



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Monday, February 13 2012, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

*This meeting was held in place of the Regular Committee Meeting
that would have occurred on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.*

Chair Corwin called the meeting to order at 7:08PM.

Roll Call

Chair Corwin, Vice-Chair Miner, Members Krueger, Benjamin, Spitalnik, Corwin, Goudey, Solari, Egherman.

Also in attendance: Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Department Manager, Garth Schultz, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison, and Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst.

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

No public comments.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Egherman made the motion to adopt the minutes of the regular Committee meeting held on January 10, 2012 seconded by Miner. Passed unanimously.

3. Public Works Department Environmental Program Manager, Stephen Prée

Stephen Prée thanked EQC for the opportunity to meet the Committee. Prée explained his position as the Public Works Department Environmental Program Manager and some of the projects he has been working on recently, including bay-friendly landscaping, introducing organic fertilizers to Cerrito Vista Park, coordinating with the CA Native Plant Society to inventory native flora in the Hillside Natural Area, training Public Works staff on tree pruning, reducing storm drain trash through new in-drain catchment systems, and collaborating with nearby cities to create municipal Urban Forestry

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 Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison at 559-7684 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

Management Plans. In addition, Prée has been applying for grants for creating a city tree inventory and restoring Rust Creek.

4. Environmental Services Division Update, Melanie Mintz

Mintz, Environmental Services Department (ESD) Manager, explained the department's goals and accomplishments from 2008- 2013 in a PowerPoint presentation. The ESD is three years old and has focused on a variety of topics including energy efficiency, green house gas reduction targets, multi-family recycling, the new Recycling and Environmental Resource Center, the Ohlone Greenway Master Plan, and the Climate Action Plan. Mintz answered questions from the Committee regarding how the EQC can help the ESD reach its stated goals and objectives and obtain funding. Mintz explained that one of the most important roles of the EQC is to motivate the public around environmental issues and to identify and promote environmental policies in the City. Secondly, Mintz noted that the EQC can help the ESD by identifying local NGOs and other groups (such as schools) who can apply for environmental/sustainability grants that the ESD, as a government agency, cannot apply for currently.

5. 2012 Goals and Priorities Facilitation, Part 2 and Wrap Up

Corwin explained that an EQC ad hoc group met to discuss proposed goals passed at the last EQC meeting. The ad hoc committee divided the proposed goals into categories and Corwin asked the EQC to discuss their ideas on the topics for 15 minutes and then come back to the group to report. The attached "EQC 2012 Program Areas" Chart contains notes on this year's subcommittees and programs based on this work session.

Egherman observed that every subcommittee has an education component and that the approach to education must have specific qualities in order to be successful. Egherman suggested that the Education Subcommittee identify and develop specific ways to outreach to the community. In this way, the Education subcommittee could be the weave that ties all the other committees together. Mintz seconded Egherman's opinion and emphasized that education is clearly very important and that the EQC should focus on promoting education. Goudey noted that education is part of everything we want to do as a committee which is why we need to have a central list of educational values/statements in addition to our programming. Spitalnik motioned to adopt 2012 Program Areas and Subcommittees and to have 15 minute discussion next meeting to explore next steps. The motion was seconded by Egherman and passed unanimously.

6. Establish Regular / Quarterly Green Team Subcommittee Meetings

Kruger noted that in order to bolster the Green Team program the EQC needs to get folks more involved through a quarterly regular standing subcommittee meeting held in the evening. Benjamin motioned to have quarterly meeting for the Green Teams held at the same time as other City hall meetings with the first meeting occurring Tuesday March 20th at 7pm. (ongoing as the 3rd Tuesday of the 3rd Month). Goudey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. Compostable Food Ware Ordinance Report

Miner explained that he has been researching local Food Ware ordinances and is hoping to make recommendations to Council by April. In addition, Miner is working on soliciting public comment on the ordinance through local media, public meetings, and connecting with the restaurant community. Corwin motioned to hold special subcommittee meeting on the Food Ware Ordinance starting February 23rd at 7pm. The motion was seconded by Spitalnik and passed unanimously.

8. Eco Film Series Update – 8:20

Spitalnik noted that The New Metropolis film screening was an incredibly successful event with a good deal of community engagement. Corwin noted that absent member Pavel asked that if any EQC members took notes on the discussion to please clean them up and send them out via email to the EQC. Goudey explained that the next film showing would be the *Economics of Happiness* and that there is a \$100 fee associated with publicly showing the film. Corwin noted that the EQC has exhausted its initial \$1500 allocated to the Film Series, so an additional allocation would need to be made to cover this and future Film Series related costs. Corwin further explained that the EQC has around \$3,000 left in the budget but that some of that was earmarked for Green Business Program support. Schultz noted that support for the Green Business Program was \$1,000 total, but ½ paid by the Environmental Services Department. Benjamin moved to allocate and \$500 to Eco Film Series. Egherman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed an idea to show *Mad City Chickens* (regarding the City of Madison's animal husbandry ordinance) on April 13th in honor of El Cerrito's revised small animal ordinance. Goudey suggested that the EQC adopt the motion for *Mad City Chickens* in order to give Garth Schultz ample time to plan the film showing. Spitalnik motioned to approve *Mad City Chickens* film for the April showing. The motion was seconded by Benjamin and passed unanimously.

9. Announcements and future agenda items

Future Agenda Items

- Trail Trekkers and Community Garden Items (March)
- Green Business Program Sponsorship (March)
- Food Ware Ordinance Consideration (April)
- Climate Action Plan Update (TBD)

Staff Announcements

- Recycling Center Volunteer and Docent engagement
- Sanders discussed the PACE FHFA program. It is now the 60-day public comment period for PACE financing. The public comment period opens March 31st and closes May 31st. Pacenow.org walks you through rule-making process. PACE is a recommended strategy for climate action.

Egherman asked what the critical arguments against PACE are. Sanders noted that PACE financing has a priority lien because it is a property assessment which could be an increased debt burden to homeowners.

Solari suggested that Claudia Pingatore from the Green Business Certification program and Barbara Chan, an advocate for Green Chamber of Commerce, both present at the next meeting. Corwin noted that the EQC should invite both and have a Green Business-themed meeting. Sanders announced that she would like to give Climate Action Agenda update if the EQC was open to the possibility. Corwin suggested that Sanders give a Climate Action Plan update at the April meeting.

10. Adjournment – 9:30 p.m.

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 Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Environmental Services Division

Environmental Quality Committee
Update
February 13, 2012



ESD's History/Mission

- **Established in FY 2008-9 by City Council**
 - City Council Goal Setting
 - Environmental Leadership
 - Environmental Services Division
 - Explore long-term savings in terms of design
 - Environmental Quality Committee
 - Manage Recycling Operation
 - Work on Broader Scope of Environmental Issues
 - Help City Be a Proactive Environmental Leader & Steward
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ESD Overview

- Leadership role in promoting environmental quality & innovation
 - Minimize environmental impact of residential, business, and City activities
 - Developing, supporting & managing programs, policies and projects
 - Clearinghouse/Single-Point of Contact
 - Environmental perspective to City endeavors
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Major Milestones Accomplishments

- 2008-09
 - Recycling/Solid Waste
 - Overhauled Curbside Collection Program
 - Split-bins @ parks and San Pablo Avenue (Bicycle Racks, too)
 - Reviewed and revised design process for new Recycling Center
 - Efficiency/Conservation
 - Audited top energy consuming facilities/implemented efficiency measures
 - Installed LEDs along San Pablo Avenue
 - Established Energy and Water Efficiency Program (EWEP)/Revolving Fund
 - Fuel Efficiency Pilot Project for Recycling Vehicles
 - Implemented Recycling Program/Green Business Certification @ City Hall
 - Urban Greening
 - Negotiated w/ BART to implement OG Master Plan
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Major Milestones Accomplishments

- 2009-10
 - Recycling/Solid Waste
 - Led region-wide effort for food waste/organics collection/composting
 - Piloted mobile collection for hard-to-recycle materials
 - Energy Efficiency/Climate
 - Secured EPA Climate Showcase Communities Grant
 - Secured EECBG for EWEP projects
 - Launched development of CAP and residential survey
 - Community Involvement/Education
 - Developed successful Citywide Green Team program & activities with EQC
 - Recycling & Environmental Resource Center
 - Award contract to assist with development of DB RFQ/RFP
 - Award DB contract and initiate design
-

Major Milestones/Accomplishments

- 2010-11
 - Recycling and Environmental Resource Center
 - Design; Public Meetings; DRB
 - Establish & operate interim operations during construction
 - Recycling/Solid Waste
 - Successful roll out of Curbside Food Scraps/Organics Program
 - Energy Efficiency/Climate
 - Debuted residential & energy efficiency programs made possible by ScCAP (EPA)
 - Manage EECBG funds to implement OG and Citywide energy efficiency projects
 - Established GHG Reduction Targets
 - Urban Greening
 - Secured \$904K for OG Natural Area & Rain Garden project
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Major Milestones/Accomplishments

- 2011-12
 - Recycling & Environmental Resource Center
 - Celebrate grand opening & expanded programming
 - Recycling/Solid Waste
 - Complete Solid Waste Rate Review/Franchise Negotiations
 - Pursue Post-Collection Options
 - Foodware Program/Plastic Bag Ordinance
 - Implement Multi-Family Housing Recycling program
 - Energy Efficiency/Climate
 - Issued RFQ/RFP for Joint Solar Procurement
 - Draft CAP released
 - Urban Greening
 - Award Design Contract/Design OG Natural Area
 - Pursued grant for Community Garden & Urban Greening Plan
 - Hosted Bicycle Town Hall
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2012-13 Goals & Objectives*

- **Recycling and Environmental Resource Center**
 - Establish Center as source of Environmental Information
- **Recycling/Solid Waste**
 - Post-Collection Processing (Analysis/Decision)
 - Implement Environmental Purchasing Policy
 - Implement Mandatory Commercial Recycling
 - Plastic Bag Ban/Foodware Ordinance
- **Energy Efficiency/Climate**
 - CAP Adoption & Implementation
 - **Focus on Community Energy**
 - Oversee Solar Permitting/Regional Uniformity effort
- **Urban Greening/Sustainability**
 - Initiate Urban Greening Plan (if funded)
 - Ramp up MultiModal Transportation program
 - Prepare new Bicycle Ordinance for Adoption
 - Construct OG Natural Area project
 - Initiate Sustainability Report Card
 - Assist w/ securing Sustainable Community-Green Economic Development Vision/Funding

* Note: 2012-13 Goals/Objectives proposed until adopted by Council in June.

Ongoing Operational Activities

- Operations
 - Curbside Recycling Program
 - Recycling and Environmental Resource Center
 - Public Involvement & Education
 - Citywide Events (Earth Day, Bike to Work Day, Garage Sale)
 - Publications
 - Leadership to EC's Environmental Efforts
 - Interdepartmental Collaboration
 - Regional Involvement/Leadership
 - Environmental Quality Committee liaison
 - Climate Action Plan Implementation
 - Lead Resource Conservation & Efficiency Efforts
 - Secure Outside Funding for Sustainability Efforts
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Summary

- Policies
 - Assure City policies are environmentally responsible and proactive
 - Programs
 - Solid Waste/Recycling
 - Resource Conservation/Efficiency
 - Climate
 - Public Education/Involvement
 - Urban Greening
 - Smart Growth/Sustainability
 - Projects
 - Recycling and Environmental Resource Center
 - Ongoing/Evolving
 - Regulatory, EQC, Grant Opportunities, Interdepartmental/Regional Efforts
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DATE: February 9, 2012

TO: City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee

FROM: 2012 Goal and Priorities Ad Hoc Subcommittee

TITLE: EQC in 2012 and Beyond: Committee Values, Areas of Focus and Goals

The task of the 2012 Goals and Priorities Ad Hoc (G&P Ad Hoc) subcommittee was to guide the full El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) to establish 'goals and priorities' for 2012. The process started by breaking into small discussion groups at the January meeting, where committee members discussed what keeps them interested and motivated to participate in the EQC and what they want to accomplish in 2012. The G&P Ad Hoc group met afterwards to synthesize what was discussed and present a summary to the EQC. The purpose of this memo is to present a consolidated summary of what the G&P Ad Hoc subcommittee heard, broken into committee values, areas of focus and goals for 2012.

First, let's start with a little context; as a member of the City the EQC actions abide by the City Mission:

The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

Second, as a reminder, EQC's duties and responsibilities as stated in the EQC Charter Resolution.

1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council, staff, other boards, commissions, and committees, and the citizens of the City with regard to environmental quality issues within the City of El Cerrito.
2. To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts.
3. Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito citizens regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts.

Additionally, EQC members are guided by values to educate, inspire, and activate ourselves and our community to sustainably thrive. The EQC's areas of focus are to:

- Promote Community & Individual Action
- Champion Environmental Policies
- Help Businesses be more sustainable and environmentally friendly
- Support Carbon Reduction, Recycling and Energy Efficiency
- Protect Open Space
- Involve Students of all ages

To that end, the G&P Ad Hoc recommends the following 2012 EQC goals, in no particular order:

1. Green Teams/Volunteer Events – Continue to propose, plan and implement specific volunteer events and activities.
2. Eco Films – Continue to educate, inspire and activate our community through the regular showing of environmental films.
3. Climate Action – Engage and provide support to City staff to develop the Climate Action Plan and engage the City to seek support for a CCA feasibility study.



4. EQC Education – Develop a list of speakers to present at EQC meetings to educate members on pertinent environmental topics of interest.
5. Green Business Program – Learn about the Green Business Program and propose next steps to EQC to increase the number of businesses in El Cerrito.
6. Compostable Foodware Ordinance – Plan and propose specifics of a foodware ordinance along with community and business outreach strategies.

Interest was also expressed in the following areas, though EQC champions for action have not been identified:

1. Recycling Center Grand Opening - Coordinate with staff to support opening of new Recycling Center
2. Education - Identify strategy to engage EC students, (1) build email list and identify PTA/staff contacts (2) propose plan to invite EQC student member, (3) look at feasibility/set up community service hours for green team volunteer activities
3. Greywater/Rainwater - Develop resources for EC community members interested in implementing greywater and/or rainwater harvesting systems, investigate developing an incentive based program.

EQC members share a vision for an environmentally sustainable El Cerrito and have no shortage of inspiring ideas to move our City in that direction. The following are a list of inspiring and promising ideas for the EQC to remember for future actions or, interest pending, incorporate into our vision for 2012:

- Open Space – Creek Ordinance Review
- Hillside Nature Area Festival
- Urban Homesteading – Roll out of Animal Ordinance, seed lending library
- Albany Partnership – Green Workshop Series coordination
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station in El Cerrito
- Single Use Bag Ordinance
- Promote Green Building Materials – permeable pavement
- Create El Cerrito Green Business Certification
- Kid Focused Environmental Film Series Event
- Pledge for Environmentally Friendly Campaign Practice

The G&P Ad Hoc looks forward to your feedback and moving towards ACTION!

At the February EQC meeting, members of the G&P Ad Hoc subcommittee will lead Part 2 of the Goals and Priorities Facilitation process to refine and confirm the EQC's 2012 Goals and Priorities. At the conclusion of the process, the Committee will consider motions establishing goals/priority areas for 2012 and ad hoc/subcommittees to work on specific goals/priority areas.

EQC 2012 Program Areas

Type	Topic	Function	Chairperson	Members	Timing
Special Subcommittee	Eco Films	March 17, 10am & April 13 7pm Screenings	Paloma	Howdy, Emily, Mildred	Two meetings scheduled
Subcommittee	Green Teams/Volunteer Events	Propose, plan, implement specific volunteer events and activities.	Dave	Sam, Natasha, Mark	Quarterly
Ad Hoc	Climate Action	(1) Engage and provide support to City staff in the Climate Action Plan development and(2) engage City to seek support for CCA feasibility study	Mark	Michael, Renee, Ellen	End with Council adoption of the CAP
Ad Hoc	EQC Education	Plan and recruit speakers to speak at 2012 EQC meetings to educate members on pertinent environmental topics of interest	Renee	Howdy, Natasha	5/31/12
Ad Hoc	2012 Goals and Priorities	Develop process to establish 2012 EQC Goals and Priorities	Emily	Howdy, Paloma, Renee, Mark, Michael	3/30/12
Ad Hoc	Compostable Foodware Ordinance	Plan and propose specifics of foodware ordinance and outreach strategies	Mark	Emily, Natasha, Michael	End with Recommendation to EQC
Ad Hoc	Green Business Program	Learn about Green Business Certification Program and propose next steps to EQC to increase number of green businesses in EC	Michael	Mark, Michael, Ron, Renee	TBD at March meeting
Ad Hoc	Environmental Resource and Recycling Center Ideas Generation	Develop ideas for the Center opening and ongoing programming to recommend to EQC and City Staff, including opportunities to outreach to El Cerrito students and provide educational materials for rainwater and greywater reuse.	Ron	Natasha, Emily, Howdy	4/30/12