MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 6:30 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Egherman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call

Present:	Chair Egherman, Members Benassini, Benjamin, Miner, Spitalnik, Weinstein, Wong, Krueger, Rome, Brown-Lechner, Dandridge,
Absent:	Karineh Samkian
Also Present:	Garth Schultz (Environmental Services Analyst and Staff Liaison) Maria Sanders (Environmental Services Analyst) Melanie Mintz (Environmental Services Manager) Janet Abelson (Council Liaison)

1. **Comments from the Public on non-Agenda Items**
   Martha Colburn, El Cerrito resident, expressed interest in having a community garden in El Cerrito. She suggested a survey of residents, potential sites for a garden, and other material needs. Members of the Committee expressed support for having an El Cerrito community garden. Other residents and a high school student also expressed interest and support. The Committee expressed intention to discuss this item in more detail at a later date.

   Paloma Pavel, El Cerrito resident, discussed her recent work on a video entitled "The New Metropolis" and her book "Breakthrough Communities". She proposed that the Committee sponsor a film series fostering community conversations and organizing actions to support environmental quality.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   Moved and seconded (Benassini/Miner) to adopt the Minutes from the Regular Committee meetings of December 8, 2009 and Special sub-committee meetings on January 26, 2010 and February 4, 2010. Passed unanimously.

3. **Chair and Vice Chair Elections**
   Chair Egherman asked Staff Liaison Schultz to hear nominations and conduct an election for Chair. Mr. Schultz indicated that Mr. Egherman was previously nominated to serve as Chair. Moved and seconded (Weinstein/Benjamin) to elect Ron Egherman as 2010 Chair. Passed unanimously. Chair Egherman heard nominations for Vice Chair – Mr. Weinstein was nominated. Moved and seconded (Spitalnik/Miner) to elect Dave Weinstein as Vice Chair. Passed unanimously.

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 215-4354 (voice) at least
FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING ***to ensure availability.***

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4. 2010 EQC Programs

Chair Egherman introduced the topic and referenced the two staff reports submitted with the Agenda packet. Mr. Schultz gave an overview of the reports and commented on the process pertaining to the Committee's 2010 programs. He highlighted that self-generated work on programs is only one of three major roles of the Committee (as established by resolution), the other two being: responding to requests from the Council, staff, and other City entities and hearing and possibly responding to comments from members of the public. Proposals by Committee members and sub-committees, comments from the public were taken into account in creating staff's recommendations, and the Committee can amend, edit, and change them.

The Committee discussed the various program areas at length and added the "Environmental Film Series" to the list. Members of the public also shared their thoughts pertaining to environmental education, community youth involvement, climate action and litter reduction, and policy education. Moved and seconded to adopt the EQC's initial program areas for 2010 (Spitalnik/Dandridge) – passed unanimously. Chair Egherman asked for a show of hands from Committee members interested in working on these program areas:

Community Climate Action
Miner, Krueger, Rome, Benassini, Spitalnik, Dandridge. Maria Sanders staff liaison.

Community Green Teams
Weinstein, Dandridge, Wong, Benjamin, Krueger, Benassini. Garth Schultz staff liaison.

Green Business Promotion
Miner, Egherman. Melanie Mintz staff liaison.

Packaging Waste and Litter Reduction
Brown-Lechner, Benjamin, Samkian. Garth Schultz staff liaison.

Strategic Outreach
Rome, Wong, Miner. Garth Schultz staff liaison.

Environmental Film Series
Weinstein, Benjamin, Brown-Lechner, and possibly Samkian. Garth Schultz staff liaison.

5. Earth Day 2010 Planning

Chair Egherman asked Mr. Schultz to address this topic. He reported that the City's annual Earth Day is coming up and that the Earth Day Planning Committee, comprised of Janet Abelson, City staff, and other community volunteers will be meeting to plan this year's event. He asked that EQC members consider attending in order to help craft the event.

6. Committee and Liaison Announcements and Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Abelson reported on the City's financial state and gave details about the budget and upcoming capital improvement projects.

Robin Mitchell commented that the City could have the community rally behind volunteer efforts as a way of helping the City through the recession.

7. Adjournment

Chair Egherman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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 Center Offices at 7501 Schmidt Ln., El Cerrito, Monday – Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.