



THE CITY OF  
**EL CERRITO**  
PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison  
Will Provost | (510) 525-7622  
wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

---

**7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** – Vice-Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Howdy Goudey, Beth Molnar, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Gisele Verrier, and Dave Weinstein  
**Absent:** Chair Rebecca Milliken; Members Daniel Hamilton, Mark Miner, Ellen Spitalnik, and Sheila Tarbet  
**Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Laureteen Brazil, City of El Cerrito Waste Prevention Specialist
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Yan Linhart, member of the City's Urban Forest Committee, spoke in favor of greater collaboration between both committees and potentially on a project for Earth Day.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
Provost discussed the actions the City is taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and noted that the City is beginning to cancel some events and the City may have to cancel or postpone Earth Day. He noted Alison Moreno resigned from the EQC, that the City is continuing to develop a new Strategic Plan and Budget, which members should provide input on, and that the Urban Forest Committee held a very nice flag raising ceremony and tree planting event to celebrate becoming a Tree City USA.
4. **PROPOSED EXPANDED FOODWARE ORDINANCE**
  - City Staff Presentation
  - Environmental Quality Committee Clarifying Questions
  - Public Questions & Comments
  - City Staff Responses / Remarks
  - Environmental Quality Committee Discussion and Potential Action

Provost provided a presentation to the EQC and members of the public describing the City's existing Foodware Ordinance, how the proposed language would prohibit the use of single-use plastic straws and food containers by food providers in El Cerrito, and the background and reasons why the City is proposing this change. Staff was available to answer questions and solicited input from EQC members, business owners, and members of the public on how

to improve the draft ordinance.

Members of the EQC and Community members provided feedback on the proposal and suggestions for improvement. More than one small business owner was in attendance, one of whom voiced concern about the rising cost of doing business in El Cerrito. Ample discussion was had about how to implement the proposed ordinance in a way that makes it as easy as possible for small businesses to make the transition.

**Moved/Second:** Members Weinstein/O'Conner **Action:** Passed a motion to express general support for the (draft) expanded foodware ordinance and request that the City consider further defining what would be considered single-use plastic foodware and that greater consideration be given to small businesses. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

#### 5. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Committee heard updates, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - Green Team Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
    - Mar. 21, Apr. 18, Jun. 6, Aug. 16, Oct. 23
  - Earth Day 2020 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (April 18)
  - 7th Annual Hillside Festival – May 1 – 3
  - Bike to Work Day – May 14
  - BayRen Energy Efficiency Workshop (May 21, 6pm-8pm)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Film Event 2020
  - SunShares 2019 Debrief / SunShares 2020 (Aug – Nov)

#### 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on Feb. 11, 2020.

**Moved/Second:** Members Solari/Molnar **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 11, 2020 EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee members heard announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items, including:


- Elections for EQC Chair and Vice-chair (April)
- Collaboration with the Urban Forest Committee
- Climate Action Plan Implementation
- EQC Collaboration with Young People in El Cerrito
- Tool/Toy Lending Library
- City Support for Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763)
- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)

- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoffs
- EQC Skills/Resource List
- Development of “Ron Eggherman” Awards

8. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Milliken, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **March 10, 2020** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Will Provost, Staff Liaison