



# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 13, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**

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

### **Roll Call:**

Vice-Chair Goudey, Members Krueger, Dandridge, Spitalnik, Weinstein, and Wildenberg

Absent: Miner, Benjamin, Doan, Pavel

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst & Staff Liaison; Janet Abelson, Council Liaison; Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager

- 1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items - None**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes** – Spitalnik made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Committee meeting from July 13, 2013. Seconded by Wildenberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Possible Secondhand Smoke Regulations - Karen Pinkos** made an informational presentation on research conducted by the City Manager's office on model Secondhand Smoke regulations in California. Venues potentially affected include streets and other public spaces and multi-family units. There are various levels of restrictions on smoking that the City can investigate. Richmond, Albany, and Walnut Creek are all local examples of communities that have passed regulations. Pinkos described the process the City will take to develop an ordinance for El Cerrito, where the public and other stakeholders will have many opportunities to provide feedback through multiple study sessions and meetings.
- 4. Green Teams: Updates and Action Items** – Weinstein provided an update on regularly scheduling clean-ups at Creekside Park, saying that the Green Teams needs to coordinate closely with Friends of Five Creeks (F5C), since they have been doing restoration work on the creek for years. F5C would like to make Pacific East Mall and the City of Richmond to take more responsibility for keeping trash down in the entire area, so that it stays out of the creek in the first place.
- 5. Volunteer Appreciation Event** – Wildenberg discussed logistics for holding an event to recognize volunteers that work on clean-up and restoration projects as part of the Green

### 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.*

Teams and other affiliated organizations, such as F5C and Trail Trekkers. The event, including refreshments and music, will be held at the Recycling and Environmental Resource Center in the evening. Wildenberg asked for \$400 from the EQC budget to pay for food and related items. Weinstein made a motion to authorize up to \$400 for the Volunteer Appreciation Party; Spitalnik seconded; Unanimous. Since the City cannot use City funds for alcohol, Kreuger asked if it were okay for wine and beer be donated by businesses. Sanders indicated that would be appropriate.

6. **Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items** - Goudey reported that the Subcommittee is on track to show *Rebels With A Cause* some time in the fall. He mentioned for future consideration, the possibility of combining the showing with a fund-raiser for the Madera property purchase.
7. **July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival and Climate Action Items** - Sanders thanked members of the EQC for volunteering at the EQC table during the City's July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival. She reported that 65 people signed a pledge to take actions to reduce their carbon footprint, with the majority of actions being lifestyle changes such as driving less and reducing waste going to the landfill. Goudey pointed out that many of the vendors during the Festival were using diesel powered generators. He thought it would be good if the City strived to use solar powered generators during some of our main events.
8. **EQC Goals, Priorities and Potential Expenditures for FY13/14** - Sanders made a presentation which encapsulated the key points of a memo (attached) circulated to the EQC regarding the outcomes of last year's EQC goal setting process. She felt the key points were still salient and asked the Committee to use the ideas developed in the memo as a spring board for developing goals for this year. To open discussion, Dandridge asked Sanders where she thought there were gaps in Climate Action Plan implementation that the EQC could focus on. Sanders responded that there is relatively little activity to reduce community energy use compared to the City's very active waste reduction and community development efforts. Goudey thought that pursuing Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) should be a high priority since it has the potential of providing significant GHG reductions. Weinstein thought CCA should be a minor priority and requested that Sanders report back on current options available to the City. Wildenberg expressed an interest in providing homeowner workshops on solar, energy efficiency, and green building improvements. Dandridge thought we should continue to try to work with the schools. Other focus areas mentioned included an Electric Vehicle Demonstration Day, adopting Green Building Standards, and engaging the high school's Green Academy. Due to lack of time, this item was continued to the next month.
9. **Announcements and future agenda items**  
Council Member Abelson reported that City Council would be considering an appeal on the development of a cell phone tower at the next City Council meeting. She also reported that the City conducted a poll to see how interested residents were in financing improvements to public facilities (such as a new library), which emerged as a major goal in the City's recent strategic planning process. The poll indicated that a bond measure would not pass at this time.

These upcoming Meetings + Events were also mentioned

July 20 EQC Green Team Clean-up Event  
July 23 Urban Greening Workshop #1: Vision, Opportunities & Needs  
Aug 03 Baxter Creek Work Party  
Aug 13 Discuss EQC goals, priorities and potential expenditures for FY 13/14  
Sept 21 Clean up the Northern Gateway to El Cerrito

## **10. Adjournment**

Goudey adjourned the meeting at 9:20 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.*



**DATE:** February 9, 2012

**TO:** City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee

**FROM:** 2012 Goal and Priorities Ad Hoc Subcommittee

**TITLE:** EQC in 2012 and Beyond: Committee Values, Areas of Focus and Goals

---

The task of the 2012 Goals and Priorities Ad Hoc (G&P Ad Hoc) subcommittee was to guide the full El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) to establish 'goals and priorities' for 2012. The process started by breaking into small discussion groups at the January meeting, where committee members discussed what keeps them interested and motivated to participate in the EQC and what they want to accomplish in 2012. The G&P Ad Hoc group met afterwards to synthesize what was discussed and present a summary to the EQC. The purpose of this memo is to present a consolidated summary of what the G&P Ad Hoc subcommittee heard, broken into committee values, areas of focus and goals for 2012.

First, let's start with a little context; as a member of the City the EQC actions abide by the City Mission:

*The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.*

Second, as a reminder, EQC's duties and responsibilities as stated in the EQC Charter Resolution.

1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council, staff, other boards, commissions, and committees, and the citizens of the City with regard to environmental quality issues within the City of El Cerrito.
2. To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts.
3. Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito citizens regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts.

Additionally, EQC members are guided by values to educate, inspire, and activate ourselves and our community to sustainably thrive. The EQC's areas of focus are to:

- Promote Community & Individual Action
- Champion Environmental Policies
- Help Businesses be more sustainable and environmentally friendly
- Support Carbon Reduction, Recycling and Energy Efficiency
- Protect Open Space
- Involve Students of all ages

To that end, the G&P Ad Hoc recommends the following 2012 EQC goals, in no particular order:

1. Green Teams/Volunteer Events – Continue to propose, plan and implement specific volunteer events and activities.
2. Eco Films – Continue to educate, inspire and activate our community through the regular showing of environmental films.
3. Climate Action – Engage and provide support to City staff to develop the Climate Action Plan and engage the City to seek support for a CCA feasibility study.



4. EQC Education – Develop a list of speakers to present at EQC meetings to educate members on pertinent environmental topics of interest.
5. Green Business Program – Learn about the Green Business Program and propose next steps to EQC to increase the number of businesses in El Cerrito.
6. Compostable Foodware Ordinance – Plan and propose specifics of a foodware ordinance along with community and business outreach strategies.

Interest was also expressed in the following areas, though EQC champions for action have not been identified:

1. Recycling Center Grand Opening - Coordinate with staff to support opening of new Recycling Center
2. Education - Identify strategy to engage EC students, (1) build email list and identify PTA/staff contacts (2) propose plan to invite EQC student member, (3) look at feasibility/set up community service hours for green team volunteer activities
3. Greywater/Rainwater - Develop resources for EC community members interested in implementing greywater and/or rainwater harvesting systems, investigate developing an incentive based program.

EQC members share a vision for an environmentally sustainable El Cerrito and have no shortage of inspiring ideas to move our City in that direction. The following are a list of inspiring and promising ideas for the EQC to remember for future actions or, interest pending, incorporate into our vision for 2012:

- Open Space – Creek Ordinance Review
- Hillside Nature Area Festival
- Urban Homesteading – Roll out of Animal Ordinance, seed lending library
- Albany Partnership – Green Workshop Series coordination
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station in El Cerrito
- Single Use Bag Ordinance
- Promote Green Building Materials – permeable pavement
- Create El Cerrito Green Business Certification
- Kid Focused Environmental Film Series Event
- Pledge for Environmentally Friendly Campaign Practice

The G&P Ad Hoc looks forward to your feedback and moving towards ACTION!

At the February EQC meeting, members of the G&P Ad Hoc subcommittee will lead Part 2 of the Goals and Priorities Facilitation process to refine and confirm the EQC's 2012 Goals and Priorities. At the conclusion of the process, the Committee will consider motions establishing goals/priority areas for 2012 and ad hoc/subcommittees to work on specific goals/priority areas.