MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 11, 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, Schaadt, Solari, Spitalnik, Weinstein,

Absent: Dandridge, Pavel, Wildenberg
Also Present: Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison


2. Welcome New EQC Member – Members welcomed newly appointed member Robert Schaadt.

3. Comments from the public on non-agenda items – Nick Arzio participates in El Cerrito’s Adopt-A-Place program and picks up litter along San Pablo Ave. He encouraged the EQC to support a current Senate Bill to ban single-use cigarette filters, as he picks up 100’s of used filters on San Pablo Ave. Just one spent filter is shown to make 1 liter of water toxic.

4. Approval of the Minutes – Motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular meeting from January 14, 2014, with one change as requested by Weinstein. (Goudey/Doan/Unanimous.)

5. Presentation from Marin Clean Energy – Alex DiGeorgio and Jackie Tuckey, staff members with the Marin Energy Authority (MEA), presented information about the Community Choice Aggregation energy program offerings of Marin Clean Energy, followed by a discussion regarding the risks and benefits of Community Choice Aggregation. A copy of MEA’s presentation is contained in EQC’s publically available binder.

6. Green Teams: Updates and Action Items – Weinstein reminded members about the Community Tree Planting Event to be held on February 15 near Aliva and El Dorado Streets. He then discussed plans for the March 15 Creek Spruce Up event, asking for a volunteer to lead a team at one of the sites. Schaadt volunteered.

7. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items – Goudey confirmed that the EQC will be sponsoring a showing of Chasing Ice at the Rialto on Thursday night April 17. The event and

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subsequent speaker panel will be co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Organizing for Action (OFA). Motion to appropriate up to $350 from EQC budget to purchase a license to show *Chasing Ice*. (Goudey/ Krueger/ Unanimous). Goudey also reported that Pavel has suggested showings of *Gasland 2* and *Symphony of Soil* in May and/or June. He will look into these opportunities.

8. **Hillside Natural Area Open Space Fundraising** – Weinstein and Miner reported on the planning efforts of the ad hoc subcommittee for a Hillside event. They made a proposal for a Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Festival to be held on Saturday May 17, involving activities and information booths set up in portions of the HNA to celebrate the natural assets of the HNA and to educate participants on the Madera Open Space fundraising efforts. Co-sponsors would include the Mountain Bike Club, Trail Trekkers, and Friends of Five Creeks. Motion for the EQC to co-sponsor the Hillside Natural Area Festival on May 17. (Weinstein/ Spitalnik/ Unanimous).

9. **EQC Special Events** – Items discussed:
   - **Grey Water Ad Hoc Subcommittee:** Solari reported that the subcommittee is interested in working with City staff to develop a brochure on residential grey water systems, with an emphasis on laundry-to-garden systems. They may be asking the EQC for a printing budget at a future date.
   - **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 Earth Hour subcommittee is working with Friends of 5 Creeks to co-host a starlight walk in Hillside Natural Area during Earth Hour, as a “beautiful way to experience nature.”
   - **3 Residential Workshops:** Sanders added that Earth Hour will kick-off a season of environmental events in El Cerrito, including Earth Day, the *Chasing Ice* movie, and workshops on residential energy efficiency, solar, and drought resiliency. Members of the Grey Water subcommittee volunteered to help with the workshops.
   - **Ohlone Greenway Celebration:** Sanders described an event being planned by the City Manager’s Office on May 31 to celebrate the opening of the Ohlone Greenway. She asked if members would be interested in helping with the event, especially in highlighting the bike/ped opportunities on the Greenway, and Goudey volunteered. Motion for the EQC to co-sponsor the event and to appropriate $500 from the EQC budget to support the event. (Goudey/Solari/Unanimous). Weinstein requested that the event not provide plastic water bottles as swag. Others agreed, suggesting canvas bags and T-shirts as event swag.

10. **Announcements and future agenda items**
    Future agenda items requested included:
    - Support for AB 1504 – Ban on single use cigarette filter for March meeting
    - CCA presentation by the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition for March meeting
    - Status on Active Transportation Plan and other City Plans
    - Pollinator Safe City Resolution
    - Resolution supporting the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

    These upcoming Meetings + Events were also mentioned
• City is holding a series of Community Meetings on the City’s Budget Priorities. They will be held on March 13, 15 and 25.
• City is on the short list for receiving a $15,000 World Wildlife Fund to study CCA.
• City won an Environment California Solar Leadership Award
• Feb 15 Community Tree Planting Event

11. **Adjournment** – Miner adjourned the meeting at 9:30 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*