



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

City Hall – Creekside Room

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:10 PM

Roll Call: Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Hargrove, Miller, O'Connor, Pavel, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, and Tsutsui

Absent: Members Schaadt and Weinstein

Also Present: Janet Abelson, Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Maria Sanders, Operations + Environmental Services Manager

- 1. Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Councilmember Janet Abelson discussed upcoming events for El Cerrito's Centennial, including a movie showing on September 15th and a parade on September 16th. Will Provost announced that the EQC should finalize dates for Spring events by the November meeting to ensure publication in variety of City newsletters.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Sheila Tarbet introduced herself as an El Cerrito resident that is interested in learning more about the EQC.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the August 8th minutes (Tsutsui, Spitalnik, Unanimous).
- 4. Presentation on Local Watersheds** – Committee members heard a presentation from Martha Berthelsen, of the Watershed Project, on local watersheds and the global importance of keeping them clean.
- 5. Climate Action Plan Implementation**
Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the following:
 - MCE and Deep Green Enrollments (Centennial Deep Green Push) - Milliken reported that there are no updated numbers through September, but the EQC's next big push will be at the Centennial Parade and Fair.
 - Tri-Safety Day - volunteers for tabling? **Sept 23, 11am-3pm, Plaza**

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 Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison at 215-4361 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

- Goudey and O’Conner expressed interest in the event, however, there was no decision made on who, if any, member would table at the event.
 - Business Outreach
 - 100x100 content on EDC website
 - Restaurant Week Oct 16 – 22nd signage – Committee members organized an outreach plan for reaching out to businesses that are participating in the City’s Restaurant Week.
- CCA & CPUC Updates
 - Freeze on new CCA programs, Senate Bill update – Miner provided an update on senate bills that are currently in the legislature that could potentially undercut community choice energy. Miner and Milliken encouraged EQC members to call their local representatives, as private citizens, to vote against relevant legislation.
- Contra Costa Green Business Program – No new updates.
- Discussion of MCE’s Efforts Related to EVs – Miner highlighted a CPUC community meeting being held on September 13th in Richmond, that will focus on transportation electrification. Provost provided an update he received from MCE, that they are in the process of building out a more robust EV program.
- UUTr - update on regional efforts – Milliken reported on UUTr efforts in Albany and Berkeley, noting that the City of Berkeley passed a resolution to send a letter to the CPUC enabling cities to charge differentiated rates for UUT fees. However, the Berkeley Energy Commission is not pursuing a UUTr right now, due to equity concerns.
 - [Albany Resolution](#) & [Albany Staff Report](#)
 - [Berkeley Resolution](#) & [Berkeley Staff Report](#)

6. **Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan** – Miner provided an updated on the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Planning process. The goals of the plan are to do a full assessment of the City’s current facilities, set goals for improving the City’s parks and recreation facilities, and develop a plan for how to obtain those goals. The process is expected to take 6 to 9 months.

7. EQC Budget and Calendar of Events

Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Green Teams –
 - Cerrito Creek Clean-Up – **September 23, 9 AM – 1 PM** – O’Conner suggested the Green Teams should also clean up the creek at the north side of the Pacific East Mall.
- Film and/or Educational Events
 - Recharge Your Lunch: National Drive Electric Week Event, **Sept 9** – Milliken reported that it was a great event with 159 people who registered in advance and that it would be great to do the event again next year.
 - Centennial Parade – **Sept 16** – The Committee made arrangements to participate in the City’s Centennial Parade and Fair. Provost will follow-up with an email to confirm details for participation.
 - StopWaste Energy Upgrade Workshop, October 17, Albany Community Center
 - Milliken reported that there are 20 sign-ups so far.
 - Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berkeley-albany-el-cerrito-green-home-workshop-tickets-35467468152>
 - Film Showing – Pavel provided an update from the film sub-committee and suggested that the Committee push the film event to the Spring, to allow for

more time to plan the event. EQC members suggested films, including: Before the Flood, the Smog of the Sea, Chasing Coral, and Demain. The Committee informally decided to move the film to March, rather than pushing for holding the film in December. Provost will work to secure a date with the Cerrito Theatre and City staff.

- Future workshops:
 - Workshop on Pollinators and Monarch Butterflies (**Spring '18**)
 - Heat Pump Homes Tour (TBD)
 - Electrification (TBD)
 - Solar (TBD)

8. Announcements and future agenda items

Hear committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Potentially engage in discussion and make decisions regarding logistics of EQC participation in the following.

Pavel announced the release of her new book, “The Earth, the City, and the Hidden Narrative of Race”.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- 2 Drones in Hillside Natural Area
- 3 City Purchased Vehicles
- 4 Hillside Natural Area Interpretive Trail

9. Adjournment – 9:10

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.