td>
<td>Increased frequency and documentation of On-land Trash Cleanups</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1933 gals/year</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-capture Treatment Devices (QF-5)</td>
<td>Install, clean and maintain 46 trash full capture devices</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1111 gals/year</td>
<td>43.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creek/Channel/Sediment Cleanups (Volunteer and/or Municipal) (QF-6)</td>
<td>Facilitate more creek clean-ups and trash characterizations</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>853 gals/year</td>
<td>50.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QF-1: On-Land Trash Cleanups (Volunteers and/or Municipal)  
On-land cleanups conducted by Permittees and volunteers have been successful in removing trash from identified trash hot spots and engaging local citizenry in improving their communities. Permittees have several programs in place to address on-land trash. Municipal efforts relate to ongoing beautification of impacted areas and coordination of cleanup events. Volunteer on-land cleanups involve the meeting of individuals, creek and watershed groups, civic organizations, businesses and others at designated or adopted on-land sites to remove trash. On-land trash cleanups are conducted as single-day or throughout the year.

Baseline Level of Implementation  
Prior to the effective date of the MRP, the City of El Cerrito did not have a specific on-land trash cleanup program. Illegal dumping was reported and removed as it occurred, there were no documented trash hot spots and little tracking of trash outside of the customary work order process. Volunteer trash removal was limited to special events such as the City’s Earth Day Celebration and work day. In 2008 the City established the Environmental Quality Committee with promoting clean water issues as one of their stated goals. These control measures are considered baseline because they were
accounted for in the preliminary trash generation rates established through the BASMAA Baseline Trash Loading Rates Project. New or enhanced actions that began or are planned to begin after to the effective date of the MRP are described under the next section.

Enhanced Level of Implementation
Since the effective date of the MRP the City of El Cerrito’s Environmental Quality Committee began volunteer on-land clean-ups and has steadily increased the frequency of these events. In 2013 the volunteers will begin characterizing the content of the trash they remove and the frequency of these events will be quarterly. Public Works Staff will support these events with supplies, proper disposal and recycling of trash. Any illegal camps that are removed by Public Works will be coordinated to include the volume of trash removed is tracked to demonstrate trash loads reduced. Staff will track only trash that has the potential of entering our drainage conveyance system. Large items (e.g. appliance, shopping carts, furniture, mattresses, television, tires, lumber, etc.) removed during on-land trash cleanups is not part of the volume determination since they do not have the potential of entering the drainage conveyance system.

Percent Reduction from Enhancements
The total estimated annual volume of trash that will be reduced beginning July 1, 2014 as a result of implementing on-land trash cleanups is 1933 gallons. This volume is equal to approximately a 16% reduction in the baseline trash load to urban creeks from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) owned and operated by the City of El Cerrito. Both values provided within this section are included in Trash Load Reduction Summary Table included in Section 4.

QF-6: Creek/Channel/Shoreline Cleanups
Creek/channel/shoreline cleanups have been successful in removing large amounts of trash from San Francisco Bay area creeks and waterways; and increasing citizen’s awareness of trash issues within their communities. Creek/channel/shoreline cleanups are conducted as single-day events or throughout the year by volunteers and municipal agencies. Since volunteers and municipal agencies have the common goal of clean creeks and waterways, their efforts sometimes overlap. This is apparent with some municipal agencies using volunteers to help assess and clean designated trash hot spots during single-day volunteer events.

Baseline Level of Implementation
Trash reduced via creek/channel/shoreline cleanups was not accounted for in the City of El Cerrito’s baseline trash load described in Section 2.0. Therefore, implementation of any of the control measures described in this section is considered to be an enhancement and can be used to demonstrate progress towards load reduction goals.
Enhanced Level of Implementation

Prior to July 1, 2014, the City of El Cerrito will conduct MRP-required\(^7\) and the following non MRP-required creek/channel/shoreline cleanups\(^8\) listed below. Both types of cleanups will be conducted each year and the volume of trash removed will be tracked to demonstrate trash loads reduced. The City of El Cerrito will coordinate a total of twelve (12) creek cleanup events, which will be scheduled monthly for 10 months, in conjunction with Earth Day and for Coastal Clean-up day (third Saturday in September) in the Fall season.

Percent Reduction from Enhancements

The total estimated annual volume of trash that will be reduced by July 1, 2014 as a result of implementing creek/channel/shoreline cleanups is approximately 853 gallons. This volume is equal to approximately a 7% percent reduction in the baseline trash load to urban creeks from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) owned and operated by the City of El Cerrito.

Both values provided within this section are included in Trash Load Reduction Summary Table included in Section 4.

\(^7\) Creek/channel/shoreline cleanups conducted in accordance with Permit Provision C.10.b.

\(^8\) All "other" creek/channel/shoreline cleanups conducted by a municipality that are not required by Provision C.10.b.