MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 8, 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 7:03 pm.

Roll Call:
Chair Miner, Vice Chair Goudey, Members Doan, Krueger, Pavel, Schaadt, Weinstein, Wildenberg

Absent: Benjamin, Solari, Spitalnik,
Also Present: Council Member Jan Bridges, Council Liaison; Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison

1. Council/Staff Liaison Report – Bridges gave an update on Council actions since her last update in April. These included passage of a 2-Year FY15/ FY16 City Budget; consideration of an extension of the Measure R sales tax; and hearing the appeal to the proposed project on Elm Street. Sanders announced that Council will be considering the EQC recommendation to pursue CCA feasibility at the upcoming July 15 City Council meeting.

2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items – Community member Sean O'Connor commented on the issue of illegal dumping, cigarette butts, and littering in general. He urged that the City consider putting more ash trays in public areas where littered cigarette butts are the worst and instituting a steep littering fine in problem areas in El Cerrito.

3. Approval of the Minutes – Motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting from June 10, 2014. (Weinstein, Doan, Unanimous)

4. Pollinator Safe Communities – Members heard a presentation from Sara Knight of Pesticide Action Network on the importance of bees for our food supply, the plight and causes of their population decline – including the wide use of neo-nicotinoid insecticides -- and what we can do individually and collectively to protect them. She introduced a template for a City resolution to make El Cerrito a “pollinator safe community.” Miner asked to defer consideration of the resolution to a later date to include more discussion and a recommendation from staff on the impacts of not using “neo-nics” in City operations. Sanders indicated that she believed that the City did not use “neo-nics.” Weinstein requested that the EQC consider broadening the proposed resolution to cover other insecticides.

5. Plastic Bag and Foam Take Out Container Bans
Sanders read an update from OESD staff Garth Schultz on the status of the Plastic Bag and Foam Take-Out Container Bans. Schultz provided information on how community members can help enforce said bans.

6. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items – Goudey reported that the showing of Symphony of the Soil at the Rialto on Saturday, June 28 was well attended (approximately 100 participants). Pavel invited EQC members to help preview in partnership with the League of Women Voters other environmentally

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themed films. In addition, Pavel mentioned that the City of San Pablo will be hosting the showing of *Designing Healthy Communities* on July 31st.

7. **Hillside Natural Area Open Space Fundraising** – Weinstein reported that the Campaign has raised approximately $46,000 towards the purchase of the Madera Open Space. He is planning a *Music for Madera* event to be held on October 12 at the Community Center. Motion for the EQC to co-sponsor Music for Madera. (Weinstein, Schaadt, Unanimous).

8. **Green Teams: Update and Action Items** – Weinstein announced that the Green Teams will hold the next clean-up on Sunday, July 13 in the Del Norte area. He also mentioned that the EQC should begin planning the next Volunteer Recognition event.

9. **Announcements and future agenda items** – The following items were discussed:
   
   - Weinstein reported that he participated in the public hearing in Sacramento regarding AB 2145.

   **Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items**
   - Status update on Animals Ordinance – August
   - State of the Oceans presentation by Natasha Benjamin - September
   - Revisit and Refine EQC Work Plan and Budget – September
   - Set a date for next Hillside Natural Area Festival
   - Grey Water
   - Volunteer Recognition event
   - EQC Lecture Series
   - Pollinator Pathways
   - Healthy Gardening education effort
   - Trash mitigation strategies

   **Upcoming Meetings + Events** | more details online at [www.el-cerrito.org/newgreen](http://www.el-cerrito.org/newgreen)

   - Green Team Clean-Up of Del Norte Area - Sunday, July 13
   - French Broom Pull – Saturday, July 19
   - Draft San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan – Comments due July 21
   - Urban Greening Plan Charette – Aug 2

10. **Adjournment** – Miner adjourned the meeting at 8:48 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*