



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Staff Liaison

Will Provost | (510) 559-7684

wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

### JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86235621234?pwd=MXQ1SGgvSXQdy9JcWUwSWpmYjVOUT09>

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

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel (8:40), Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony (8:00), and Dave Weinstein  
**Also Present:** Will Provost, Staff Liaison; and Laureteen Brazil, Waste Prevention Specialist
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell announced that the City of Albany passed a resolution acknowledging the Sogorea Te' Land Trust with the intention of partnering with them and that the City of El Cerrito's City Council may be planning to hear a presentation from the same group. She questioned whether there was a role for the EQC to partner in some capacity.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
Staff Liaison Will Provost highlighted work that is being driven by the City's Human Relations Commission to form an equity task force, he mentioned meetings will continue to be remote on a month-to-month basis, and that term limits for all Boards and Commissions may be implemented and modified for consistency citywide.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on September 14, 2021.  
**Move/Second:** Members O'Connor/Milliken **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the September 14, 2021 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**  
Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell highlighted the UFC's interest in pursuing grant funding for projects and urban forest management planning work. UFC Member Cathy Bleier who was also in attendance spoke about carbon credit systems. Some discussion was had about the potential shared interest in using goats as a fire fuel management tool.
6. **SB 1383 & PROPOSED EXPANDED FOODWARE ORDINANCE**  
The Committee heard updates and discussed new programs and requirements being implemented under Senate Bill 1383 and being considered under the City's Proposed Expanded Food Ware Ordinance and discussed potential EQC activities and programming in support of both efforts. Ideas included: Doing an article to support businesses that are early adopters, coordinating with restaurant week, and having EQC members hand out fact sheets. It was determined that the City will return to the EQC in

2022 with more information on its own outreach plan so that the Committee can best leverage that.

## 7. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Updates were provided and event successes and attributes were highlighted. Tarbet noted that she will be previewing a film that may be a good fit for the EQC.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
    - September, Coastal Cleanup Month - Debrief
    - Oct. 16, Saturday, Northern Gateway Cleanup
    - Dec. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek
  - Ride Electric Event – October 2 - Debrief
  - SunShares 2021 – Signups through 11/30 (<http://www.bayareasunshares.org/>)
  - Recycling Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2022

## 8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Tsutsui provided updates on the City Council's Climate Action Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, based on conversations he's had with Council members. Milliken described a potential induction burner loaner program. Spitalnik requested agendizing the possibility of having the City use goats as a fire fuel management tool. Vekony highlighted updates she became aware of regarding the BART transit-oriented development project at the Plaza. Goudey outlined MCE's recent efforts and Milliken also updated the group on the Gotcha bike-share program.

- BART Corridor Access Plan
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- Fire Prevention and Climate Action - Discuss coordinating a briefing from Fire
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments
- Climate Action Plan Update Recommendations for City Council Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
  - EQC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Membership / Report
- City of Richmond Gotcha Bike-Share Program

## 9. CREEK & SHORELINE CLEANUPS UNDER “MRP 3.0”

Provost provided an overview of the City's stormwater permit and outlined the Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed changes as they relate to city coordination of creek and shoreline cleanups.

## 10. EQC WORKPLAN 2022

Milliken provided an overview of the typical work plan development process. Vekony volunteered to serve as the Committee's editor after Neil Tsutsui does the initial cleanup, incorporating all feedback and suggestions for discussion at the November meeting

## 11. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK (Moved to later in agenda)

Tarbet and Paloma provided updates from the EQC's Ad-Hoc Subcommittee. Spitalnik stated she is drafting a Letter of Appreciation from the EQC commending the Breakthrough Communities Gaia Program Interns. Akacić invited the group to a meeting for equity, diversity, and inclusion being held in Berkeley.


## 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Provost provided an update on the tree planting memorial being planned for Maria Sanders. Milliken reminded the group about Drive Clean Bay Area, and Weinstein invited the Committee to the Trail Trekkers annual Membership BBQ.

- EQC Meeting Schedule / Return to In-person Meetings

- EQC Support of SB 1383 and Foodware Outreach
- Tree Planting / Project Commemorating Maria Sanders
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Integrated Pest Management Report from City Staff
- EQC Collaboration with Young People in El Cerrito
- Tool/Toy Lending Library
- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education

**13. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.



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Neil Tsutsui, Chair

This is to clarify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **October 12, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



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Will Provost, Staff Liaison