



## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 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 7:05 pm.

#### **Roll Call:**

Chair Miner, Vice Chair Goudey, Members Benjamin, Doan, Krueger, Solari, Weinstein, Wildenberg

Absent: Dandridge, Pavel, Spitalnik,

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

- 1. Council Liaison Report** – Mayor Abelson reported that Council Member Jan Bridges will be the new Council Liaison for the EQC, to be effective starting February.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – None.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Wildenberg made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular meeting from December 10, 2013. Seconded by Weinstein. Unanimous.
- 4. Interview of Prospective EQC Candidates** – Solari provided a report on the results of a member candidate interview with Robert Schaadt, held prior to this EQC meeting. Miner and Goudey were also present for the interview. Motion to recommend to City Council that Robert Schaadt be appointed to the EQC (Solari / Goudey 2nd/ Unanimous).
- 5. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items** – Goudey reported on a proposal to show *Chasing Ice* – a film about disappearing glaciers due to climate change – in conjunction with the League of Women Voters and Organizing for Action (OFA). A possible date of March 15 was discussed. Goudey will verify film rental costs and possible film dates and venues and bring a proposal forward at the February EQC meeting.
- 6. Green Teams: Updates and Action Items** – Weinstein asked for assistance from several volunteers at the Gateways Clean-Up on January 19. Wildenberg volunteered. Ralph Boniello of the El Cerrito Tree Committee presented on a Community Tree Planting Event to be held on February 15 near Aliva and El Dorado Streets, asking for publicity assistance from the EQC Green Team network. Motion for the EQC to co-sponsor with the Tree

#### **COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION**

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Committee a Community Tree Planting event on February 15 and to help market the event through the Green Team Network (Weinstein / Benjamin 2nd/ Unanimous). Weinstein reported on a proposal from City staff to develop a Green Team Adopt a Storm Drain Program to help the City meet its regional water quality goals of keeping trash and debris out of water ways. Members discussed whether they could do enough outreach to make this feasible, ultimately feeling that other efforts like the plastic bag ban and enforcing street sweeping day would be more beneficial.

7. **Hillside Natural Area Open Space Fundraising** – Weinstein reported on current efforts of the Open Space Committee to raise funds to support the City’s purchase of the Madera Circle open space. Since the last EQC meeting they have hosted a hike through the parcel. But Weinstein felt the amount of funds needed to be raised is behind schedule. So far \$27,000 out of \$100,000 has been raised. Members brainstormed the following ideas: Send fundraising information to your neighborhood email list; solicit business donations and provide recognition; have City Council declare a special Hillside Natural Area Day; put on a Hillside Natural Area Festival to encourage people to explore the site; Pasta Pomodoro fundraising event, where they donate 20% of proceeds from all who dine there because of the event to the cause. Goudey, Doan, Wildenberg, Miner, Weinstein volunteered to sit on an ad hoc subcommittee to plan a special event.

8. **EQC Special Events** – Items discussed included:

- **Recycling Center Media Swap:** Miner presented an idea to organize a friendly media swap meet at the Recycling Center (RERC) as a way to promote the RERC and develop a dialogue about the local exchange economy. Goudey expressed an interest to also explore a Tool Lending Library at the RERC.
- **Earth Hour Logistics:** Krueger reported that the City is an official participant in Earth Hour, when people are encouraged to turn off non-essential lights on March 29 between 8:30 and 9:30 PM. The Ad Hoc group working on the event has initially explored the idea of a candlelight vigil at City Hall. Sanders added that Earth Hour can be seen as the kick-off to a season of environmental events in El Cerrito, including Earth Day, the Chasing Ice movie, and workshops on residential energy efficiency. Weinstein mentioned that Susan Schwartz with Friends of 5 Creeks proposed doing a starlight walk in Hillside Natural Area during Earth Hour, as a “beautiful way to experience nature.”

9. **Announcements and future agenda items**

Future agenda items requested included:

- Election of Committee Officers in March
- Status report on the City’s Active Transportation Plan
- Pollinator Safe City Resolution
- Grey Water

These upcoming Meetings + Events were also mentioned

- City website calendar <http://www.el-cerrito.org/iCalendar.aspx> will send automatic reminders to subscribers of the City’s Green El Cerrito calendar.
- El Cerrito Library now has a seed exchange.
- Jan 14 Interview Subcommittee to interview EQC applicant Robert Schaadt
- Jan 19 Green Team Gateways Clean Up
- Feb 15 Community Tree Planting Event

10. **Adjournment** – Miner adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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 pm*