MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Miner called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Roll Call:
Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Goudey, Members Krueger, Benjamin, Dandridge, Spitalnik, Pavel, Solari, Weinstein and Doan

Also Present: Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison and Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items – 7:00

2. Approval of the Minutes – 7:05

3. Spitalnik made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Committee meeting on March 12th, 2012. Weinstein comments that under Item 5 – Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items, the line “The City can not use community access days for fund raising for an advocacy group.” is not attributed to anyone nor is the statement true. Kruger asked where the Mariposa Lily is located. Miner suggested that discussion of Community Access Groups take place under Item 7 – Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Subcommittee Report and Recommendation – 7:10

Solar reported from EQC Interview Subcommittee meeting held on 4/9/2013 at 6:30pm and recommended to the EQC that the EQC make a recommendation to the City Council that Kevin Wildenberg be appointed to the EQC on May 7th, 2013. Kevin Wildenberg has a B.A. in Environmental Policy from U.C. Santa Cruz and a GIS Certification. He is interested in becoming involved in the Green Teams and expanding their efforts to include High School students. Solar made a motion that Kevin Wildenberg be appointed on May 7th. Miner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Climate Action Plan Adoption Recommendation – 7:20

Maria Sanders asks the EQC to make a recommendation to City Council to adopt the Climate Action Plan on May 21st, 2013. Sanders received both written and verbal comments from 26 residents that were, for the most part, in keeping with comments received during earlier public workshops. Sanders to provide the EQC with written comments prepared by Mike Vukelich arguing the existence of climate change and the necessity of the Plan. Sanders

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.
provided the committee with a summary of comments and noted that the majority of them were at a level of detail beyond the scope of the Plan. A revised version of the Plan was circulated with an expanded Chapter 3 including additional strategies that had been overlooked, but were consistent, such as electrical vehicle charging stations, a street tree planting program, bicycle and pedestrian strategies, a casual carpool program, and an increase in incentives. Some comments received were more pertinent to the General Plan update. Sanders explained that she would be presenting the Plan for adoption on May 21st due to the City Council budget process and the April 10th Planning Commission presentation and their acceptance of the environmental documents. Spitalnik asked whether there was a zero waste opt out option in the City. Garth Schultz explained that the municipal code allows residents to become exempt from waste collection services. Spitalnik said that this option should be highlighted. Kruger moves to recommend the adoption of the City’s Climate Action Plan at the May 21st City Council meeting, adding that it has been a great process highlighting that the City is doing the most they can to be as sustainable as they can. Spitalnik wonders if the EQC could include a commendation for Maria. Doan seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Miner wonders if there is a section of the Plan that the EQC could focus on. Weinstein suggests Marin Clean Energy. Miner explains that a budget of $20-$25,000 is required to study the impacts of joining, which could potentially take place in the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. Weinstein mentions that an article was written about a presentation given to the Sustainability Committee in Albany and that it mentions the Committee’s approval of the item.

6. SB254 (Hancock) Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act – 7:45

Schultz explains that a staffer from Hancock’s office is looking for a recommendation from the Mayor on Senate Bill 254 The Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act. Currently mattresses are costly to recycle and dispose of, usually costing more than $50 to haul, so many end up illegally dumped. The Act would be similar to electronics and paint bills that transfer responsibility to the manufacturers to dispose of mattresses, which would lessen the burden on the consumer and municipalities. Doan responds that he read the attached letter, but is unclear how the program would work. Schultz explains that the Bill doesn’t necessarily outline how the program will work, but that it might mean that at time of sale consumers would be provided with contact information for proper disposal. Spitalnik asks if this is an example of Extended Producer Responsibility and Schultz explains that the Product Stewardship Council is looking for more of these initiatives and that El Cerrito is a member of the Council. Miner wonders if there may be an opportunity to add local information to the letter, including statistics on dumping on the Greenway.

Schultz also mentions two additional Bills for recommendation pertaining to a statewide single use bag ban. Assembly Bill 158 and Senate Bill 405 are similar to other bans developed by other jurisdictions. RecycleMore is currently completing the environmental documents for the local ban proposed in El Cerrito. Weinstein finds that consideration of these bills is in violation of the Brown Act as they were not on the agenda and therefore cannot be discussed. Schultz clarifies that matters can be discussed if they are urgent and Councilmember Janet Abelson adds that there is a specific process for discussing such items that establish their urgency. Goudey wonders if there is a time crunch on the item and Schultz explains that staff are hoping to bring the items to Council on May 7th, as early comments on these items help to build the momentum they need. Miner recommends that the EQC follow the procedure, underlining that these bans are already controversial so it would be a shame to have a recommendation overlooked due to improper procedure. Spitalnik adds that she feels uncomfortable discussing an item that none of the members have ready thoroughly.
Weinstein makes a motion to recommend that City Council authorize the City Manager to send a letter regarding Senate Bill 254. Benjamin seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Miner states that those interested in showing support for the other two Bills mentioned should attend the May 7th City Council meeting to make a public comment.

7. Green Team: Updates and Action Items – 8:00

Weinstein shared that there was a new Green Team flyer with four events, the first for a cleanup of the northern gateway. There are opportunities for other Green Team activities such as pulling ivy, placing signs on storm drains, which could be performed by high school students. Any increase in Green Team scope should not reduce the number of cleanups. Miner believes that having four events will meet the Green Team requirements and that there may be an opportunity to work with the Tree Committee to maintain recently planted trees. Abelson noted that Stephen Pree, City Arborist, discussed tree maintenance as an Earth Day activity. Weinstein explained that there used to be a Green Team subcommittee and that they could reconvene and appoint someone to coordinate with the Tree Committee. Goudey volunteered to organize ivy pulling and added that the Girl Scouts plan to plant squares at Tassajara, but the soil is compact and gravely. The City will provide soil for the project, but there may be an opportunity for a Green Team event to remove the existing soil. Kruger likes the idea, but thinks there should be a more strategic approach to continued support of the Park over time and that ivy pulling would need more than one work party. Goudey shared concern that there may be some liability issues associated with ivy pulling, as it would involve some climbing. Also explains that there were two ivy pulling parties at the Senior Center, which permanently eradicated the ivy. Weinstein wonders if it might be worth putting together a 2 person ivy ad hoc committee. Goudey explains that it would probably involve coordinating volunteers and using staff resources similar to Green Teams for producing and distributing flyers. Miner will get in touch with Stephen Pree to ask if Tree Committee tree maintenance could be co-sponsored by the EQC. Schultz asks that he be CCed on all correspondence. Weinstein explains that Dandridge is continuing to develop neighborhood networks by emailing volunteers, but has only heard back from Al Miller. There are continued discussions about a Volunteer Appreciation event, but little headway has been made.

8. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items – 8:15

Miner explained that Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist, put together information regarding Community Access Days at the Rialto Theater. The Film subcommittee now understands the policies and procedures involved. The days were originally designed to provide facility discounts for approved partnerships administered by Parks and Recreation for community groups within El Cerrito and serving El Cerrito citizens. To get new groups on board, they must be approved by City Council. The original terms of the lease were developed with Speakeasy. A document about the film is to be provided with a basic description to the theater. The EQC represents the City who co-sponsors all events and are in charge of the publicity to ensure due diligence. Other organizations interested in sponsoring an event are allowed and must coordinate with the Theater directly. Weinstein asks whether the terms were originally developed with Speakeasy and then transferred, because the same language exists that states that Speakeasy could pick groups based on their own criteria and that the events do not, necessarily, need to be public. No political advocacy groups may host an event, but other advocacy groups such as Trail Trekkers may host, as can other jurisdictions, such as Albany. Goudey explains that Albany was trying to show Symphony of Soil, but the filmmaker’s approval fell through. Katherine from Albany spoke with the Theater about hosting an event at the next Community Access Day, but they would have to charge admission, so El Cerrito would not need to co-sponsor. The EQC can endorse
community groups and by co-sponsoring can serve as a conduit for the group. Miner explains that they would need to coordinate all publicity with the City.

Pavel showed a slideshow with music to celebrate the film event and circulated a report on the March 23rd Rising Waters event. She continues to gather notes from the group discussions and hopes that anyone with e-notes could forward them on to her. Spitalnik is still transferring her notes onto the computer. Goudey provided notes from his Food group discussion. Doan and Miner have provided and Pavel is passing them along.

Pavel corrected her cost spreadsheet stating that there is, in fact, a $360 deficit, as opposed to $260. Schultz states that the City received $230 in donations to offset City costs. Pavel explains then, that El Cerrito contributed $1,370 towards the event. There were three sources of income: $1700 initially from the City, $500 from the League of Women Voters, and the $230 in donations from the public. Spitalnik wondered what the plan to cover the shortfall was and Pavel explained that Earth House was to absorb the loss. Weinstein wonders if some vendors have still not been paid and Pavel explained that Andrea, Jennifer and Richard have all submitted invoices to Earth House, but have not yet been paid. They are to send paper invoices to the League of Women Voters, as well. Pavel estimates that there are 150 attendees at the film and 70-80 participants at the restaurant. Miner has posted photos on Facebook and Pavel asks that anyone else with photos please forward them along to her. Miner explains that he read the One Bay Area Plan as a result of the event. Pavel shares excited to have had John Gioia in attendance as he is a regional actor on climate change issues. There was a spotlight on the City’s Climate Action Plan, as well. Sanders added that Gioia expressed interested in presenting to the EQC.

Goudey asked Pavel to confirm the June 22nd Building Healthy Communities event. Pavel cannot confirm at this time as she was hoping to coordinate with the filmmaker. Other films being considered are Journey of the Universe, an Emmy Award Winner, and Fierce Green Fire. Goudey asked that the subcommittee task force meet after the meeting to coordinate calendars.

9. CAP Pledge Forms for Earth Day / 4th of July – 8:30

Sanders is requesting $500 to make carbon copied pledge sheets for the Climate Action Plan for 4th of July, so that EQC can hold on to a copy and community member can take it home. Benjamin wonders what the costs are? $500 seems high. Solari motions to allocate $500. Kruger seconds the motion. Spitalnik wonders if there might be an e-version that wouldn’t require paper. Miner explains that there will be flip charts with the Ecology Center’s 3 questions with sticky notes and markers to write down thoughts. Sanders explains that the City has used SurveyMonkey in the past, but that a physical reminder is a good way to continue support. Spitalnik believes that for the cost there might be an opportunity to develop both an electronic and paper version. Miner and Solari interested in creating a subcommittee to discuss. Miner makes a motion to allocate $500 with the understanding that it is like to be significantly less. Solari seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

10. Announcements and future agenda items – 8:40

Abelson announced upcoming Earth Day and asked that Benjamin, Solari, Spitalnik, Pavel and Wildenberg sign-up to coordinate groups. Planned Parenthood presented at the most recent Council meeting. There were amendments to the Temporary Use cods which would allow the City to permit recreational uses and one-time events. The Strategic Plan 2013-2017 was adopted and a $422,000 contract was assigned to complete the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, Complete Streets and an Environmental Impact Report be developed for both. Adopted a Resolution for the Term Sheet for Post Collection with Richmond Sanitary Services; the report is available online in the April 2nd Council Packet. Miner highlighted the environmental elements of the Strategic Plan.

Kruger proposed an agenda item explaining the procedure for rushing items in compliance with the Brown Act. Weinstein proposed an agenda item to consider joining a Community
Choice Aggregation in light of recent developments in Albany. **Miner** explains that Berkeley has four Climate Action Plan Implementation teams, with one specifically designated to Community Choice Aggregations.

**Miner** encourages other members of the EQC to read the One Bay Area Plan and attend Town Halls to make comments. **Pavel** explains that environmental advocacy groups worked to develop an alternative scenario associated with the Plan focused on environmental equity and jobs. The scenario is currently outperforming all other scenarios and has received overwhelming support. **Spitalnik** proposes an agenda item to hear an update on the Scenario.

**Sanders** will be presenting to the Planning Commission on April 10th at 7:30pm. The Community Center parking lot is currently close for Solar construction and the Public Safety Building will soon be underway.

**Spitalnik** discussed a recent announcement from Nancy Skinner about the fire at the Chevron Refinery regarding air quality concerns. **Miner** wonders what neighboring jurisdictions are doing to cover similar Environmental Quality concerns.

11. Adjournment

**Miner** adjourned the meeting at 9:25 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 + Environmental Resource Center Administrative Office at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*
RISING WATERS FILM AND COMMUNITY DIALOG EVENT

Budget –
Vu Tang – Nong Thon Restaurant
$1700 – Food and Space Rental

Andrea Torrice - Torrice Productions – community viewing licensure –
$250
[Flight to Bay Area – In Kind]

Jennifer Johns - Nayo Movement – artist
$300
[$100 in kind]

Richard page – Conference Recording Services (audio/Video/Media)
$250
[$350 in kind]

Home Depot – potted Flowers and sticks for signs
$60

Carter Brooks – Ice Sculpture artist
[$200 In kind]

Fuifui and Loa Nuimeitolu

Total - $2560 expenditures  EC City $1700  LWV $500  [$260]

Presenters Panelists – In Kind
Janet Abelson
John Gioia
Will Travis
Carl Anthony
Paloma Pavel
Maria Sanders
Linda Rudolph
Andrea Torrice, Filmmaker

Posters and Publicity
Melanie Mintz
Garth Schultz and Intern
Suzanne Iarla
Kris Welch – KPFA Living Room Show

LWV Committee
Joan Carpenter (special thanks)
JD Krone (Earth House Intern)
Paloma Pavel
Janet Abelson
Media
Richard Page and Howdy Goudy

Earth House Team
Paloma Pavel, Beth Gelfand, Sarah Koplowicz, JD Krone, Katherine Whitbread Marco Cacchi

Dialog Group Leaders:
EALTH, WATER, FOOD, EDUCATION AND ARTS, COMMUNITIY RESILIENCE,
HEALTH, TRANSPORTATION
EQC
Anh Vu Doan
Howdy Goudy,
Mark Miner
Mildred Dandridge
Ellen Spitalnik
Maria Sanders
Janet Abelson
Natasha Benjamin
Paloma Pavel

LWV
Joan Carpenter
Lesa McIntosh
Shannon Blackmon
Janet Abelson
Paloma Pavel
Betty Brown

Community
John Gioia
Louise Music
Kathy Dervin
AziBuike
Madeline Kronenberg
Jael Myrick
Andrea Torrice

Earth House Team
Sarah Koplowicz
Marco Cacchi
JD Krone
Beth Gelfand
Katherine Whitbread
Carl Anthony
Jan Thomas

Submitted by: M. Paloma Pavel, EQC, LWV
RE: EL CERRITO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2013

This plan is flawed except for a few positive goals that I agree with and will be stated at the end of this report.

MOST OF THE DRAFT PLAN SUBMITTED IN FEBRUARY 2013 IS PATENTLY FALSE CITING INFORMATION FROM QUASI-SCIENTISTS, SOCIALISTIC LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE CREATED PANTEISTIC LAWS, MONEY GRUBBING GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS, BIG MONEY ECO-FREAK ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR LAWYERS.

These people have been able to brain wash and create zombies out of most of American Academia, our Government Bureaucrats, our young people, and misinformed Citizens.

Our First Amendment states that Government will make no laws following religious dogma. Thousands of our eco laws and regulations are illegal Pantheistic Religious dogma and are strictly forbidden in the First Amendment. Millions of Americans religiously believe that we must have stoic life styles because we are planet sinners and we must follow stoic religious Pantheistic behavior.

THE ACTION PLAN IS WRONG FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:
1. Human caused climate change or global warming is a lie.
   There is no way human emissions or human behavior can change our climate. Nature determines what our climate will be all over the planet. During the past 6 Billion years our climate has changed thousands of times. Humans inhabit only 15% of the planet and heavily inhabit less than 1% of our planet. The sun, the ocean, and to a minor extent volcanoes control our planet, not human behavior. Our atmosphere contains only 390 parts per million of carbon dioxide. This is only one part of carbon dioxide to 2500 parts of our atmosphere. During the so
called “GLORY YEARS” of our planet, 80-Million years ago, our atmosphere contained 2000 parts per million of carbon dioxide, 5 times greater than we have today. Plants grew much faster, trees and animals grew larger. Many animals were 60 and 80 feet long. About 40 years ago my industry, the greenhouse flowering plant industry, conducted extended experiments pumping carbon dioxide into the greenhouses. At 1000 PPM plants grew much faster, faster at 2000 PPM and so on. At 4000 PPM carbon dioxide was not harmful to human health. Even if nature raises our carbon dioxide above our present level 390PPM human health or planet health would not be harmed.

2. Carbon dioxide (CO-2) is our life giving gas. If our carbon dioxide level decreased to 180 PPM all plants would die and all humans, birds, and animals would die. Through the process of photosynthesis a plant sucks up water and removes hydrogen from the water and sucks in carbon dioxide from our atmosphere and removes the carbon and with the power of the sun creates carbohydrates in the form of the plants we and animals eat. Carbon is our most important element on the planet. The basic element in all living things is carbon. The basic element in every bit of food humans have ever eaten is carbon. Carbon is the basic element in our human body. The eco-freaks negative barrage against carbon is patently false.

3. Humans live at sea level. Humans live at 10,000 feet elevation. Humans live in areas that reach 120 degrees Fahrenheit. They also live in climates that reach minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Why do eco-freaks say we will die if the temperature changes 2 degrees? I have lived within 4 miles of the City Hall for over 82 years. Our climate and the water level of the bay has not changed at all. Eco-freaks use untrue scare tactics to mesmerize us into believing thousands of lies like saying the North Pole is melting when this year the north pole and Alaska had its coldest winter in 20 years. They say Polar Bears are dying when in 1970 there were 10,000 Polar Bears in the polar area, in 2010 there were 22,000 Polar Bears.

We keep on hearing eco-freak lies and most of our public is brainwashed.

4. The El Cerrito Climate Action Plan states we will cut greenhouse gas (which is 95% water vapor) from the 2005 level (which is also the 2013 level) by 30% by 2035. How ridiculous. When our present level is static, can we change it by 30% in 22 years?.

Even an 8th grader knows that this math is flawed.
5. The plan does not properly address the auto parking problem. By 2035 there will be 27% more on street auto parking. Our present on street parking is a serious problem today.
6. The plan does not properly address our 4,000 + senior citizens who will not have easy access to the proposed plan’s foot traffic proposals.
7. The plan touches on water recycling but does not propose adequate strategies to give El Cerrito more water for outside irrigation for our trees, plants, flowers, and vegetables.
8. The positive recommendations about infill, business and job creation, recycling, and easier bicycling access are good positive recommendations. But we must be careful not to discourage new construction and new businesses with out rigorous demands for EIR’s and over bearing regulations. El Cerrito has no need for any additional EIR’s. We have information about every corner or our city. We don’t need more.

Five years ago a butcher shop in the Giovani’s Market changed owners and the city made such onorous demands on the new owner who had to abandon his ability to operate the butcher shop. We lost the butcher shop. The city must do everything possible to assist new businesses, new development, and jobs.

THE EL CERRITO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2013 IS PATENTLY FLAWED. IT IS BASED ON FLAWED INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING. THE CITY’S EFFORT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORT BUT THE PLAN IS WRONG AND SHOULD BE ABANDONED.

MIKE J. VUKELICH
Executive Summary

The City of El Cerrito is committed to reducing the pollution that causes global warming. Since 2006, the El Cerrito City Council has consistently supported local, regional and state initiatives to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In February, 2011 the City Council passed Resolution 2011-12 adopting GHG emission reduction targets of 15% below 2005 levels by the year 2020 and 30% below 2005 levels by 2035 for both municipal operations and the El Cerrito community.

The City has developed this Climate Action Plan (CAP) due to concerns that the global and local effects of climate change will have adverse impacts on our way of life for generations to come. In addition to providing leadership on this important issue, development of a CAP helps prepare El Cerrito for a quickly evolving legislative framework set by the State as part of its implementation of Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the CAP is to provide a road map for the City in pursuing both community-wide and municipal reductions in GHG emissions. The objectives are to:

- Provide guidance for the City in pursuing reductions in GHG emissions;
- Provide a policy framework for incorporation of a climate or sustainability element into the City’s upcoming General Plan Update;
- Inspire residents, businesses, and employees to participate in community efforts to reduce GHG emissions; and
- Demonstrate El Cerrito’s commitment to helping the State and the Bay Area reach their mandated GHG reduction goals.

Methodology

Development of the CAP is based on a methodology advanced by ICLEI* Local Governments for Sustainability and further refined by the Bay Area Air Quality

* ICLEI is the acronym for the International Council for Environmental Initiatives
Management District (BAAQMD). This methodology investigates the potential of reducing local GHG emissions from transportation, energy consumption, water use, and waste generation at the local level. The CAP models GHG emissions from both community and municipal sources using the baseline year of 2005 and projects the growth in these emissions under a Business-As-Usual scenario and under a Reduction Targets Scenario. The CAP also quantifies potential reductions in emissions from actions taken at both the community and municipal levels.

Sources of GHG emissions in the inventory include the following:

- Energy and water use by residents and businesses (including institutions and governmental agencies);
- Vehicle miles traveled on El Cerrito’s streets, including El Cerrito’s portion of San Pablo Avenue;
- The percent of vehicle miles traveled in Contra Costa County on state highways (excluding San Pablo Avenue), interstates, and other county road that are estimated to be attributable to El Cerrito’s residents, businesses, institutions and governmental agencies;
- Tons of waste sent to the landfill by residents and businesses; and
- Use of refrigerants to air condition buildings and vehicles (municipal sector only).

Baseline Emissions Inventory 2005

The City’s community-wide GHG emissions in 2005 equaled 147,094 tons of “equivalent carbon dioxide” (CO2e).‡ Emissions from automobile use constitute the single largest source in El Cerrito at 51%. Energy consumption in both the residential and commercial sectors is the second largest source at 44%, with residential energy use being almost twice as much as commercial energy use. Emissions associated with the decomposition of waste from El Cerrito in landfills constitute 5%. Finally, water use, waste water treatment, and municipal refrigerants combined comprise less than one percent of emissions.

Emissions from El Cerrito’s municipal operations are quantified as a subset of the larger

‡ “Equivalent carbon dioxide” (CO2e) is the common unit of measurement to describe how much global warming a given type of greenhouse gas may cause.

Fig. A: El Cerrito Baseline GHG Emissions (147,094 tons CO2e in 2005)
community emissions baseline and are detailed separately in a chapter dedicated to climate action strategies for municipal operations.

It is important to note that this inventory is not a detailed accounting of all GHG emissions resulting from activities in El Cerrito. Rather, it is meant to provide a replicable snapshot of GHG emissions that can be reliably measured over time and over which local government exercises influence.

Reduction Targets and Emissions Scenarios 2005-2035

Growth in El Cerrito's GHG emissions have been projected for the years 2020 and 2035 using a “Business-As-Usual” (BAU) trend scenario. This scenario assumes that, absent any new actions to curb GHG emissions, existing growth rates would be representative of future consumption trends in energy, water, vehicle use, and waste. Based on this methodology, El Cerrito's GHG emissions are expected to increase by nearly 20,000 tons to 166,995 tons in 2020 and about another 26,000 tons to 192,825 by 2035.

As shown in Figure B, GHG Emissions Growth Projections and Reduction Targets, in order to reduce emissions below 2005 levels by the 15% and 30% reduction targets, El Cerrito will need to reduce its overall emissions to 125,030 by 2020 and then to 102,966 tons by 2035. Because the State of California has several initiatives that would help significantly reduce GHG emissions at the local level, El Cerrito will not be shouldering the entire burden of achieving these reductions. These state initiatives are projected to reduce about 19,500 tons of CO2e from the BAU projections by 2020 and 36,000 tons by 2035.

Once reductions from state initiatives are subtracted from the projected total growth in emissions, El Cerrito
will need to reduce an additional 22,488 tons of emissions by 2020 in order to achieve the 15% reduction target. By 2035, El Cerrito would then need to reduce emissions by an additional 54,139 tons in order to continue the annual trend and reduce emissions by 30% by 2035.

**Community Climate Action Strategies**

The primary purpose of the CAP is to identify actions the City and community can take to reduce GHG emissions in order to achieve the reduction targets. Under each emission source, the CAP outlines and quantifies CO2e reductions from a number of goals, objectives and strategies (collectively called "measures") that will help achieve the reduction targets. The areas of action are summarized below:

- **Transportation:** Land Use, Community Development and Transportation measures to reduce the vehicle miles traveled in El Cerrito by encouraging higher-density, transit-oriented development; making pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly infrastructure improvements; promoting urban greening; and offering trip reduction programs.

- **Energy and Water:** Resource conservation measures designed to achieve greater energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy in existing and new buildings through education, incentives, and ordinances.

- **Waste:** Waste reduction and recycling measures to increase participation in waste reduction programs, expand recycling opportunities at the Recycling and Environmental Resource Center, and develop a Zero-Waste 2035 Plan.

- **Municipal Operations:** Cross-sector measures to reduce GHG emissions from municipal operations, particularly those associated with transportation, energy and water use, procurement, and waste generation in municipal operations.

- **Adaptation to Climate Change:** While beyond the scope of this plan, the CAP also identifies issues and measures to begin to integrate the projected impacts of climate change into City planning and emergency preparedness processes.

Figure E at the end of this chapter summarizes all the goals and objectives outlined in the CAP, including the estimated tons of CO2e reduced, assuming robust implementation of these measures.
El Cerrito is already making progress towards implementation of the CAP, especially in relation to the CAP's Sustainable Communities, Waste Reduction, and Municipal Goals. Figure D, Reductions from Existing and Proposed Strategies, compares the CAP's Emissions BAU and Reduction Scenarios against, first, a scenario involving full implementation of only those measures already enabled by existing City policy, and, second, a scenario where the full list of identified measures in the CAP is implemented. The line labeled “Local Existing Policies” quantifies the potential reductions enabled by existing policies, plans, and/or programs, if robustly implemented. Thus, the differential between potential reductions resulting from strategies that have already been enabled and our 2020 reduction target is about 9,200 tons. If the City and other agencies fully implemented the entire list of strategies included in the CAP, the City has the potential to exceed our 2020 goal by 4%, as depicted by the line labeled “Total Reductions Identified.”

The reduction targets are ambitious but achievable if concerted action is taken. For example, the 2020 15% reduction target would be achieved if all households took such actions as insulating the attic, converting to Energy Star appliances, driving 19 miles less per week per household member, and actively participating in the City's recycling and composting programs. Many households in El Cerrito have already enacted and gone beyond these actions and are well on the way toward helping El Cerrito meet its 2035 target. However, it will be more challenging to achieve reductions equivalent to these actions across the entire community.

El Cerrito's residential nature represents the main challenge that the City faces in combating growth in emissions: instead of focusing efforts on a few large sources, *El Cerrito's success will come from the many small, aggregated actions taken by its 24,000 residents and 5,700 people who work in El Cerrito.*

**Fig. D: Reductions from Existing and Proposed Strategies**

![Graph showing reductions from existing and proposed strategies.](image)

**Our Air is Clean. We can never meet these proposed reductions.**

Climate change is real, and we must act now to mitigate its impacts. The reductions in CO2e emissions from 2005 to 2035 are significant, but our efforts must be continued and intensified to meet the 2035 target.
## Figure E: Summary of CAP Goals and Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal #</th>
<th>Sustainable Community (SC)</th>
<th>Annual Tons CO2e Reduced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Summary of Goals and Objectives</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-1</td>
<td>Encourage higher density TOD and infill development on transportation corridors</td>
<td>BE CAREFUL NOT TO STOP DEVELOPMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-1.1</td>
<td>Update General Plan and other applicable plans and ordinances to support higher densities along major transportation corridors</td>
<td>OK BUT ALL DEVELOPMENT MUST INCLUDE INFILL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-1.2</td>
<td>Develop planning mechanisms to encourage development of higher densities in designated areas</td>
<td>OK BUT ALL DEVELOPMENT MUST INCLUDE INFILL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-1.3</td>
<td>Develop a parking demand management strategy to encourage high density development and alternatives to driving</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-2</td>
<td>Diversity El Cerrito’s economy to increase El Cerrito’s job base, create greater commercial vitality and more pedestrian-friendly economic activity BUT BE REASONABLE ABOUT JOB CREATION</td>
<td>OK BUT REMEMBER SEAMOCRACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-2.1</td>
<td>Create a walkable physical environment that invites people to spend time in El Cerrito’s commercial areas</td>
<td>OK BUT REMEMBER SEAMOCRACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-2.2</td>
<td>Enhance neighborhood-serving commercial nodes and encourage commercial spaces in mixed-use areas.</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-2.3</td>
<td>Encourage adoption of green business practices and attract “green economy” businesses to El Cerrito</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-3</td>
<td>Invest in pedestrian-, bicycle-, and transit-friendly infrastructure</td>
<td>REMEMBER SEAMOCRACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-3.1</td>
<td>Create design standards for bicycle and pedestrian friendly design</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-3.2</td>
<td>Maintain an active streetscape improvement and maintenance program</td>
<td>PLANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-3.3</td>
<td>Continue implementation of the Ohlone Greenway Master Plan</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-3.4</td>
<td>Expand and improve the City’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure</td>
<td>IF FEASIBLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-3.5</td>
<td>Work with regional agencies to support improvements and greater access to transit facilities in El Cerrito</td>
<td>OUR ACCESS IS GOOD NOW.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-4</td>
<td>Increase and enhance urban green and open space</td>
<td>IF REASONABLE WITH FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-4.1</td>
<td>Develop a comprehensive Urban Greening Plan</td>
<td>WITH FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-4.2</td>
<td>Promote Bay Friendly tree planting and landscaping and open and green spaces, including community gardens</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-5</td>
<td>Develop alternative transportation outreach and incentive programs to increase the number of trips made by walking, biking or taking transit.</td>
<td>REMEMBER CITIZENS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-5.1</td>
<td>Encourage residents and businesses to adopt trip reduction programs</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-5.2</td>
<td>Develop education and outreach campaigns and events to promote walking, biking and taking transit</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC-State</td>
<td>State transportation measures: fuel efficiency &amp; low carbon content</td>
<td>14,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sustainable Community Reductions Identified (Tons CO2e)</td>
<td>24,458</td>
<td>47,988</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Carbon is Good**

The basic element in all living things like trees, vegetables, human bodies, etc. is carbon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal #</th>
<th>Energy and Water Use (EW)</th>
<th>Annual Tons CO$_2$e Reduced by 2020</th>
<th>Annual Tons CO$_2$e Reduced by 2035</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EW-1</td>
<td>Reduce energy and water use in existing buildings by 20%</td>
<td>NO! WE HAVE ALREADY DONE THIS AND MORE.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-1.1</td>
<td>Promote and provide energy and water efficiency education &amp; incentive programs in El Cerrito</td>
<td>OH BUT UNDERSTAND ECO-FREAK NEGATIVE DOLOMA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-1.2</td>
<td>Promote clean energy financing strategies for property owners</td>
<td>ON IF FEASIBLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-1.3</td>
<td>Utilize existing points of interaction with the City to encourage and require cost-effective energy and water efficiency improvements</td>
<td>STOP ECO-FREAK DOLOMA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-2</td>
<td>Encourage new construction to build to a higher level of green building and energy efficiency than is required by California code</td>
<td>CALIFORNIA CODE IS TOO STRINGENT NOW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-2.1</td>
<td>Encourage new construction to be built to green building, energy, and water performance standards</td>
<td>NO! ONLY IF NOT MADE EASY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-3</td>
<td>Reduce reliance on fossil fuel based energy by increasing renewable energy use in El Cerrito</td>
<td>WE HAVE ALREADY DONE THIS — NOT MORE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-3.1</td>
<td>Facilitate greater adoption of renewable energy use</td>
<td>IF FEASIBLE 1,061 3,566</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-3.2</td>
<td>Join a Community Choice Aggregation</td>
<td>NO!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-4</td>
<td>Encourage water conservation and efficiency and diversify the community’s water supply.</td>
<td>IF FEASIBLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-4.1</td>
<td>Promote and provide water efficiency education &amp; incentive programs in El Cerrito</td>
<td>PLANT FLOWERS TREES AND VEGETABLES 63 95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-4.2</td>
<td>Encourage adoption of rainwater catchment and gray water irrigation systems</td>
<td>VERY GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW-State</td>
<td>State Electricity Measures: Renewable Energy Standard</td>
<td>IF EFFICIENT 5,294 8,553</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total EW Reductions Identified (Annual Tons CO$_2$e)</td>
<td>15,595 36,282</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

**Figure E: Summary of CAP Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**XVI CITY OF EL CERRITO | DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**
### Summary of CAP Goals and Objectives (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal #</th>
<th>Waste Reduction (W)</th>
<th>Annual Tons CO2e Reduced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Summary of Goals and Objectives</strong></td>
<td>existing measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-1</td>
<td>Reduce waste going to landfill to 4,000 tons by 2020 and to 2,000 tons by 2035.</td>
<td>NO WHAT IS THIS POSSIBLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-1.1</td>
<td>Maximize participation in curbside waste reduction services in the residential, commercial, multi-family, and educational sectors. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?</td>
<td>OF COURSE WE MUST BE EFFICIENT IN WASTE REDUCTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-1.2</td>
<td>Expand one-stop waste diversion options at the Recycling and Environmental Resource Center</td>
<td>3,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-1.3</td>
<td>Reduce landfill waste from Construction and Demolition Projects WHERE WILL THIS STUFF GO?</td>
<td>WAOYG, CONSTRUCTION &amp; DEMOLITION ARE TAX REVENUE JOBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-1.4</td>
<td>Develop and implement a “Zero-Waste” 2035 Plan for El Cerrito Total Waste Reductions Identified (Tons CO2e)</td>
<td>6,324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Executive Summary XVII**
### Figure E: Summary of CAP Goals and Objectives (continued)

**Goal #** | **Municipal (M) Operations** | **Annual Tons CO2e Reduced by 2020** | **by 2035**
--- | --- | --- | ---
**M-1** | Reduce municipal transportation related GHG emissions by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2035 **IMPOSSIBLE - CLEAN** | 100 | **IMPOSSIBLE**
**M-1.1** | Reduce annual VMT associated with employee commutes and field work **HOW?** | 134 | 1
**M-1.2** | Green the municipal fleet **OK IF EFFICIENT** | 12 | 20
**M-1.3** | Reduce car travel associated with large City-sponsored events **NOT A PROBLEM** | 0.63 | 1
**M-2** | Reduce reliance on utility provided energy and water in municipal operations by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2035 **IMPOSSIBLE** | 200 | **STUPID**
**M-2.1** | Reduce overall energy and water use in municipal operations **OK - READY** | 334 | **OK - READY**
**M-2.2** | Install solar energy projects on city buildings **IF FEASIBLE** | 112 | 140
**M-2.3** | Use Bay Friendly and Water Smart Irrigation practices and technologies **OK** | 2 | 2.4
**M-2.4** | Convert City landscaped areas to “Bay-Friendly,” drought-tolerant landscapes (includes water, waste to landfill, and fuel savings) **PLANT FLOWERS NOT WEEDED CRAP** | 82 | **113**
**M-3** | Update the City’s project development and procurement practices to ensure the purchase of environmentally preferable projects, equipment, and products **STUPID WHO PLAYS GOD AND DECIDES THIS?** | embedded energy, not measured | embedded energy, not measured
**M-3.1** | Update the City’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy and tools **ONLY IF EFFICIENT** | | embedded energy, not measured
**M-3.2** | Develop a green building ordinance for municipal buildings and projects **ONLY IF EFFICIENT** | | embedded energy, not measured
**M-3.3** | Maintain an active pavement preservation and management program **GOOD** | | embedded energy, not measured
**M-3.4** | Reduce refrigerant emissions from City-owned AC units, vehicles, and refrigerators **NO! NOT A PROBLEM** | 295 | 322
**SC-4** | Make City operations a model of “reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost” **OK** | | **OK**
**M-4.1** | Institute robust recycling and food waste composting programs in all City facilities **ONLY IF WE KEEP THE PIG AWAY** | counted in community waste reductions | counted in community waste reductions
**M-4.2** | Create protocols, tools, and trainings to aid staff in specifying and purchasing recycled-content equipment and materials **ONLY IF EFFICIENT** | **STUPID OUTSIDE CONTROLS** | embedded energy, not measured
**M-4.3** | Institute waste reduction policies and projects for City facilities. **OK** | | embedded energy, not measured
**State** | State Renewable Portfolio and Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Standards **TOO STRICT** | | counted in Community Strategy

**Total Municipal Reductions Identified (Tons CO2e)** | 803 | 1,066

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**GREEN HOUSE GAS IS 95% WATER VAPOOR.**
**CO2 IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT LIFE GIVING GAS.**

**ALL LIVING THINGS CONTAIN CARBON.**

---

**XVIII CITY OF EL CERRITO | DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**
GLOBAL SATELLITE TEMPERATURES

HOW MUCH GLOBAL WARMING?

Each month, Environment & Climate News updates the global averaged satellite measurements of the Earth’s temperature. These numbers are important because they are real—not projections, forecasts, or guesses. Global satellite measurements are made from a series of orbiting platforms that sense the average temperature in various atmospheric layers. Here, we present the lowest level, which climate models say should be warming. The satellite measurements are considered accurate to within 0.01°C. The data used to create these graphs can be found on the Internet at http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/data/msu/t2lt/uahncdc.lt

FEBRUARY 2012

GLOBAL AVERAGE

The global average temperature for February was 0.11°C below normal.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

The Northern Hemisphere’s temperature was 0.01°C below normal.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

The Southern Hemisphere’s temperature was 0.21°C below normal.

219,000 years of Temperature Variation


Thousands of Years Before Present Time

200,000 YEARS
WATER VAPOR IS EARTH'S PREDOMINANT GREENHOUSE GAS
MAN-MADE CARBON DIOXIDE HAS NEGLIGIBLE IMPACT ON EARTH'S TEMPERATURE

THE 10,000 SYMBOLS (DROPLETS AND DOTS) REPRESENT THE PROPORTIONAL PRESENCE OF ALL GASES IN EARTH'S GREENHOUSE ENVELOPE

LET'S LOOK AT THAT GREENHOUSE

Reducing our so-called "Carbon Footprint" by encouraging renewable energy and restricting fossil fuel development makes no sense when the actual composition of the greenhouse is considered. This one-page graphic shows that water vapor is the overwhelming pre-
MEMO

Date: April 9, 2013
To: El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (EQC)
From: Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst

Subject: El Cerrito Climate Action Plan

Action Requested
Make a motion recommending to the El Cerrito City Council adoption of the El Cerrito Climate Action Plan.

Background
Enabling Resolutions: The El Cerrito City Council has consistently supported local, regional and state initiatives to cut the pollution that causes global warming and climate change. In 2006, the City Council passed Resolution 2006-61, which endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and called for local action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and the development of a Climate Action Plan (CAP). With the creation and staffing of the new Environmental Services Division, the City was able to launch the development of the CAP in 2010. In February 2011 City Council passed Resolution 2011-12 adopting GHG emission reduction targets of 15% below 2005 levels by the year 2020 and 30% below 2005 levels by 2035 for both municipal operations and the El Cerrito community.

CAP Public Process: El Cerrito’s planning process started in 2010 and has been informed by input from the public, City Council, and City staff. The City administered a survey in 2010 of 450 residents (see Appendix L, Climate Action Survey Results), held three public workshops in late 2010 to brainstorm GHG reduction strategies and one in 2012 to review the final set of strategies. In addition, staff provided numerous updates at publicly noticed meetings of both the City Council and the Environmental Quality Committee. The City released the draft CAP on February 12, 2013 and held 2 meetings to outline the elements of the CAP and to receive public comment. The public comment period lasted 32 days and was closed on March 15, 2013.

Discussion
CAP Elements: The purpose of the CAP is to provide a roadmap for the City in pursuing both community-wide and municipal reductions in GHG emissions. Development of the CAP is based on a methodology advanced by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and further refined by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). This methodology investigates the potential of reducing local GHG emissions from transportation, energy consumption, water use, and waste generation at the local level. The CAP models GHG emissions from both community and municipal sources using the baseline year of 2005 and projects the growth in these emissions under a Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario and under a Reduction Targets Scenario (see CAP Chapter 2, El Cerrito’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions).
The CAP also identifies potential reductions in emissions from actions taken at both the community and municipal levels (see Chapter 3, Community Climate Action Strategies and Chapter 4, Municipal Climate Action Strategies). Under each emissions source, the CAP outlines and quantifies carbon dioxide (CO2) reductions from a number of goals, objectives and strategies that will help achieve the reduction targets set by City Council. The areas of action are summarized below:

- **Transportation**: Land Use, Community Development and Transportation measures to reduce the vehicle miles traveled in El Cerrito by encouraging higher-density, transit-oriented development; making pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly infrastructure improvements; promoting urban greening; and offering trip reduction programs.

- **Energy and Water**: Resource conservation measures designed to achieve greater energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy in existing and new buildings through education, incentives, and ordinances.

- **Waste**: Waste reduction and recycling measures to increase participation in waste reduction programs, expand recycling opportunities at the Recycling and Environmental Resource Center. Also included under this section is development of a Zero-Waste 2035 Plan.

- **Municipal Operations**: Cross-sector measures to reduce GHG emissions from municipal operations, particularly those associated with transportation, energy and water use, procurement, and waste generation in municipal operations.

A comprehensive list of all goals, objectives and strategies is contained in CAP Volume 2, Appendix G, Summary of Goals, Objectives and Strategies and Consistency with General Plan.

**Public Comments Received**: During the public comment period, 26 members of the public provided either verbal or written comments on the Draft CAP. A large majority of comments received were positive. Several comments focused on whether the reduction targets set by City Council were aggressive enough. But most were suggestions for additional strategies to be included in the CAP. Most of these suggested strategies are either included in the CAP as an already identified measure (e.g., streamline and create permitting incentives to encourage home weatherization) or as a possible avenue of implementation under an already identified measure. For instance, one comment suggested “providing incentives for solar,” which, depending on available resources, could be an element of the Go Solar Program listed under Objective EW-3.1, “Develop and implement a strategy to facilitate greater adoption of solar and renewable energy use in the residential and commercial sectors.”

A smaller set of comments were added as new strategies to the CAP (e.g., seek funding for programs to increase the urban forest) because they added to the overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. All were able to be included under existing CAP goals and objectives. These strategies were added because they were consistent with results of the public workshops held thus far for the CAP and consistent with the overall scope and methodology of the CAP. Finally, some suggestions were not included in the CAP because they were either outside the scope of the CAP (i.e., did not have an obvious greenhouse gas emissions reduction benefit) or were inconsistent with the City’s current General Plan or other goals in the CAP. Attached is a list of changes made to the CAP.

**CEQA Review**: Pursuant to CEQA, the City prepared an Initial Study. Given that intent of the CAP is to decrease green house gas emissions, thus reducing impacts on the environment, the initial study did not identify any significant environmental impacts presented by the CAP and a Negative Declaration was prepared. A Notice of Intent to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) was posted on
February 14, 2013. The Negative Declaration was also filed with the State Clearing House. Public comment on the environmental documents also closed on March 15. Staff did not receive any public comments resulting from the circulation of the Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration.

SUMMARY
As part of its role as an advisory body to the City Council, the Environmental Quality Committee can recommend to the City Council the adoption of policies and plans that effect the environmental quality of El Cerrito. The Environmental Services Division is preparing to bring for City Council consideration a Resolution to adopt the Final El Cerrito Climate Action Plan. It is anticipated that the Council will consider this resolution on May 21, 2013.

Attachments
A: Summary of Changes Made to the El Cerrito Draft Climate Action Plan and Responses to Other Public Comments
Summary of Changes Made to the *Climate Action Plan*

Based on public comment received during the public review period of February 12 through March 15, 2013, the following have been included in the Final Climate Action Plan.

**Executive Summary**

Page IX: Footnote added to define green house gas emissions:

“Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases. While there are many natural sources of greenhouse gases, the burning of fossil fuels—such as coal, natural gas, and oil—is a common man-made source of greenhouse gases.”

Page IX: Footnote added to describe Assembly Bill 32:

“AB 32, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2006, requires California to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.”

**Chapter 1: Climate Change in Context**

Page 3: Footnote added to define “tiering”:

“Tiering under CEQA typically refers to the analysis of broad environmental issues associated with development under a plan, program, or ordinance in a program EIR and the subsequent preparation of more narrowly focused individual project EIRs.”

Page 8: Existing footnote added to text to emphasize consumer cost savings. Error in cost savings corrected:

“In 2005, El Cerritans spent approximately $48.6 million on energy, fuel, water, and waste disposal. If each household reduced their use of these commodities just 15%, they would have another $700 per year of disposable income.”

**Chapter 2: El Cerrito’s GHG Emissions**

Page 16: Statistics for “Population” and “Tons CO2e per Capita” added to Figure 2.5 “GHG Forecast and Reduction Targets.”

**Chapter 3: Community Climate Action Strategies**

*Land Use, Transportation, and Community Development*

Page 21: Underlined text added to list of “Climate Actions Since 2005”:

“Worked with El Cerrito Trail Trekers towards restoring the City’s network of public paths and trails.”

Page 26: To make more legible, *Figure 3.1, Del Norte BART Station* repeated in larger form to *Appendix K: Home Location of BART Riders by Mode.*
Page 27: Underlined text added to strategy under Objective SC-2.1:
“Link the City’s main commercial nodes through a network of open space, public
art, and other cultural, historic amenities that encourage people to linger
longer.”

Page 28: Underlined text added to Objective SC-2.2:
“Enhance neighborhood-serving commercial nodes and encourage the
development of commercial spaces in mixed-use areas that can better serve the
daily needs of residents, businesses, and people who work in El Cerrito.”

Page 30: Underlined text added to strategy under Objective SC-3.2:
“Develop a wayfinding signage program to promote use of pedestrian trails and
stairs, including as a way to improve pedestrian access to schools and transit.”

Page 30: Underlined text added under Objective SC-3.3:
“The Ohlone Greenway Master Plan, adopted in 2009, sets forth the vision of
how the Ohlone Greenway will evolve and develop over time, provides design
guidelines, and prioritizes public improvements to maximize the public’s safety,
use, and enjoyment of this major pedestrian and bicycle path connecting the
entire length of the City.”

Page 31: Underlined text added to Objective SC-3.4:
“Expand and improve the City’s transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and zero-emissions
vehicle infrastructure.”
“The City received funding in 2012 to update the Bicycle and Pedestrian
Circulation Plan (Bike/Ped Plan), which is anticipated to be complete in 2014.
During the community input process for the CAP, participants provided the
following suggestions for improving El Cerrito’s bicycle and pedestrian
infrastructure, which will be reviewed as part of the Bike/Ped Plan update:”

Underlined text added to descriptor under Objective SC-3.4:
"Develop strategies for facilitating greater bike/pedestrian connections
between transit facilities along San Pablo Avenue and the hillside
neighborhoods, such as encouraging casual carpool sites, an electric “zoo train”
or funicular on major east-west corridors, such as Moeser Avenue.”

Underlined text added to strategy under Objective SC-3.4:
“Work in conjunction with regional efforts to support the development of
electric vehicle charging stations in appropriate locations throughout El
Cerrito.”

Page 32: Underlined text added to Objective SC-3.5:
“Collaborate with the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee
(WCCTAC), BART, AC Transit, WestCAT, major employers, and schools to
support improvements and greater access to transit facilities throughout El
Cerrito.”

Underlined text added and strikethrough text deleted to strategies under Objective
SC-3.5:
“Seek grant opportunities to implement improvements identified in the West County Transportation Enhancement and Transit Wayfinding Projects and to fund pilot projects that increase access to transit.”

“Work with WCCTAC, 511 Contra Costa, employers, shopping centers, and schools in El Cerrito and nearby communities (such as Berkeley National Lab’s new Richmond Field Campus) to develop commuter trip reduction programs to decrease single-occupant vehicle use in El Cerrito’s transit, commercial, and educational centers, parking in and around the BART stations in El Cerrito.”

“Identify and help mitigate barriers, such as lack of access to high speed broadband in business centers, to employers being able to use high tech solutions, such as video conferencing, to cut down on business travel.”

Page 35: Underlined text added to Objective SC-4.2:
“Promote Bay-Friendly\(^1\) tree planting and landscaping, and the creation of green and open space that is attractive and helps restore natural processes, sequester carbon, clean storm water, conserve resources, and connect citizens to El Cerrito’s natural environment.”

Underlined text added as a strategy under Objective SC-4.2:
“Seek funding to increase the urban forest through a variety of programs, including a street tree planting and stewardship program.”

Page 36: Underlined text added as a strategy under Objective SC-5.2:
“Promote organized hiking events to increase use and awareness of the City’s pedestrian paths and trail network.”

**Chapter 3: Community Climate Action Strategies**

*Energy and Water*

Page 46: Underlined text added as strategies under Objective EW-4.2:
“Seek grant opportunities to provide incentives for water conservation strategies.”

“Work with East Bay Municipal Utility District to bring recycled water to El Cerrito.”

**Chapter 3: Municipal Climate Action Strategies**

Page 56: Underlined text added to descriptor under Municipal Goal #1:
“In addition, City employee commutes to and from work, resulting in a significant amount of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), are the 3rd largest source of GHG emissions associated with municipal operations.”

**Appendices:**

\(^1\) Bay-Friendly landscaping is a holistic approach to gardening and landscaping that fosters soil health, conserves water, minimizes maintenance requirements, and uses a plant pallet that is well suited for the natural conditions of the San Francisco Bay Area.
Response to Other Public Comments Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are the GHG emission reduction targets ambitious enough given the scale of the problem?</td>
<td>These reduction targets were adopted by the City Council in 2011 and can be revised by Council. Due to El Cerrito’s residential nature where the majority of emissions come from 10’s of 1,000’s of individual decision makers, these targets are ambitious. Instead of focusing on a relatively few large sources, El Cerrito’s success in reaching these targets will need to come from the many small, aggregated actions taken by its residents and businesses, which will require significant education and outreach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do we have enough buffer identified in the Plan to achieve our reduction targets if all the strategies are not fully implemented?</td>
<td>During the monitoring process, we will be able to monitor progress towards the reduction targets. During updates to the Plan, new actions can be added, especially as new funding, programs and technologies become available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The CAP should have a more explicit implementation timeline and indicators or metrics that the City and public can use to measure progress over time.</td>
<td>Given the changing nature of funding opportunities and access to resources and programs that can help implement the CAP, prioritization of actions for implementation is more appropriate as part of the annual CAP Implementation Report, as discussed in the “Monitoring and Continuous Improvement” section of Chapter 6, Implementation. The City is currently developing progress indicators in conjunction with the STAR Community Index, a national consensus-based framework for gauging the sustainability and livability of US communities. Climate, energy, transportation, and community health indicators are being developed as part of this process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The premise of developing a Climate Action Plan is faulty because human caused climate change and global warming is a lie.</td>
<td>The CAP was developed as part of a long-term, open public process that has engaged hundreds of citizens, the vast majority of whom believe, when surveyed, that climate change is a serious problem requiring action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The CAP should include actions responding to sea level rise, wildfire, structural fire, public health, and include</td>
<td>While there is a discussion of the effects of climate change on El Cerrito (beginning on page 5) and a preliminary list of issues and strategies (page 52), “adaptation” planning is beyond the scope of the current</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
other “adaptations” to make El Cerrito more resilient to the impacts of climate change. CAP. Because adaptation planning intersects with infrastructure improvements and emergency preparedness, it should be undertaken in conjunction with updating the General Plan and the Local Hazards Mitigation Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Land Use, Transportation, and Community Development</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase Allowable Densities Not Just Along San Pablo Avenue:</strong> Several comments suggested also increasing allowable densities beyond the San Pablo Avenue Corridor and also allowing more neighborhood serving businesses in neighborhoods. These suggestions were not included for the primary reason that the CAP should not be inconsistent with the El Cerrito General Plan, which currently seeks to preserve the existing nature of residential neighborhoods. The more appropriate time to consider these suggestions is during an update to the General Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The CAP should add historic preservation as a way to ensure the El Cerrito retains its sense of place to increase pedestrian activity.</strong> While historic preservation may be a place making strategy, it is not explicitly a GHG reduction strategy and is tangential to the scope of the CAP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Energy and Water</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provide Incentives for Energy and Water Savings:</strong> Multiple comments requested the City provide incentives for home energy reports and the installation of resource conserving technologies such as solar electric and hot water systems, rain barrels, laundry to garden gray water kits, energy efficiency upgrades. These suggestions were not explicitly incorporated into the CAP because they fall under existing strategies as possible program elements in the design of any of the public outreach and education programs. Availability of any incentives would be contingent on available outside resources, such as grants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Develop ordinances requiring energy performance reports and/or energy efficiency improvements at time-of-sale or lease:</strong> Multiple comments suggested the development of ordinances that would require either disclosure or improvements at Time-of-Sale for both residential and commercial property. These approaches are investigated as possible avenues of action under “EW-1.3: Utilize existing points of interaction with the City to encourage and/or require cost-effective energy and water efficiency improvements.” However, as stated on page 39, participants in the CAP public workshops preferred education and incentives to reach our goals, with the option of using a more regulatory approach at later phases, if voluntary measures fell short. For commercial properties, disclosure of the energy performance of a building at time-of-sale or lease is already mandate by Assembly Bill 1103, see page 41 of the CAP.</td>
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<td><strong>Allow retroactive rewards/incentives back to 2005 for upgrades and reductions.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ban leaf-blowers and other tools using fossil-fuel powered 2-stroke engines.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Waste</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Require landlords to provide GHG and recycling information to tenants.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Provide incentives to homeowners, tenants, landlords, and trash company to support infrequent smaller trash loads.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Provide a Tool-Lending Library</strong></td>
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### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

Existing law prohibits the dumping of solid waste, except at specific solid waste disposal sites as authorized by law. In recent years, the problem of illegally dumped mattresses has become more serious, especially in the parts of the state that have been hit hardest by the recent recession.

The Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act will require manufacturers of mattresses sold in this state to develop, finance and implement a convenient and cost effective program to collect and recycle used mattresses.

### PROBLEM & NEED FOR THE BILL

Existing law provides several examples for the disposal of solid waste. AB 2020 (Margolin, 1986), the popularly-known “bottle bill,” created a now-widespread program allowing for the recycling and redemption of beverage containers. SB 20 (Sher, 2003) created a program to deal with the problem of illegally disposed e-waste, including discarded computer equipment and other electronics.

There is currently no statute addressing the problem of illegally dumped mattresses. More communities are experiencing an increased number of illegally dumped mattresses, especially given the foreclosure crisis resulting from the recent recession. The accumulation of these used mattresses in public spaces, especially if left for long periods of time, can pose a serious public health problem. Used mattresses can be a breeding ground for mold and pests.

The scope of the problem is growing. In Oakland, for example, between 18 and 35 mattresses are recovered per day. The city estimates that municipal operations devoted to recovering these mattresses costs approximately $500,000 annually. The City of Richmond estimates that it has recovered approximately 5,000 illegally dumped mattresses from December 2010 to March 2012. The City of Los Angeles estimates that it recovers 120-150 illegally dumped mattresses per day. The City and County of San Francisco recovers approximately 75 to 80 mattresses per day.

The costs of illegally dumped mattresses—both in risk to public health and the burden on financially strapped cities—require action by the legislature.

### WHAT THIS BILL WOULD DO

This bill will help reduce illegal dumping, increase recycling and substantially reduce public agency costs for end-of-life management of used mattresses.

SB 254 would require mattress manufacturers to submit a recovery and recycling plan to CalRecycle by April 1, 2015. Consistent with existing state policy, the plans would have a goal of recycling at least 75 percent of used mattresses in California by January 1, 2020.

A compliant plan would provide consumers with convenient, no-cost opportunities to recycle mattresses. These include upon delivery of a new mattress, or when dropped off at a recycling facility or solid waste facility.

The bill would also provide consumers the option of having mattress retailers recover, at no cost, an equivalent used mattress upon the delivery of a new mattress.

CalRecycle would have authority to consider a manufacturer’s proposed recovery and recycling plan and determine if it is in compliance. A manufacturer would implement its plans by July 1, 2015.

CalRecycle may impose an administrative cost on manufacturers that is sufficient to meet, but not exceed, the cost of reviewing and approving the recycling plans.

### SUPPORT

Californians Against Waste (sponsor).

### BILL STATUS

Referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality – February 21, 2013.

Contact: Paco Torres, Office of Senator Loni Hancock, 651-4009, Paco.Torres@sen.ca.gov.
(insert date here)

The Honorable Jerry Hill  
Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 254 (Hancock): Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hill:

On behalf of (insert organization/government body here), we are writing to express our support for SB 254 by Senator Loni Hancock. SB 254 would foster the creation of convenient, cost-free programs for consumers to recycle used mattresses.

There currently is no state law providing for the recycling of used mattress. More and more communities up and down California, including our own, have seen an increase of used mattresses on our streets and sidewalks. In Richmond, for example, approximately 2200 mattresses were recovered in 2012. The City of Los Angeles recovers between 120 and 150 mattresses every day. This is not an abstract problem—the costs of dealing with these mattresses places considerable pressure on our cities, counties, and communities. The accumulation of used mattresses in public spaces also poses a serious public health problem, as they can be a breeding ground for mold and pests.

(Insert organization-specific reasons for support here)

SB 254 would help solve this problem by requiring mattress manufacturers to seek CalRecycle approval of mattress recycling programs. The plans would have to achieve the goal of ensuring that 75 percent of used mattresses in California are recycled by 2020. This is an eminently possible goal, one that has already been achieved for bottles, E-waste, and other solid waste.

(Insert organization here) is, therefore, supportive of Senator Hancock’s efforts to increase the recycling of used mattresses in California. We believe that SB 254 is a necessary step in removing this blight and public health hazard from our streets and communities.

Sincerely,

cc: Members of and Consultants to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, Senator Loni Hancock