In the spirit of the holiday next week, I want to give thanks to our El Cerrito community for continuing to stick together, look out for each other, and thrive despite the challenges we’ve faced during the many months of the pandemic. I’m grateful for the resilience, compassion, and kindness of our neighbors. I’m also grateful for the community’s patience and understanding as our City keeps working hard to make our way through to a brighter future.

I am extremely thankful for the City Council’s leadership throughout these challenging times. They have faced many difficult and painful decisions, yet never lost sight of the need to ensure our City is healthy in every respect. The Council has listened to the community, provided direction, and taken action on many recommendations from the State Auditor resulting in real, structural changes that now serve as the foundation to provide financial sustainability. Our fiscal health has already improved and I’m grateful to the Council for working with City staff to move forward thoughtfully and strategically. The Council has also ensured that the public’s health, safety, and well-being are at the forefront of their decision making. They are a group that is devoted to El Cerrito, and I am proud to work for them.

I’d like to give thanks as well for the wonderful, talented, and dedicated City staff team that I work beside every day. They have weathered the storm of the past two years and have still shown time and again how committed they are to this community. They have continued to provide services to the best of their ability despite pandemic restrictions and limitations, made sacrifices both personal and professional, and have held their heads high no matter what they have had to face. Most importantly, they care about this City and they care about each other. I couldn’t ask for a better City staff team and I am humbled and proud to work with them all.

I encourage everyone in the El Cerrito community to take a minute to pause and reflect on what we all have to be thankful for. It has been a hard couple of years, for sure. We have faced loss and have seen many challenges, and these are still anxious times for many people. But we are all still here, we live in an amazing place, and in the end we will be better for all that we have been through. I am beyond thankful to be a part of the El Cerrito family. Thank you all, so much.

Please be safe and take care of yourselves and each other.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Karen Pinkos
City Manager
**CITY MANAGEMENT**

**El Cerrito Minimum Wage Increases 4.9% to $16.37 on January 1, 2022**
Starting January 1, 2022, the City’s minimum wage will increase from $15.61 per hour to $16.37 per hour. The City Minimum Wage Standards require all employers to pay their employees no less than the minimum wage for all hours worked in the City of El Cerrito, regardless of where the business is headquartered. (Employees who work less than two hours a week within El Cerrito are exempt.) Each year, the wage will increase based on changes in the local Consumer Price Index. Employers and workers with questions about the El Cerrito Minimum Wage Ordinance can visit [el-cerrito.org/wages](http://el-cerrito.org/wages) or contact Alexandra Orologas, Assistant City Manager, at [aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:aorologas@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or at (510) 215-4302.

**COVID-19 Information – Children Ages 5-11 Now Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccines! Now More Residents Can Receive Booster Shots**
State and Federal health officials have approved Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11, paving the way for an additional 92,000 county residents to get immunized. Initial demand for the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be high as eager parents seek protection for their children. Parents and caregivers should check with their child's regular healthcare provider or local pharmacies about availability. Parents and caregivers can schedule appointments for kids ages 5-11 at Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) vaccination sites. The pediatric COVID-19 vaccine is one-third the dosage given to teens and adults and smaller needles will be used. Like with adults, children ages 5-11 still must get two shots at least three weeks apart to get the maximum protection of the vaccine. For more information, please follow the links below:

Vaccines for Kids: [https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine-for-kids](https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine-for-kids)
Local Pharmacies Providing Vaccines for Children: [https://www.vaccines.gov/search/](https://www.vaccines.gov/search/)
County Vaccination Sites: [https://covidvaccine.cchealth.org/COVIDVaccine/](https://covidvaccine.cchealth.org/COVIDVaccine/)

The agencies that regulate vaccines have expanded eligibility for booster shots to more people, and found that it was OK for people who were first immunized with one of the three available vaccines to get a booster dose of a different vaccine if they prefer. The Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are all safe and highly effective both at preventing infection from COVID-19, and preventing serious illness in people who do become infected. But, as with most vaccines, their protection reduces over time.

Anyone who is 18 or older and received the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine should receive a booster of any of the three available vaccines after at least two months have passed since their initial dose.
Anyone who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine should get a booster dose, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), if at least six months have passed since they completed their initial course of vaccination, and they are:

- 65 or older
- residents of long-term care facilities
- 50 to 64 with underlying medical conditions or who are at increased risk of severe COVID-19 due to social inequities, including those from communities of color
- those who are 18 to 49 with underlying health conditions
- those who are 18 to 64 and are at increased risk of COVID-19 exposure due to their occupation or institutional setting

People previously vaccinated with Moderna vaccine who may consider receiving a booster, based on their individual benefits and risks, include:

More than 87% of Contra Costa residents who are 12 or older have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and more than 82% are fully vaccinated.

CCHS' free vaccination clinics will also offer booster doses by appointment to anyone who is eligible. Call 1-833-829-2626 to make an appointment, or use the County’s online form at https://covidvaccine.cchealth.org/COVIDVaccine/. For information about pharmacies and other providers that offer COVID-19 vaccine to the public, visit the County’s Get Vaccinated site at: https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-vaccinated. Most providers will require appointments.

Vacancies on County Community Advisory Board on Public Safety Realignment
Contra Costa County’s Community Advisory Board on Public Safety Realignment is looking for members from West Contra Costa County to serve on this board. The Board meets the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. – Noon at the Probation Department located on 50 Douglas Drive, 2nd Floor in Martinez. As of January 1, 2022, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) will have vacancies for two (2) Voting Member seats, and three (3) Alternate Member seats.

For more information about the Board and how to apply, please visit: http://www.contracosta.gov/4165/Community-Advisory-Board and refer to the enclosed flyer.

CITY CLERK

Recent City Council Meeting Highlights
October 5, 2021 (Regular Meeting)

- Recognized Children’s Environmental Health Month and National Arts & Humanities Month
- Appointed Patrick Swen (Economic Development Committee)
- Authorized continuation of remote meetings (AB361) through November 5, 2021
- Received an overview from District Attorney Diana Becton
• Adopted revisions to the Master Fee Schedule
• Held a cost hearing for identified properties under the Fire Hazard Abatement program
• Discussed and took action to adopt state contribution limits and regulations for local elections

**October 19, 2021 (Regular Meeting)**
• Recognized Filipino American History Month
• Received work plan presentation from the Park and Recreation Commission
• Adopted regulation changes to Boards, Commissions, and Committees (details below)

**October 25, 2021 (Special Meeting)**
• Closed session (no reportable action)

**November 2, 2021 (Regular Meeting)**
• Recognized Shelter-in-Place Education Day, United against Hate Week, and contributions of El Cerrito Resident Chris Treadway
• Authorized continuation of remote meetings (AB361) through December 5, 2021
• Received an update from PG&E on measures being taken to decrease power outages
• Held Fire Hazard Abatement Declaration Hearing
• Held public hearing and first reading of 1) Ordinance regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations and 2) Expanded Foodware Ordinance requiring reusable or compostable products and prohibiting plastic straws and stirrers.
• Received FY2020-21 General Fund Budget update through September 202

**November 16, 2021 (Regular Meeting)**
• Adopted Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations and Foodware Ordinances
• Received an Economic Development Committee Workplan
• Received a presentation by Segorea Te Land Trust
• Held a public hearing and first Reading on Solid Waste/Organics (SB1383) Ordinance
• Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) thresholds and analyzing transportation impacts under CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

**Upcoming City Council Meeting(s) (held via Zoom)**
*Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.*
• City Council Reorganization

Agenda materials and public comment instructions are available online at [www.el-cerrito.org/CouncilMeetingMaterials](http://www.el-cerrito.org/CouncilMeetingMaterials) as well as video archives. For more information, please contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 215-4305.

**Update on City Boards, Commissions, and Committees**

Following the September study session held by City Council on Boards, Commissions, and Committees (advisory bodies), the City Council took action at the October 19, 2021 meeting to
adopt the following modification regarding city advisory body membership:

- Term limits for City Committees have been increased to three 4-year terms. Boards, Commissions, and Citizens Streets Oversight Committee term limits remain at two 4-year terms.
- All applicants for city advisory bodies are now required to attend 2 of the last 3 meetings of the advisory body applied for prior to submitting an application of interest to the City Clerk.
- All advisory body members are now required to complete two hours of ethics training every two years. Initial training is due by November 19, 2021.
- Newly appointed advisory members are required to complete orientation/handbook training within 30 days of appointment.

To find out more information about city advisory bodies, please visit [www.el-cerrito.org/commissions](http://www.el-cerrito.org/commissions) or contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

**Now Accepting Applications for 2022 Term Expirations**
The City Council is currently seeking applications for 17 seats set to expire on March 1, 2022 including:

- Arts & Culture Commission (2)
- Citizens Streets Oversight Committee (3)
- Civil Service Commission (1)
- Design Review Board (2)
- Economic Development Committee (1)
- Human Relations Commission (2)
- Park and Recreation Commission (2)
- Planning Commission (2)
- El Cerrito Representative on the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee (1)
- El Cerrito Representative on the Contra Costa County Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees (1)

Members of Boards, Commissions and Committees provide an invaluable service to our community. Serving as an advisory body member can be a rewarding experience for residence wanting to serve their community. It is an excellent way to participate in local government and to make a personal contribution to the improvement to the El Cerrito community. For more information, visit: [https://tinyurl.com/y65p422w](https://tinyurl.com/y65p422w).

Attendance is required at two of the last three meetings of the advisory body applied for prior to submitting an application. **The deadline to apply is Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Brief interviews are tentatively scheduled for February 8 and 14, 2022.** Open recruitment is done year-round
should any unexpected vacancies occur, and any applications received after the deadline will be kept on file (for a period of one year) for this purpose.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**San Pablo Avenue Development & Complete Streets Virtual Open House**

On Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., join City staff via zoom to discuss San Pablo Avenue current and proposed residential, commercial, and public projects. A draft *San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update* (SPASP) and *Supplemental Environmental Impact Report* (EIR) Update will be released early December and additional public meetings will be held at that time to receive public comment. To virtually attend this event, please access the meeting details below.

**Webinar Link:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85147849775](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85147849775)

**Webinar ID:** 851 4784 9775

**Join by Phone:** 1-408-638-0968

For more information, please visit: [http://www.el-cerrito.org/SPASPCurrent](http://www.el-cerrito.org/SPASPCurrent).

**Building Permits**

For the month of October, 109 building permits were issued, 64 permits were “finaled” (e.g. closed out) and 103 new permit applications were received. At this time, application processing for building permits requiring plan check is approximately 30 days from the date a complete application is submitted. Over the Counter permits are available virtually through eTraklt or at the physical counter at City Hall. Approximately 46 Over the Counter permits were issued in October. Building staff is also continuing to work in soft launch mode with eTraklt with the goal of opening it up and promoting more widely in Winter 2021. In October, a total of 20 solar permits were issued and the Department is also continuing to be in communication with SolarApp+ staff about making that permitting system available. Given that system will coordinate with eTraklt, staff is first working to make that platform stable in order to begin integration.

**Earthquake Brace + Bolt Program: Registration is Open!**

The annual registration for the Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) is now open. EBB is a $3,000 rebate program that California homeowners can take advantage of to perform residential seismic retrofit improvements. This year, EBB is also offering an additional $3,000 grant to low-income homeowners who qualify. By bracing the crawl space and bolting the foundation of your property, it will become more resilient during an earthquake. El Cerrito homeowners who purchased a property within the last year and undertake seismic upgrades may also be eligible for a rebate of the Real Property Transfer Tax. To register for the EBB lottery, apply by December 1, 2021 at [www.earthquakebracebolt.com](http://www.earthquakebracebolt.com).
New Business Update

*Annapurna Mart*, a new grocery store specializing in organic Indian and Nepalese products in the shopping center at San Pablo Avenue and Potrero (1299 San Pablo Avenue, Suite K), recently opened and is currently open 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily.

A building permit application for *banter*, a new wine bar with small bites/charcuterie, is being reviewed by the Building Division and a public hearing for Tier I Design Review and an Administrative Use Permit was held on November 16, 2021 (see Planning Commission/Design Review Board/Zoning Administrator Update below).

The Zoning Administrator will be scheduling a meeting to consider an Administrative Use Permit for a new urgent care veterinary clinic at 10612 San Pablo Avenue (near Moeser). This clinic will provide fast, urgent care services for domestic animals; and is intended to bridge the gap between typical veterinary practices which require appointments and emergency veterinary hospitals where care can take longer and can be more expensive.

Staff is regularly in contact with the Regency Centers regarding current vacancies at the El Cerrito Plaza. According to Regency leadership, they are in contact with several national franchises regarding the former *Bed, Bath & Beyond* site and are working through the re-tenanting process for the former *MOD Pizza* and *Rubios* restaurant spaces, reaching out to local and national restaurants.

*Big 5* closed its El Cerrito location last month. *Harbor Freight Tools* is in its final round of Building Permit review. City staff is reaching out to other sporting goods and commercial property owners hoping to attract a new sporting goods store to El Cerrito.

*Mayfair Station* is aiming to be ready for *Certificate of Occupancy* by the end of the year. As the commercial space/storefronts, sidewalks and landscaping are currently being completed, marketing the commercial spaces is ramping up.

New Development Update

**10290 San Pablo Avenue:** A Building Permit application was submitted in October to begin construction on 54 new rental housing units, including 4 live/work units. The project will also contribute to the City’s Affordable Housing Trust fund to meet their Inclusionary Zoning Requirements. City staff will share the status of the building permit and project schedule once plans are reviewed. Visit [www.el-cerrito.org/majorprojects](http://www.el-cerrito.org/majorprojects) for more information about the project.

**Transit Oriented Development (TOD) at El Cerrito Plaza:** At the October 28, 2021 BART Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to set the maximum replacement parking at El Cerrito Plaza BART at 250 and for there to be no minimum. The next steps are for BART to continue evaluating alternative mobility options in collaboration with City staff and to work with the City to identify and obtain funding to further develop the on-street parking program. With this
replacement parking range, and concurrent studies underway regarding site circulation and access needs, the development team will be refining their site plan concepts and anticipate presenting their concepts at a joint Planning Commission/Design Review Board study session in early 2022.

**Planning Commission/Design Review Board/Zoning Administrator Update**  
On October 20, 2021, the Planning Commission approved modifications to the approved 90-unit project at 10919 San Pablo Avenue, which will allow the project to move into the construction phase. The Commission also recommended adoption of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Thresholds of Significance for analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which will appear on the City Council’s November 16, 2021 agenda for consideration.

On November 3, 2021, the Design Review Board will consider a Tier II Design Review application for a new daycare center located at 729 Kearney Street. The Planning Commission previously approved a Use Permit for the daycare on October 20, 2021.

On November 16, 2021, the Zoning Administrator considered a Tier I Design Review application for new building wall signage and an Administrative Use Permit application to allow a wine bar that sells prepackaged meat, cheese, olives, and other small bites at 10368 San Pablo Avenue.

On November 17, 2021, the Planning Commission considered a proposed 373 sq. ft. addition of a single-family house at 1006 Everett Street, that requires a Conditional Use Permit for enlarging a house considered legally nonconforming because it contains no covered parking spaces and for expanding a nonconforming side setback.

On November 29, 2021, the Zoning Administrator will consider Tier I Design Review applications for the following: revised signage at the Valero gas station at 11687 San Pablo Avenue; revisions to the outdoor seating area at Los Moles at 6120 Potrero Avenue; and new signage for a new UPS Store at 11465 San Pablo Avenue.

For more information on any of these projects, please contact the Planning Division at planning@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

**Annual Business License Renewals: Program Update**  
All businesses operating in El Cerrito, including rental properties, are required to apply for and obtain a Business License in accordance with El Cerrito Municipal Code, Chapter 4.32. Rental properties are also required to complete the annual Rent Registry. The annual business license fee was due on July 1 and payments received after July 31, 2021 may be subject to penalty. The City mailed out detailed information in June 2021 during the annual business license renewal period. As of
November 1, 2021, City staff processed 1,983 renewals and 105 Final Past-Due notices were mailed on October 29, 2021.

To renew a business license, please visit the Business License webpage [www.el-cerrito.org/businesslicenses](http://www.el-cerrito.org/businesslicenses) for more information on how to renew online or in-person. We realize the pandemic has affected many businesses, and should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact City staff at [businesslicense@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:businesslicense@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or (510) 215-4314 to discuss your situation.

**Housing Resources**

**November 2021 Affordable Housing Opportunities** — Click [here](http://www.el-cerrito.org/affordablehousing) for a listing of all Bay Area Counties (Courtesy of [Openhouse](http://www.el-cerrito.org/affordablehousing)). Please visit [www.el-cerrito.org/affordablehousing](http://www.el-cerrito.org/affordablehousing) for additional listings.

**Rental Housing in El Cerrito**

Are you a property owner/tenant and want to know more about the City’s rental requirements? The City has a centralized website to help you better understand the process for operating rentals in El Cerrito. Please visit [www.el-cerrito.org/rentalhousing](http://www.el-cerrito.org/rentalhousing) for more details.

**COVID-19 Rent Relief**

*Are you experiencing financial hardship with unpaid rent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?* If so, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors recently approved an additional $71 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding for Contra Costa County tenants and landlords through a program already being administered by the state, [HousingIsKey.com](http://HousingIsKey.com). Additional funding by the County was also dedicated to legal services for tenants. Tenants that have a household income that is not more than 80% of the area median income (as shown [here](http://www.el-cerrito.org/affordablehousing)), can submit applications through the state’s Housing is Key website or by contacting 833-430-2122 (toll free) daily between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Those who are approved may receive up to 100% of their rent/utility payments.

**Still have questions?** ECHO Housing and Centro Legal de la Raza are providing counseling, mediation, and legal services to El Cerrito and Contra Costa County residents are experiencing financial hardship with unpaid rent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](http://www.el-cerrito.org/rentalhousing) to learn more.
Call for Service
The Fire Department responded to a total of 349 calls for service in October. Total recap of all the calls for September 2021 are as follows:

1. Fires: 30
2. Explosions/Ruptures: 0
3. Medicals: 99
4. Hazardous Conditions: 28
5. Service Calls: 91
6. Good Intent: 78
7. False Alarms: 23

Out of County Deployment
With the recent rains and snow throughout the State, the fire threat has greatly diminished and in fact many Counties and agencies have declared an end of Fire Season. There have been no new major fires since early October, however, there are crews still monitoring many of the fire locations as there is a possibility of debris flow or slides. While the Fire Department has no staff deployed, so far this year personnel have responded 20 occasions to nine different fires and have logged over 8,100 hours throughout California.

Fire Season
The 2021 Fire Season started off early this year and was on track to break last year’s records. Thankfully, the October rains have slowed this prospect. At this time there have been over 8,200 incidents this year and approximately 2,500,000 acres have burned in the State. There were also over 3,600 structures that were damaged or destroyed and only three fatalities due to the fires reported.

Accepting Donations for the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Program
The El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department is working with the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program to spread the word about the need for monetary donations and donating toys to support families in need. To make an on-line donation, please visit: https://t.co/QJbf5g2jey. If you wish to drop off toys for the campaign, they may be dropped off at both El Cerrito Fire Stations and the Kensington Fire Station. Toy barrels will also be located at the El Cerrito Community Center, City Hall, and the Police Department. The last drop-off day is December 18. All toys must be new and unwrapped. No toy weapons or stuffed animals are accepted. Donate early so that the Marines have time to sort, shop and deliver. For more information, please contact Fire Captain Damien Carrion at (510) 215-4450.
POLICE

Calls for Service
The El Cerrito Police Department (ECPD) handled 1,604 calls for service in October. This averages out to over 50 calls for service each day. To learn more about the types of crimes ECPD investigates on a weekly basis, sign up for our blotter at www.nixle.com.

Halloween
Halloween proved to be an uneventful evening of trick-or-treating in El Cerrito. El Cerrito Officers spent the evening responding to regular calls for service, including a stolen motorcycle, theft from a clothing retailer and, if you can believe it, someone stealing candy from a store. Between calls, Officers passed out candy to kids and did their part to make sure our community’s families were having a safe and fun night.

Shooting Incident
At around noon on October 31, 2021, a person driving a silver Jeep Cherokee pulled up next to an unoccupied vehicle in the 100 block of Carmel Ave. and fired a single bullet into the car. The suspect fled northbound on Carmel toward Lynn Ave. If you live in the area, the ECPD Investigators are asking you to review your home surveillance footage to see if you have video of the suspect vehicle.

PUBLIC WORKS

Recycling Center Now Open Mondays and Upcoming Holiday Hours
The Recycling + Environmental Resource Center is now open six days per week, Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 4:45pm.

For the upcoming holidays, the Center will be closed as follows:

- Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 (Christmas)
- Thursday, Dec. 31 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (New Year’s Eve)
- Friday, Jan. 1 (New Year’s Day)

Curbside collection will occur as normally scheduled Monday through Friday. For more information, please call (510) 215-4350 or email greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.
Carlson Blvd and San Diego Street Crosswalk Improvements Completed!
In October, the City completed the much anticipated improvements including rapid flashing beacons, high-visibility signing, and street lighting for the crosswalks on Carlson Blvd at San Diego Street. The pedestrian safety improvements at this intersection are part of the BART to Bay Bicycle and Pedestrian Connector/Cerrito Creek Trail identified in the El Cerrito Active Transportation Plan (ATP), adopted by City Council in 2016, and are in the highest priority category in the ATP. Carlson Boulevard in this area is one of the busiest street segments in El Cerrito and San Diego Street provides direct pedestrian access to the Pacific East Mall, San Pablo Avenue Downtown district, and a high-density residential neighborhoods. The improvements were funded by a Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Pedestrian and Bicycle state grant and the SB 1 Local Street and Roads Program.

Free Compost Giveaway For El Cerrito Residents and Businesses
Free compost for El Cerrito residents and businesses only at a new pilot location. Compost will be available at the Upper Cerrito Vista Parking Lot adjacent to the tennis courts (entrance off of Avis Drive) through Sunday, November 20, 2021. Available while supplies last. Limit of five cubic feet per household or business (approximately seven five-gallon buckets). For more information email greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 215-4350

Gladys Avenue, El Dorado Street, B Street Improvement Project – Construction Begins Soon
Construction of the Gladys Avenue, El Dorado Street, B Street Improvement Project is scheduled to begin this month. The project will rehabilitate the roadway pavement, reconstruct sections of sidewalk, curb, and gutter damaged by street trees, reconstruct storm drain facilities, install new and modified curb ramps, and install enhanced traffic signing and pavement markings. The limits of the project are Gladys Avenue from Lexington Avenue to Richmond Street, El Dorado Street from Carlson Boulevard to San Pablo Avenue, and B Street from Behrens Street to Ashbury Avenue as shown in the map below.
The project is funded by the City’s Measure A Street Improvement funds and SB 1 Local Partnership Program funds.

The City has contracted with California Highway Construction Group, Inc. to complete this work, which is scheduled to start this week and be completed in January 2022, weather permitting. Construction activities will typically start at 8:00 a.m. and finish by 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Access to streets, driveways, parking, and other facilities will be temporarily affected at various points during this time. Residents and the traveling public should expect some delays in these areas, stay alert for temporary traffic control and parking restrictions, and consider using alternative routes. The Public Works Department will be mailing letters to residents and property owners directly affected by the construction this week. California Highway Construction Group will also be delivering notices (door hangers) to residents before construction begins on their
The notice will contain additional information about the work scheduled, access impacts and contact information.

The public’s patience and cooperation during construction of this project is greatly appreciated. To stay up-to-date about the construction and contact information, please visit www.el-cerrito.org/GEBStreetImprovements. For general questions about the project, please contact the City’s Public Works Department at (510) 215-4382 or the City’s Engineering Manager, Ana Bernardes, at abernardes@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

**Clean Water Program Annual Report Highlights & Potential NPDES Permit Changes**

At the end of September, Public Works staff submitted the 2020-21 Annual Report for the City’s Clean Water Program to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board). The report highlighted El Cerrito’s continued efforts to meet and exceed the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Notable highlights included: Completion of the San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine Project, which added a new green infrastructure facility on San Pablo Avenue at Moeser Lane; Continuation of the City’s moratorium on the use of glyphosate in all city landscapes; Reviewing and monitoring a growing number of stormwater projects built alongside new development, which now number in the double digits; and a robust public outreach and education campaign even through the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also documented the City’s challenges with conducting construction inspections as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the City fiscal crisis. Every year, this report highlights the significant efforts undertaken by the City to meet the requirements of our permit through public outreach, municipal operations, trash reduction, green infrastructure, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and new development and construction review.

A new NPDES permit is likely to be issued within the next year, with new requirements and changes that are expected to increase the resources necessary for the City to stay in compliance. A Tentative Order recently released by the Water Board included potential new requirements to: include Green Infrastructure in certain road maintenance projects, which could crowd out funding available for roads maintenance; Eliminate “trash reduction credits” for source control policies (e.g., foodware ordinances) and credits for volunteer cleanups, which have been proven to be effective at preventing trash from entering receiving waters; implement best management practices to address impacts on water quality from unsheltered populations; manage trash on private property; conduct additional monitoring and reporting; and a variety of other proposed changes.
City Staff, in coordination with the Contra Costa Clean Water Program and other stormwater agencies, are providing feedback to the Water Board on the cost implications of some of the proposed requirements and practical challenges to implementation and is hopeful that the final permit that is issued will include language that incorporates feedback received from municipalities. In coordination with several other local agency members of the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, the City’s Operations + Environmental Services Division Manager, Will Provost, provided testimony regarding these issues at the Water Board Public Workshop on October 12, 2021. City Staff will continue to stay engaged in this process, provide updates to the City Council regarding cost implications, and will be planning for implementation of new programs to meet new requirements as soon as calendar year 2022.

For more information, please contact the City’s Operations + Environmental Services Division at wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 559-7684.

Updates from Public Works Maintenance and Planned Playground Repairs
The Public Works Maintenance section is responsible for ongoing maintenance and operations associated with parks and public spaces, landscaping, streets and sidewalks, trails, storm drains, public creeks, and city facilities, as well as streetlights, traffic signals, signs, and pavement markings. Maintenance Staff also serve as first responders for everything from tree failures and irrigation leaks to storm events and flooding issues. Below are some recent highlights from Public Works Maintenance:

- Completed resurfacing at Cerrito Vista Tennis Courts (pictured at right)
- Responded to historic rain event and prevented major flooding issues by keeping drain inlets, trash racks, and other hot spots clear of debris
- Coordination of a large fire fuel reduction project in the Hillside Natural Area
- Coordination of homeless encampment cleanups at various locations
- Continued response to requests for service for graffiti removal, trip hazard patching and repair, illegal dumping, tree pruning, and more

Recent work has also included coordination of multiple repairs at City parks and playgrounds, including the repair of playground slides at Arlington Park, Poinsett Park, and Cerrito Vista, which all had safety issues arise within a short period. To complete specialized projects, such as these, the City frequently uses outside contractors to ensure the work is completed by certified technicians. Unfortunately, due to supply chain issues and labor shortages, parts have taken longer to procure, and contractors have been more difficult to schedule for some projects. Nonetheless, the City has signed agreements with vendors and is optimistic that all three slides will be repaired in the coming weeks.
For more information or to make a maintenance request, please email Maintenance@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 215-4369. To report urgent maintenance issues that require immediate attention after normal business hours (evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays), please call Police Dispatch at (510) 233-1214.

Get Solar and Storage with Bay Area SunShares
The City of El Cerrito is again participating as an outreach partner to support the Bay Area SunShares program. SunShares provides a 15% discount on solar installations and a 10% discount on home battery storage to all Bay Area residents, in partnership with pre-vetted solar installers. SunShares can also help community members Opt-Up to 100% renewable energy with MCE Clean Energy. Interested residents can sign up at www.bayareasunshares.org to take advantage of the SunShares discount and receive a free, zero commitment, solar proposal.

Over 900 Bay Area households have gone solar with SunShares. Whether the goal is to power one’s home with clean energy or keep the lights on during PSPS events, SunShares may be able to help. Signups are open until November 30, 2021.

RECREATION

Teen/Adult Lessons Offered Year-Round
The El Cerrito Swim Center will be offering Teen/Adult Lessons year-round and new times available:

Beginner: Monday/Wednesday, November 29 – December 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
Intermediate: Monday/Wednesday, November 29 – December 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
Fitness: Monday/Wednesday November 29 – December 15, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Other times continuing year-round:

Beginner: Monday/Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday at 8:00 a.m.
Intermediate: Monday/Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
Fitness: Monday/Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 11:00 a.m.
Private: Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

To register, visit www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg and click on "Swim Center Programs"
Unity Day
Unity Day was celebrated Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at Teeter Tots, Madera and Harding campuses. Fairmont ended up closed that day due to power issues, so that celebration was held on Thursday, October 21, 2021. Over 200 children from all sites learned strategies for empowerment and empathy to deter bullying and encourage inclusion.

Thanksgiving & Holiday Break Camp
From Monday, November 22, 2021 through Wednesday, November 24, 2021, the Recreation Department will host a three-day Thanksgiving Camp for grades K-6 at the Harding Clubhouse from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The program is currently full, but waitlist registrations continue to be accepted at www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg. If space becomes available, families on the waitlist will be notified.

Holiday Break Camps will also run as three-day camps from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Harding Clubhouse. Camp will run from Monday, December 20, 2021 through Wednesday, December 22, 2021 as well as Monday, December 27, 2021 through Wednesday, December 29, 2021. Registration for Holiday Camp opened on November 15 at 8:00 a.m. online at www.el-cerrito.org/onlinereg.

Easy Ride Senior & Disabled Transportation Service
Easy Ride Senior and Disabled Transportation is a shuttle van service for seniors (65 and over) and persons 18 and over with a disability who are El Cerrito residents. The program is funded by Measure J Sales Tax. Registration in our Easy Ride Para-Transit program is required and must be renewed annually. Registration information is available at https://www.el-cerrito.org/adult. For more information, email recreation@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 559-7000.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City is pleased to offer the following employment opportunities:

- Assistant Gymnastic Coach – Part-Time
- Childcare Teacher – Part-Time
- Finance Director/City Treasurer
- Police Captain
- Police Officer – Lateral and Academy Graduate
- Police Officer – Recruit
- Water Aerobics Instructor – Part-Time
For more information about the positions and how to apply, please visit: www.elcerrito.org/jobs.

ATTACHMENTS/FLYERS

- Community Advisory Board on Public Safety Realignment Flyer
- San Pablo Avenue Development & Complete Streets Virtual Open House
- El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department Toys for Tots Flyer
WHAT IS CAB?

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Public Safety Realignment was established by the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Executive Committee in December 2012 to provide input on community needs and encourage outcomes that are consistent with the County's Reentry Strategic Plan. The Community Advisory Board includes **anyone interested in public safety issues** and members with expertise in:

- domestic violence prevention
- workforce development
- behavioral health issues
- post-release reentry services
- adult education within a correctional setting
- services for reentering women
- criminal and drug court
- crime survivors
- law and policy related to issues of the formerly incarcerated

CAB meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.

**ALL MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID**
YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Be part of the solution to end the cycle of recidivism and mass incarceration.

Who should apply?
Anyone who works or lives in Contra Costa

What is your ideal candidate?
Members of the community touched by the justice system in some way, criminal justice reform advocates, people who have worked with justice involved populations, and anyone interested in public safety issues are all encouraged to apply.

How long is the commitment?
Terms are for one year with a term limit of three years.

Where is CAB’s application?
Applications are on the CAB website at: https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/8376/CAB-Member-Application

When should I apply?
APPLY NOW as applications are continuously reviewed.

Refer your questions to CAB’s Outreach & Community Engagement Subcommittee:
(925) 335-6440 • CAB.OCEC@gmail.com
San Pablo Avenue Development & Complete Streets

Virtual Open House

We invite you to listen, learn and provide feedback!

Date/Time: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 5PM
Meeting Location: Zoom Webinar

The San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan (Plan), adopted in 2014, laid the groundwork for new residential and commercial development as well as increased economic activity along the San Pablo Avenue corridor. The Plan aligns with the City’s goals and policies in the Affordable Housing Strategy, Climate Action and Economic Development Action Plans. The Plan is currently being updated and a draft Plan will be released late 2021.

Join City staff to discuss San Pablo Avenue current and proposed residential, commercial, and public projects.

To virtually attend this event, please access the meeting details below.

Webinar Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85147849775
Webinar ID: 851 4784 9775
Join by Phone: 1-408-638-0968

For more background information, please visit www.el-cerrito.org/SPASPCurrent or www.el-cerrito.org/majorprojects. You may also contact the Community Development Department at community@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-215-4361.
Toys for Tots

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
EL CERRITO FIRE DEPARTMENT
AND THE US MARINE CORPS

Beginning November 1st through December 18th drop off a new unwrapped toy at any fire station in El Cerrito and Kensington.

*No toy weapons or stuffed animals accepted*

For questions contact Captain Carrion at ECFD (510) 215-4450