# **MINUTES**



# REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 8, 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 7:04 pm.

#### **Roll Call:**

Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Goudey, Members Dandridge, Doan, Krueger, Solari, Spitalnik, Weinstein

Absent: Benjamin

Also Present: Garth Schultz, Operations & Environmental Services Division Manager & Staff Liaison; Janet Abelson, Council Liaison;

- **1.** Comments from the public on non-agenda items Scott Hedges, new resident of El Cerrito, and Robert Schaadt, introduced themselves.
- **2. Approval of the Minutes** <u>Goudey</u> made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular meeting from September 10, 2013. Seconded by <u>Doan</u>. Motion passed unanimously.
- **3.** City Boards, Commissions, and Committees Applications Schultz and Miner announced vacancies on EQC and discussed process for residents to apply to sit on Committee.
- **4. Earth Hour, City Challenge and Community Choice Aggregation** Motion was made to co-sponsor, participate in, and provide help via an ad hoc subcommittee comprised of <u>Miner, Dandridge, Krueger</u>, and <u>Spitalnik</u>. Motion made by <u>Weinstein</u>. Seconded by <u>Spitalnik</u>. Unanimous.
- 5. Green Teams: Updates and Action Items Weinstein provided an update on the September 21 Coastal Clean-Up event. Schultz provided an update on past storm drain maintenance work on Cerrito Creek where city crews damage the streambed. Schultz further explained that the work was done without permits from California Fish and Game and that the City is currently training crews to do such work around streambeds and is applying for a 5-year Steambed Alternation Permit from California Fish and Game. Green Team organizers gave an update on the Volunteer Recognition Event: 35 people attended, and it was a successful event. Motion to do it again made by Weinstein; seconded by Spitalnik; unanimous. Goudey announced the upcoming Ivy Pull at Arlington Park on 10/26/13. Motion

## **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.

by Weinstein, seconded by Krueger, to hold a Northern EC Gateway clean-up on November 9, 2013.

- **6. Fundraising for Purchase of Madera Property** <u>Weinstein</u> gave an update on the Madera Property, which was purchased by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) this month. The City and community have committed to raise the funds to buy the land from TPL within 18 months. The El Cerrito Open Space Campaign will run the fundraising campaign on behalf of the City, which will be the fiscal agent for the funds. The goal is to raise \$100,000.
- **7. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items -** Goudey provided an update on the upcoming *Rebels with a Cause* event, to be held as a fundraiser for the Madera Property at the Cerrito Theater on Dec. 7 at 10:30 to 12:15 PM. Motion for funds for the event to occur at November meeting.
- **8.** EQC Goals, Priorities and Potential Expenditures for FY13/14 –Members discussed potential focus areas for rest of year for EQC consideration. <u>Solari</u> and <u>Miner</u> will finalize list and bring final memo regarding goals and priorities to EQC in November. Draft memo attached.

### 9. Announcements and future agenda items

<u>Spitalnik</u> requested future agenda item to recommend Council support for ban on fracking in California.

These upcoming Meetings + Events were also mentioned

- Oct 1-Oct 6 Free Compost Giveaway at Recycling Center
- Oct 12 El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale
- Oct 19 Community Open House for Urban Greening, Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and San Pablo Avenue Specific Plans
- Oct 26 Green Teams Arlington Park Ivy/ Broom Pull
- Nov 2 Baxter Creek Work Party
- Nov 9 Green Teams Northern Gateway Clean-Up

#### 10. Adjournment

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 pm

DATE: October 3, 2013

TO: City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee

FROM: 2013-2014 Goals and Priorities Ad Hoc Subcommittee

TITLE:EQC in 2013 and Beyond: Committee Values, Areas of Focus and Goals

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The task of the FY13/14 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 FY13/14. Based on discussion and ideas generated during the August and September monthly public EQC meetings. Committee members reviewed the 2012 goals and priorities, accomplishments, the El Cerrito climate action plan targets, and then shared what they would like to accomplish in the next fiscal year. This memo is a summary of these discussions for review and finalization by the EQC.

City Mission which helps guide EQC:

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.

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, the EQC's mission is to educate, inspire, and activate ourselves and our community to sustainably thrive. The EQC goals are to:

- 1. Promote Community & Individual Action & Engagement
- 2. Champion Environmental Policies & Ordinances
- 3. Help businesses and residents be more sustainable and environmentally friendly
- 4. Support greenhouse gas reduction, recycling & energy efficiency
- 5. Protect & create open green space
- 6. Involve learners of all ages

Summary of accomplishments since 2012:

- 1. Climate Action Plan
- 2. Compostable Foodware Ordinance
- 3. Walkable El Cerrito

To that end, the EQC recommends the following EQC focus for FY13/14, 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. CCA feasibility study.
- 4. EQC Education Develop a list of speakers & topics to present at EQC meetings to educate members on pertinent environmental issues.
- 5. Green Business Program- Support existing certified green businesses to get re-certified.
- 6. Urban Greening Plan contribute to planning and attend workshops
- 7. Grey water increase public awareness of technology and options
- 8. Energy Efficiency support city projects to reduce energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions including: residential and business energy efficiency improvements, transportation efficiency (increased bike/ped trips, efficient vehicles, electric vehicles), evaluate options for improving efficiency of PG&E owned traffic lights.
- 9. Support Madera Open Space initiative
- 10. Green Building consider opportunities to expand green building (codes, education, etc.)
- 11. Purchasing policy update EC purchasing policy to be more climate friendly.
- 12. Polinator Friendly endorse EC to be the first Pollinator (bee/butterfly/hummingbird, etc.) Friendly City in the USA habitat quality and patch work continuity (issue of neonicotinoids in residential nursery plants sold to attract pollinators)

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

At the October 2013 EQC meeting, members will review this draft summary of goals and priorities and will consider motions establishing goals/priority areas for 2013-2014 and ad hoc/subcommittees to work on specific goals/priority areas.