Chair Egherman called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Roll Call
Present: Chair Egherman, Vice Chair Weinstein, Pavel, Spitalnik, Miner, Goudey, Corwin
Absent: Krueger, Benjamin, Dandridge, Huang

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

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items
   None

2. Recognition of Departing Member
   Hammer resigning from committee due to scheduling conflict but will maintain involvement as possible. Her contributions to the EQC were acknowledged.

3. Approval of the Minutes
   Goudey motioned to approve July minutes, seconded by Pavel, unanimously approved.

4. Update on Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing
   Sanders presented a brief history of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing and its relevance in terms of new legislation (HR 2599) being proposed that would reassert the right of local governments to provide this kind of financing and prevent discrimination against jurisdictions who do participate in such a financing system. A resolution is going to city council to support the legislation.

5. Discuss concept of ad hoc body of ecologists to advise on habitat preservation
   Weinstein, in an effort to better incorporate environmental ideals into city projects and enhance advice to city staff from EQC, proposed to incorporate the consultation of local experts. Two local natural historians, Gil Patchett and Jim McKissock, presented their relevant experience and interests and a discussion of the benefits and logistics of incorporating their input ensued.

6. Committee Goal Activity and Project Updates

   Community Involvement and Outreach:
   Film Series: Goudey announced that Bag It is tentatively being rescheduled for showing in September or early October with negotiations with the Rialto Cerrito still pending. Pavel discussed possible future film The New Metropolis which addresses the environmental challenges and opportunities that suburbs present and possibly having the film maker attend the screening.
Green Teams: Weinstein reported a 20 person turn out to the Baxter Creek clean up event, far higher than the typical 10-15 showing. He also discussed developing programs with a few schools for the next academic year. Weinstein/Schultz proposed that Cerrito Creek be the focus of the next clean up event which would occur in conjunction with the upcoming coastal clean up day. The idea of incorporating non clean-up events was also briefly discussed.

Policies and Programs:
Foodware Program: Miner reported out on progress towards holding a compostable foodware interest meeting for food service businesses on September 21, including outreach plans, messaging, and monetary incentives available for food service businesses.

6. Committee and liaison announcements, member announcements, and future agenda items
Abelson gave a brief report on the state of the City’s redevelopment funds with the City being requested to pay $1.84 million in order to continue the redevelopment agency. This item has taken priority in council meetings.

Sanders announced a home energy rebate workshop will be held at City Hall on August 16th along with co-sponsoring cities Albany, Richmond and San Pablo. The goal is to have 50-60 people attend the workshop.

Schultz announced that the animal ordinance review has been bumped to a later meeting than originally scheduled in September due to redevelopment agency issues being on the agenda. On August 25th there will be a public meeting about garbage and recycling rates. He also discussed the RFP currently out for a recycling center documentary film and the expansion of materials collection for the new facility. Plastic bag ban ordinances are moving forward and RecycleMore is seeking council’s interest in a county ordinance.

7. Adjournment
Egherman closed the meeting at 8:40 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 Center Offices at 7501 Schmidt Ln., El Cerrito, Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.