



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89908288230?pwd=b1I4N3lySFFR
SWY3ZXd2YTRPSE5sUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89908288230?pwd=b1I4N3lySFFR
SWY3ZXd2YTRPSE5sUT09)

Meeting ID: 899 0828 8230 Password: 2154350
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

This advisory body is currently meeting by teleconference, consistent with the Brown Act as amended by AB 361 (2021). Under the amended rules, teleconference restrictions of the Brown Act are suspended and the City will not provide a physical location for members of the public to participate in the teleconference meeting. Any person wishing to speak to the Environmental Quality Committee on any of these matters is invited to participate via web-conference as described above. The City encourages submission of written comments in advance to the Environmental Quality Committee by emailing cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us prior to the meeting.

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Beth Molnar, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Neil Tsutsui, and Dave Weinstein
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** *(Estimated time: 5 minutes)*
Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first, as well as introduction by individuals interested in serving on the advisory body. Remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART** *(5 min.)*
Discuss a standing agenda item for presenting environmental art.
4. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** *(5 min.)*
Staff and/or Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama may report on policies, priorities, and actions taken by the City Council, and/or on matters of general interest to the EQC.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on October 11, 2022.
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE** *(5 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the City’s Urban Forest Committee.
7. **EL CERRITO TRAILS AND PATHWAYS: PRESENTATION ON THE BERKELEY PATH WANDERERS ASSOCIATION** *(30 min.)*
Hear a presentation on the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, discuss how best the EQC can facilitate the improvement of impassable trails in the city and consider possible action.
8. **EQC ANNUAL WORK PLAN** *(30 min.)*
Review and comment on the EQC Work Plan and Calendar, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding updating the Work Plan for 2023.
 - Draft 2023 Work Plan and 2022 Achievements attached.

9. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS (5 min.)

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

- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Berkeley Ride Electric event, October 15 (debrief)

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (10 min.)

Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/SEIR – EQC Comments
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - 100% renewable (deep green) power as the default electrical power source

11. EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!” (10 min.)

Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the EQC’s workplan theme for 2022 to “Go Electric!”.

- Electrification Education
- [BayREN has increased its induction cooktop rebate from \\$300 to \\$750](#)
- PGE/Frontier Induction Burner Loaner Program
 - https://pge-induction.myturn.com/library/?WT.mc_id=Vanity_inductionloaner

12. GOALS OF THE EQC (5 min.)

Receive an update from staff, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding the goals of the EQC.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (5 min.)

Hear committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Potentially engage in discussion and make decisions regarding logistics of EQC consideration of items including:

- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework
 - Link to the [JEDI Tool](#)
- 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)
- Drought outreach
- Open Space Preservation
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act

14. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, Will Provost, at (510) 559-7684. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I). Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) during normal business hours.



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81437563905?pwd=SFM1ZUVqbUVscDJIMIVxMm5PL3QzZz09>

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Beth Molnar, Sean O’Connor, Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein **Absent:** Members Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, and Neil Tsutsui **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
There were no comments from the public.
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
Member Molnar presented artwork created by Max Liboiron entitled “Sea Globe.”
4. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Christina Leard announced that advisory body meetings will remain virtual through the end of the year. The possibility of moving to in-person meetings will be revisited after January 1, 2023. Once meetings go back in person, meetings will likely be phased in beginning with boards and commissions meeting in a hybrid fashion and committees meeting in person only.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on September 13, 2022. **Move/Second:** Members Molnar/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the September 13, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Miner, Molnar, O’Connor, Tarbet, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Absent:** Mitchell
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave an update from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.
7. **EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS**
Member Miner introduced potential new EQC member Fred Bialy, who was interviewed by himself and member Tarbet prior to the EQC meeting.
Move/Second: Members Miner/O’Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend Fred Bialy for appointment to the EQC. **Ayes:** Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Miner, Molnar, O’Connor, Tarbet, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Absent:** Mitchell
8. **EQC ANNUAL WORK PLAN**
Chair Goudey provided an overview of the typical work plan development process and Vice-Chair Vekony volunteered to serve as the Committee’s editor to incorporate all feedback and suggestions for discussion at the November meeting.

9. GOALS OF THE EQC

EQC members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding the goals of the EQC.

Move/Second: Members Weinstein/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend the EQC support the sending of the memo from the EQC Goals Subcommittee to the City Manager. **Ayes:** Goudey, Vekony, Akacić, Miner, Mitchell, Molnar, O'Connor, Tarbet, and Weinstein **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel, Spitalnik, and Tsutsui

10. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff and Committee members provided updates on recent events the EQC has supported and discussed plans for future events in 2022, including:

- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Oct. 2, Sunday, Northern Gateways (Debrief)
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Berkeley Ride Electric event, October 15
 - <https://tinyurl.com/RideElectric2022>

11. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

EQC Members heard brief updates on items relating to implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the following:

- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/SEIR – EQC Comments
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - 100% renewable (deep green) power as the default electrical power source

12. EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!”

The Committee participated in discussion regarding implementation of the EQC’s workplan theme for 2022 to “Go Electric!”.

- Electrification Education
- [BayREN has increased its induction cooktop rebate from \\$300 to \\$750](#)
- PGE/Frontier Induction Burner Loaner Program
 - https://pge-induction.myturn.com/library/?WT.mc_id=Vanity_inductionloaner

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and Committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework
 - Link to the [JEDI Tool](#)
- Presentation on El Cerrito Trails and Pathways
- 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)
- Drought outreach
- Open Space Preservation
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Howdy Goudey, 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 11, 2022 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison

DRAFT



Environmental Quality Committee

2023 WORK PLAN

AND

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Members: Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Beth Molnar, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Neil Tsutsui, and David Weinstein

Because the City of El Cerrito recognizes that environmental quality is an important issue that demands immediate and ongoing attention, the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) was established in 2008 by Resolution 2008-13 as a Council-appointed body of up to 15 El Cerrito residents and business owners. It typically meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in City Council Chambers (or virtually as required). The enabling resolution identifies the whole City's role and responsibility in reducing environmental impacts and the EQC's role in providing environmental leadership and effecting cultural change in the way that the City and its residents relate to the environment.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Environmental Quality Committee's **mission** is to educate, inspire, and activate our community to thrive in a socially just, equitable, and regenerative manner.

The EQC **duties and responsibilities**, as stated in its enabling resolution, are

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. To promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito residents regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts

The EQC **goals** are

- To reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet or exceed targets of the El Cerrito Climate Action Plan, also proposing revised goals as appropriate
- To apply a framework of social, racial, and environmental justice in the implementation of our work
- To promote environmental education, action, engagement, equity, and justice
- To involve learners of all ages
- To help businesses and residents work and live in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly fashion
- To inform and champion the City's environmental policies and ordinances
- To change material use patterns by encouraging Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, and Composting
- To champion energy/water efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation
- To minimize hazardous chemical use and human/environmental exposure to toxins
- To protect, expand, and steward green spaces with public path/trail connectivity; maintain and restore natural areas with an emphasis on native ecosystems; and encourage a network of human/wildlife-friendly green habitat throughout the City
- To support water quality, healthy creeks and forests, and green infrastructure to increase resiliency in the face of climate change
- To bring attention to disadvantaged community members who are inequitably impacted by environmental degradation

The EQC's work is guided by the 2015–2020 El Cerrito Strategic Plan (excerpted below):

Goal F: Foster environmental sustainability citywide

- Be a leader in setting policies and providing innovative programs that promote environmental sustainability.
- Promote environmental education to facilitate behavioral changes by working with the school district and other community groups.
- Implement policies to promote waste diversion (i.e., mandatory commercial recycling and green waste).
- Encourage alternative modes of transportation to the single occupancy vehicle.
- Implement and monitor the City's Climate Action Plan to:
 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled (by creating well-connected, pedestrian, bicycle and transit-oriented urban forms that will make it easier for residents and visitors to leave their car behind.)
 - Facilitate energy and water efficiency and greater use and generation of clean energy
 - Reduce the amount of waste generated in El Cerrito
 - Make municipal operations more resource-efficient and environmentally friendly

On August 20, 2019, the City of El Cerrito approved a resolution (2019-52) and joined hundreds of jurisdictions across the globe in declaring a climate emergency. This resolution, which sets a target to reduce GHG emissions further, with the ultimate goal of reaching zero GHG emissions, has heightened both the urgency and import of the EQC's work.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since the EQC's establishment in 2008, the committee's emphasis has cycled between public education, community volunteer organization, and environmental policy, but the general commitment to all forms of action envisioned for the EQC has remained consistent over time. The committee has also maintained a fairly consistent size, with a number of long-serving members. More than 40 community members have served, and the committee is currently operating near its full 15-member capacity.

2023 WORK PLAN

OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	PRIORITY RANKING	TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION
1. Public Education and Outreach	a) Use “Act on the Climate Emergency!” as the EQC’s theme for 2023.	1	1 year
	b) Host public events (e.g., virtual films, lectures, webinars, workshops) to educate and mobilize residents about the Climate Emergency, sustainability, and resiliency.	1	1 year
	c) Implement our JEDI tool (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) as part of all our EQC work.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	d) Provide outreach for the new Foodware Ordinance and food waste composting to residents and businesses. In particular, educate residents about bioplastics vs. fiber-based materials that can be composted in El Cerrito.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	e) Participate in events and programs that encourage energy efficiency and electrification of buildings and transportation (e.g., Bay Area SunShares program to increase rooftop solar adoption; Ride and Drive Clean webinars, discount campaigns, and ride-and-drives; BayREN Home+ workshop; National Drive Electric Week).	1	1 year (ongoing)
	f) Co-sponsor the Hillside Festival and other related hikes and educational events	1	1 year (ongoing)
	g) Pilot public education and outreach to promote electrification in home retrofits and encourage the replacement of gas-powered home appliances and landscaping equipment; promote lending programs that facilitate electrification.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	h) Lead public outreach on water-saving measures and fire-safe practices (defensible space, xeriscaping).	1	1 year (ongoing)
	i) Co-sponsor Fix-it Clinic events to promote waste reduction.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	j) Support Citizen Scientist activities to increase awareness of El Cerrito’s biodiversity.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	k) Engage with the public at major City events that take place in 2023 and perform other outreach activities to spread awareness.	1	1 year (ongoing)

According to the only two responses received; OK?

In view of their ever-increasing urgency, I propose creating a new item for these two issues, tentatively added as sub-item h.

Tentative suggestion. suggest working with Sue Duncan and publicizing the topics in her email list, EC Firesafe.

	l) Continue enrollment outreach for MCE Deep Green 100% renewable power and other MCE programs	1	1 year (ongoing)
2. Volunteer Work Parties	Hold a Green Team work party every other month (~ 6/year); diversify work party activities; organize broom pulls and other regular habitat improvement projects.	1	1 year (ongoing)
3. Policy Development and Recommendations	a) Provide input to, and host public meeting for, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) update to accelerate achievement of zero net GHG emissions, as stated in our declared climate emergency; to promote electrification to reduce residential and commercial natural gas usage; and to focus on equity. Engage in the budget process to assure it includes CAP goals and provide recommendations to help achieve social, racial, and environmental justice goals.	1	1–2 years
	b) Develop and promote policies to increase electrification of new buildings and decrease or eliminate use of natural gas citywide, with a focus on new developments included in the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan update.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	c) Support efforts to promote and expand the use of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in the City; support current City efforts such as including charging infrastructure as part of the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan; provide more public charging in logical places as City budget permits.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	d) Interface with other relevant City commissions and committees to help develop environmentally friendly policies	1	1 year (ongoing)
4. Implementation of City Environmental Programs	a) Help implement City policies related to new State solid waste regulations for businesses and residents.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	b) Expand stewardship of Hillside Natural Area (invasive plants; deferred maintenance) and support wildfire risk reduction while preserving native plants and habitat (as a resource, provide access to the fire-safe plant list from ECFD/Diablo Fire).	1	1 year (ongoing)
	c) Support the work of the Urban Forest Committee and the potential Hillside Master Plan.	1	1 year (ongoing)

	<p>d) Support future acquisition of public open space or public access easements; help implement Urban Greening and Green Infrastructure Plans.</p> <p>e) Work to enhance and promote active transportation modes and access in El Cerrito and support the initiatives of the Sustainable Transportation Program.</p>	2/3	1 year (ongoing)
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Suggest adding something like this somewhere in the document (this may not be an “environmental program” per se, though it has a strong environmental impact). See under Goal F on p. 3. Now that the city has hired a Sustainable Transportation Manager and is proceeding with TOD housing (Mayfair market-rate housing at Del Norte, affordable units to come in 2023; Plaza project to break ground in 2024), our role as advocates of transit alternatives is crucial. Perhaps partner with EC Strollers and Rollers.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING GOAL
<p>1. Public Education and Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Helped plan and develop the 50th Anniversary event for the Recycling Center, providing historical programming/speakers, original poetry, a custom upcycled artistic banner, food and more. b) Promoted electric vehicle outreach and education in collaboration with Drive Clean Bay Area. c) Participated in National Drive Electric Week events. d) Promoted electrification of vehicles, home heating and cooking, including induction cooktop loaner programs. e) Promoted the SunShares program. f) Began a recurring agenda item to present an example of environmental art at each meeting. g) Promoted and hosted 2022 Earth Day work parties. h) Co-sponsored 2022 East Bay Green Home Tour. i) Promoted the postponed 7th Annual Hillside Festival, co-sponsored with El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. j) Participated in the relaunched 4th of July Festival and Bike-to-Work day event with electrification outreach. k) Received a presentation on a workshop regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety and the formation of El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers. l) Co-hosted a Fix-it Clinic event. m) Maintained steady coordination with the Urban Forest Committee, including participation in Arbor Week event.
<p>2. Volunteer Work Parties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Organized in-person Green Team work parties, including trash removal from streets, parks, and creeks and participation in Coastal Clean-up Day; held broom pulls in the Hillside Natural Area.
<p>3. Policy Development and Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Developed Climate Action Recommendations and presented them to City Council. b) Supported relaunch of the Expanded Foodware Ordinance, with the goal of reducing plastic usage in the City, and hosted a public meeting to support the outreach process. c) Provided additional environmental recommendations for the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update. d) Developed and adopted a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) evaluation tool to inform EQC work.
<p>4. Implementation of City Environmental Programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Supported City programs through public education, outreach, and work parties, to the extent possible during the pandemic.

ONGOING PROJECTS

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES
1. Green Team Work Parties	Coordinate roughly six trash clean-up events each year in various City parks, the Ohlone Greenway, and City streets. Organize other volunteer work parties focused on weed/invasive plant removal, pollinator habitat restoration/stewardship, tree planting (in collaboration with the Urban Forest Committee and City arborist), and maintenance/stewardship of the Hillside Natural Area.
2. Hillside Festival	Assist Trail Trekkers in production of the annual event celebrating the Hillside Natural Area with many hikes, talks, and activities.
3. Climate Action Plan Implementation and Progress Metrics	Work with City staff to evaluate successes and opportunities as we further implement the Climate Action Plan. Explore opportunities to reduce residential natural gas use and promote electrification of home appliances and automobiles as a complement to 100% renewable electrical power. Promote improved municipal electric vehicle infrastructure/readiness and fleet management. Explore ways to achieve greater social, racial, and environmental justice.
4. Urban Greening Implementation	Organize volunteer work parties and aid in policy/program development to strengthen pollinator habitat and green infrastructure.
5. Future Project Ideas/Areas to Explore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Liaise with other City commissions/committees to ensure sustainability considerations. Increase EQC participation on related topics in City budget process. b) Explore environmental benefits/impacts of new development. c) Participate in regional climate action information sharing and coordination. d) Provide education about the El Cerrito Real Property Transfer Tax (RPTT) rebates for seismic upgrades and energy and water conservation. e) Provide emergency preparedness education (e.g., PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs). f) Review how the City cares for its creeks and riparian habitats.