7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING – Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, acknowledging indigenous peoples for the land that we inhabit in El Cerrito.

1. ROLL CALL – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: EQC Member Chris Lynch Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison and Laurenteen Brazil, Waste Prevention Specialist

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
El Cerrito resident, Fred Bialy, shared that he did not have any comments but is an El Cerrito resident interested in the work of the EQC. El Cerrito resident and Urban Forest Committee member, Robin Mitchell, announced that she will speak later in the meeting for the item relating to collaboration with the Urban Forest Committee.

Move/Second: Members O’Connor / Spitalnik Action: Passed a motion to move item #8 up in the Agenda in case Robin Mitchell cannot attend the entire EQC meeting. Ayes: Unanimous Noes: None Abstentions: None

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS
Will Provost announced that EQC Member Jeff Sobul has submitted his resignation due to a recent promotion at work, but that he will continue to dedicate himself to doing more for the environment in El Cerrito. Additionally, at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (RERC), the Exchange Zone has re-opened, the business office is processing transactions, and Expanded Polystyrene is now accepted from El Cerrito residents on Thursdays.

4. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE
Urban Forest Committee (UFC) member, Robin Mitchell announced that at their July 12th meeting, the committee discussed the removal of hazardous trees and piles of vegetation debris from Motorcycle Hill, Central Park, Cerrito Vista Park, and the Carlson Blvd median strip. Additionally, there was a successful work party at Memorial Grove with at least 20 volunteers. The UFC is also interested in applying for grants to develop a Hillside Natural Area Master Plan. The Committee discussed volunteer activities, future tree planting goals, and objectives that could include reducing the lack of canopy cover in lower income neighborhoods. Mitchell
requested EQC Green Teams’ support in removing piles of French Broom from the City’s natural areas.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on June 8, 2021.

Move/Second: Members Tarbet / O’Connor Action: Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the June 8, 2021 EQC meeting. Ayes: Unanimous Noes: None Abstentions: None

6. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK
EQC Members discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion.
• The Ad Hoc Subcommittee will plan to report back on their research at a future meeting. The members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee include EQC members: Chris Lynch, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, and Sheila Tarbet.
• There was a robust discussion on the best way to show appreciation to the Breakthrough Communities Gaia Program Interns. The decision was made to send a letter of appreciation with EQC members voluntarily donating monetary gifts if they were interested.

Consider a motion to commend the Breakthrough Communities Gaia Interns for providing a training to the EQC.

Move/Second: Chair Tsutsui / Member O’Connor Action: Passed a motion commending the Breakthrough Communities Gaia Program Interns, specifically Zachary Spicer, Matthew Krivan, Sydney Merrill, and Katya Pronichenko, and showing appreciation for their leading of an Environmental Justice, Equity, and Anti-Racism training at the June 8, 2021 meeting. Ayes: Unanimous Noes: None Abstentions: Member Pavel

7. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
Committee members heard updates and participated in discussion regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
• San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR
• Climate Action Plan 2.0 Recommendations
  o Howdy Goudey provided an updated on the development of recommendations
  o EQC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Report to be discussed at future meeting
• City of Richmond Gotcha Bike – Share Program
  o Rebecca Milliken provided an update on the Gotcha bike program in Richmond.
• MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission

Rose Vekony highlighted the El Cerrito Plaza BART TOD project and BART corridor access plan, that is being discussed at other venues. The item will be agendized for a future meeting.

8. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS
The committee participated in discussions about events. Updates were provided by members Weinstein and Milliken.
• Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
• Green Home Tour - Debrief
• Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
  o Aug. 15, Sunday, Cerrito Creek
  • Dave Weinstein provided an update
  o September, TBD, Coastal Cleanup
  o Oct. 16, Saturday, Northern Gateway Cleanup
  o Dec. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek
• National Drive Electric Week – October 2, Berkeley
  o Rebecca Milliken provided an update
  o Plaque for Joe Witherall
• SunShares 2021
• Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2002

Consider a motion for the EQC to co-host the National Drive Electric Week event in Berkeley

**Move/Second:** Chair Tsutsui / Member O'Connor  **Action:** Passed a motion to co-host the National Drive Electric Week event with the City of Berkeley  
**Ayes:** Unanimous  **Noes:** None  **Abstentions:** None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Paloma Pavel acknowledged and thanked Buddy Akacić's passion and commitment and thanked those on the committee that made personal donations to the Breakthrough Communities Gaia Program Interns. Also, Pavel announced that Indy Rishi Singh was invited to the intern's graduation ceremony and he attended.

• Briefing from the Fire Department / How can the EQC help with preparedness?  
• Recycling Update and EQC Support in Implementation of Recent Legislation  
• 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  
• City Support for Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763)  
• Urban Greening Plan Implementation  
• Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)  
• Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education  
• EQC Skills/Resource List

10. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Neil Tsutsui, Chair  
Elizabeth Molnar, Vice 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 **July 13, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison