



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Miner called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

Roll Call:

Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Goudey, Members Benjamin, Schaadt, Solari, Spitalnik, Weinstein, and Wildenberg

Absent: Members Krueger, Spitalnik

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison; Trina Mackie, Rebecca Milliken, and Paloma Pavel, all prospective EQC members

- Council/ Staff Liaison Report** – No announcements were made.
- Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Kim White, El Cerrito resident, is interested in knowing what the EQC does. Charles Hargrove and Daniel Malcolm are both interested in EQC activities.
- Approval of the Minutes** – Motion approving the minutes from the January 13, 2015 meeting. Minutes approved (Schaadt/Wildenberg/Unanimous).
- EQC member Appointment Process** – Sanders described the EQC appointment process. Rebecca Milliken, Trina Mackie and Paloma Pavel have all attended three meetings, per the EQC enabling resolution. Motion to establish an Interview Subcommittee comprised of Miner, Goudey, and Wildenberg, with interviews to be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:30 PM (Goudey/ Wildenberg/ Unanimous).
- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** – Sanders explained the CCA process and announced that the first notice from Marin Clean Energy (MCE) will be reaching mailboxes on February 17th. Miner expressed concern regarding PG&E's close ties with the CPUC and the legitimacy of the PCIA exit fee charged to all CCA customers. It was debated whether we should ask the City Council to weigh in on the issue at the CPUC. In terms of encouraging residents to opt-up to Deep Green, Goudey will assist with outreach and mentioned the following opportunities: tabling at Earth Day and the Hillside Festival, articles in the Environmental Services Division Newsletter, combine outreach with an EcoFilm event, Sanders circulated the MCE Draft Outreach Plan (contained in the EQC binder). Miner wanted to establish a goal of El Cerrito having the highest percentage of Deep Green enrollments. Goudey asked for volunteers to discuss Deep Green Options with El Cerrito's green businesses.
- Trash Mitigation Strategies** – Schaadt and Weinstein did an assessment of trash cans in El Cerrito, identifying areas in need of cans, including Baxter Creek and Carlson Blvd. Schaadt and Weinstein will complete the assessment and create a proposal to ask for more trash cans. The list will be prioritized. Weinstein also thought the City and the EQC should do better to coordinate with businesses and public agencies like BART to also remove litter. Miner discussed a proposal from Adam Tierry, from the

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

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Lawrence Hall of Science and Korematsu Middle School. Sanders to further discuss with Stephen Pree next steps with Adam Tierry.

7. **Pollinator Safe Communities** – Solari provided materials to the staff to consider in presenting a recommendation to City Council on the Resolution. EQC got a letter from resident Robin Mitchell (contained in EQC binder) suggesting the importance of native plant pallets that are appropriate to the pollinating species endemic to this area.
8. **EQ Work Plan, Budget, Calendar of Events** – Members reviewed the Final EQC Work Plan with revisions by Goudey. Motion to approve the 2015 Work Plan, as revised (Benjamin/Solari/Unanimous).
9. **Green Teams: Update and Action Items** – Weinstein announced a Friends of Five Creeks spruce-up at Creekside Park on Feb. 28, 2015 from 10 AM – 12:30 PM. Motion to co-sponsor the event (Weinstein/ Schaadt/ Unanimous). Weinstein also provided a tentative calendar for all the Green Team Clean-Ups throughout spring, contained on the EQC Work Plan, Calendar of Events. Motion to adopt Green Team events (Weinstein /Goudey/Unanimous). Weinstein mentioned that staff member Stephen Pree will still need to provide trainings on trash assessment methodology in March. Goudey wants to organize a broom pull in the Madera Open Space as part of Earth Day and/or the Hillside Festival.
10. **EcoFilm Series** – Goudey interested in doing a film event that deals with energy and climate change to tie in with the MCE enrollment outreach. Pavel said she found several appropriate films. Miner suggested April 1. Goudey to check on availability at the Rialto. Milliken suggested *The Man Who Planted Trees*. Pavel mentioned that the League of Women Voters is thinking of showing *Conspiracy*, which the EQC could consider co-sponsoring. Pavel discussed the showing of Designing Healthy Communities. A small group volunteered to identify an energy movie to be shown in April.
11. **Announcements and future agenda items** – The following announcements were made. Miner announced that PACE may go to Council in March. He also announced that the Community Development Department is considering applying to establish the Hillside Natural Area as a Priority Conservation Area (PCA) and will ask staff to discuss in March. Weinstein provided information on a new anti-cigarette butt bill, AB 48, Preventing Toxic Cigarette Butts Act. Weinstein also announced that the transfer of the Madera Property to the City should happen in March.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 PACE Update – March
- 2 Hillside Natural Area Planned Conservation Area - March
- 3 Grey Water Education – TBD
- 4 Hillside Natural Area Festival – May 17, 2015
- 5 Presentation on the Active Transportation Plan – TBD
- 6 Urban Greening Plan –TBD
- 7 Report back on a meeting in Berkeley on Community Resiliency
- 8 Sanders and Pavel to report on their Kazakhstan trip
- 9 Assembly Member Tony Thurmond

Upcoming Meetings + Events | more details online at www.el-cerrito.org/newgreen

- MCE Community Presentations - St. Johns Senior Center, Feb 17

12. Adjourned at 9:15 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