



Staff Liaison

Bridget Cooney | (510) 559-7008
bcooney@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

This information can be interpreted for you free of charge. Visit City Hall at 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 or learn more at www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess

Esta información se puede interpretar gratuitamente. Visite el Ayuntamiento en 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 o obtenga más información en www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess

这些信息可免费为您解释。请访问位于 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 的市政厅，或访问 www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess 了解更多信息

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON AGING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025, 3 p.m.

City of El Cerrito Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave
El Cerrito, CA 94530

3 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Dr. Pansy Kwong; Vice-Chair Mark Watson; Members Buddy Akacic, Linda Cain, Katherine Cesa, Carol Kehoe, Steve Lipson, Lisa Martinengo, Pamela Wagner, Bruce Yow
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** (5 min.)
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. Remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** (5 min.)
Staff and/or Council Liaison Quinto may report on policies, priorities, and action taken by the City Council, and/or on matters of general interest to the Committee on Aging.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (5 min.)
Consider a motion adopting the minutes from the September 17, 2025 meeting.
5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT** (5 min.)
Chair Dr. Kwong announces the appointment off Elisa Montemayor as a member of the Committee on Aging by City Council at the October 7, 2025, Council Meeting.
6. **SENIOR CENTER ACTION COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION** (10 min.)
Representatives from the Senior Center Action Committee will share information about their committee and what they are currently doing. This is an information sharing only presentation. No discussion or action will be taken on information presented.

- 7. WORK PLAN: AGE-FRIENDLY PARK ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATION DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (15 min.)**
 - *Review and discuss draft letter of recommendation regarding critical areas identified in the Committee's Age-Friendly Park Assessments.*
 - *Possible motion to approve submitting the letter of recommendation to the Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, and City Council.*

- 8. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETING CALENDAR (10 min.)**

Discuss and consider passing a motion to adopt the draft 2026 Committee on Aging meeting Calendar.

- 9. COMMITTEE ON AGING LIAISON REPORTS (10 min.)**

Liaisons for the Advisory Council on Aging, California Senior Legislature, West County Senior Coalition, Christ Lutheran and St. John's one-day per week Senior Centers will report on matters of interest to the Committee on Aging. Reports are limited to three minutes per group.

- 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE (10 min)**

Committee members share announcements on topics not on the agenda. Comments limited to two minutes per person.

- 11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (5 min.)**

The Chair announces future agenda items. Committee members may briefly comment, suggest items for consideration, or request an item be agendaized for a future meeting. No action will be taken at this time.

 - *Next regular COA Meeting is Wednesday, November 19, 2025.*
 - *COA Biennial Work Plan Accomplishments and Goal Setting (ongoing)*
 - *Reorganization of the Committee on Aging Advisory Body (April 2026)*
 - *Discussion and possible motion to consider hosting a Transportation Presentation for seniors (January 2026)*
 - *Invite Homematch to provide an informational presentation about their services in Contra Costa County (TBD)*

- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, (510) 559-7008. 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 City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave during normal business hours.



AGENDA MATERIALS

**COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

AGENDA ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 7 – WORK PLAN: AGE-FRIENDLY PARK ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATION DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Draft letter of recommendation regarding critical areas identified and updated summary of findings of the Age-Friendly Park Assessments.



DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGING

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Staff Liaison
Bridget Cooney | (510) 559-7008
bcooney@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

3:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Dr. Kwong called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Dr. Pansy Kwong; Vice-Chair Mark Watson; Members Linda Cain, Katherine Cesa, Carol Kehoe, Steve Lipson, Lisa Martinengo; **Absent:** Buddy Akacic, Pamela Wagner, Bruce Yow; **Also present:** Bridget Cooney, Staff Liaison, and Gabriel Quinto, Council Liaison

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jenny Hammer, El Cerrito resident introduced herself to the Committee.

Member Kehoe invited the Committee to attend the Senior Safety Summit at the Richmond Auditorium on Thursday, September 25, 2025.

- 3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Council Liaison Quinto shared that he and Member Kehoe toured the new PACE center that opened in El Sobrante.

Council Liaison Quinto reported that the City's S&P credit rating has improved to an A+ and A- rating.

Staff Liaison Cooney reported on attendance at senior events held at the Community Center.

Staff Liaison Cooney reported that two Centenarians were recognized for quarter three and one new centenarian was identified who will be recognized in quarter one in 2026.

Staff Liaison Cooney announced the Annual Senior Resource Fair is coming up on Friday, October 24, 2025, and invited members to attend or volunteer at the event.

- 4. COMMITTEE ON AGING LIAISON REPORTS**

Member Kehoe and Member Lipson reported attendance at the August and September Advisory Council on Aging meetings. Member Kehoe reported on presentations that were given by the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program in August and the Family Justice Center in September.

Member Lipson shared an update on SB707.

Member Lipson reported that in September, the California Senior Legislature,

discussed a proposal that would authorize local public health departments to establish educational programs for older adults with an emphasis on communal meals, instruction on digital literacy, technology access and fall prevention.

Members Cesa and Kehoe reported attendance at the June West County Senior Coalition meeting and shared information about presentation given by Homematch and CareGivers Oncall.

Member Martinengo provided an update on the St. John's Senior Center. She shared that Member Akacic is out due to an injury and Margo Wesler is his substitute.

Member Kehoe shared information on upcoming presentations at Christ Lutheran Senior Center.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Motion Passed

Review, discuss, and consider a motion to adopt the minutes of the special COA meeting held on June 18, 2025.

Moved/Second: Member Kehoe/ Member Cesa

Action: Adopted the minutes from May 21, 2025, Committee on Aging meeting as presented in the agenda materials.

Ayes: 7: Chair Dr. Kwong, Vice Chair Watson, Members: Cain, Cesa, Kehoe, Lipson, Martinengo

Nos: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion Passed

6. COA MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Committee conducted an informal interview with Elisa Montemayor. Following the interview, a motion was made and approved to submit a recommendation to the City Council that Elisa Montemayor be appointed as a member of the Committee on Aging.

Moved/Second: Member Montinengo / Member Kehoe

Action: Motion to submit a recommendation to the City Council to appoint Elisa Montemayor as a member of the Committee on Aging.

Ayes: 7: Chair Dr. Kwong, Vice Chair Watson, Members: Cain, Cesa, Kehoe, Lipson, Martinengo

Nos: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion Passed

7. WORK PLAN: AGE-FRIENDLY PARK ASSESSMENT DISCUSSION

Committee members discussed the findings of the Age-Friendly Park Assessments.

Moved / Second: Member Kehoe / Member Cesa

Action: Motion made to submit a letter of recommendation to the Recreation Department, Parks and Recreation Commission, and City Council regarding

critical areas identified in the Committee's Park assessments. Member Lipson to

draft the letter for review at the October meeting.

Ayes: 7: Chair Dr. Kwong, Vice Chair Watson, Members: Cain, Cesa, Kehoe, Lipson, Martinengo

Nos: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion Passed

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair announces future agenda items. Committee members may briefly comment, suggest items for consideration, or request an item be agendized for a future meeting. No action will be taken at this time.

- *Next regular COA Meeting is Wednesday, October 15, 2025*
- *Age-Friendly Park Assessment letter of recommendation discussion and possible motion (October)*
- *Senior Center Action Committee Informational Presentation (no action) (October)*
- *Motion to adopt the 2026 COA Annual Meeting Calendar (October)*
- *Discussion and possible motion to consider hosting a Transportation Fair for seniors (TBD)*
- *Invite Homematch to provide an informational presentation about their services in Contra Costa County (TBD)*

9. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular Committee on Aging meeting of September 17, 2025, as approved by the Committee on Aging.

Chair, Dr. Pansy Kwong

Staff Liaison, Bridget Cooney

Committee on Aging – Park Accessibility and Safety Recommendations

[Date]

To:

El Cerrito Recreation Department
El Cerrito Parks & Recreation Commission
El Cerrito City Council

Subject: Recommendations from the Committee on Aging – Park Accessibility and Safety Priorities

Dear Commissioners and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the City of El Cerrito Committee on Aging (COA), we are pleased to share the results of our recent Age-Friendly Park Assessment, completed during the summer of 2025. Our team of evaluators visited multiple city parks, documented conditions, and identified barriers that make it difficult for older adults and residents with mobility challenges to safely enjoy our public spaces.

Following our assessment, the COA has identified four top priority areas that we believe require prompt attention to improve accessibility, safety, and usability for residents of all ages:

1. Handrails – Critical Safety Concern

Our survey found multiple locations where steep paths, stairways, or park entrances lacked adequate handrails. Examples include the clubhouse path at Canyon Trail Park, the stairway behind Arlington Park's clubhouse, and multiple entrances at Cerrito Vista Park. Missing or inadequate handrails put older adults at risk of falls, particularly those with limited balance, mobility issues, or vision impairments.

Recommendation:

- Install sturdy, ADA-compliant handrails at all park stairways, steep inclines, and major entrance paths.
- Prioritize areas identified in the attached assessment for immediate improvement.

2. Uneven Pathways – Trip Hazards

Our evaluators observed cracks, uneven pavement, and slippery conditions that create hazards for walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers. These hazards were especially noted at Cerrito Vista Park, where cracks on the track and main pathways impede safe use, and at Canyon Trail Park, where pine needles and vegetation create slip risks.

Recommendation:

- Repair and resurface cracked or uneven pathways throughout city parks, beginning with Cerrito Vista and Canyon Trail.
- Implement regular maintenance schedules to remove debris, pine needles, and vegetation encroaching on walkways.

3. Public Restrooms – Access & Condition

Restroom access and quality remain a significant barrier. At nearly all parks, restrooms were locked, requiring keys from the Community Center or Recreation Department. Many were reported to be outdated, with worn floors, leaking fixtures, and inconsistent signage explaining how to obtain keys.

Recommendation:

- Improve access to public restrooms, including extended open hours or convenient key access for community program participants.
- Upgrade restroom facilities to meet ADA standards, repair broken fixtures, resurface floors, and improve cleanliness and lighting.
- Post clear, uniform signage at each park explaining how to access the restrooms.

4. Benches – Availability & Accessibility

Benches are unevenly distributed across parks and often lack handrests to support safe sitting and standing. For example, all benches at Cerrito Vista Park are located on the north side of the park, leaving the children’s play area without seating for caregivers and grandparents.

Recommendation:

- Add benches near playgrounds, walking paths, and activity areas, ensuring equitable distribution.
- Replace or retrofit existing benches with armrests/handholds to assist older adults and people with limited mobility.

Closing & Request for Action:

We recognize that resources are limited, but these improvements represent a modest investment with a significant impact on community health, equity, and safety. Making our

parks more age-friendly will encourage physical activity, intergenerational connection, and inclusive use by all residents.

We respectfully request that the Recreation Department, Parks & Recreation Commission, and City Council:

- Review these findings in detail (see attached survey results and photos),
- Prioritize the four key areas listed above in upcoming park improvement plans and budget discussions, and
- Provide a timeline or implementation plan for addressing these issues.

Thank you for your commitment to making El Cerrito a safe, accessible, and welcoming city for residents of all ages. We look forward to continued collaboration to make these important improvements a reality.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Chair, Committee on Aging
City of El Cerrito

Committee on Aging Age-Friendly Park Assessment Findings 2025

Park	Accessible Park Entrances (ramps & handrails)	Drinking Fountain	Public Restrooms (accessible & clean)	Benches Throughout Park (strategically placed near play structures, fields, courts, etc.)	Clear Signage	Drainage & Trip Hazards (standing water, broken sprinklers & trip hazards: tree roots, cracks, raised sidewalk, etc.)	Trash & Recycle Bins
<p style="text-align: center;">Arlington Park 1120 Arlington Blvd</p>	One set of steps behind the clubhouse does not have hand rails.	Yes + water refill station	Yes - locked - need key	Yes - recommend benches with arm rests	Good signage - but nothing about dogs and off-leash requirements	A couple protruding roots that could be trip hazards observed.	Yes
	Additional Comments: only 1 drinking fountain in the whole park by clubhouse. Benches (other than 1) do not have arm rests which are very helpful for anyone having difficulty sitting down/lifting off the bench easily. A couple of protruding roots observed. There is a steep stairway behind the clubhouse that has no railing - it is difficult for anyone to go down these steps safely without a hand rail. No signage observed about dogs and off-leash requirements.						
<p style="text-align: center;">Cerrito Vista Park 950 Pomona Ave</p>	No - handrail needed on north side entrance, steep staircases from upper picnic area not accessible, steep incline at entrance on corner of Moser and Pomona with no handrails.	Yes	Yes - locked - need key	Yes, but only on north side of park	Yes	standing water/puddle observed on westside of path makes it hard to use a walker / cane safely.	Yes
	Additional Comments: Not great as far as safety for seniors, however it is a very popular park for seniors and caregivers using the walking path. Benches are only on the north side of the park, none in the play structure area or on the bathroom side of the park. Very steep entrances and only staircases leading from upper picnic area and lower park where the bathrooms are located. Handrails are needed at multiple entrances. Bathrooms have leaky toilets and the floors need resurfacing - floors are worn out. Soap dispenser drips onto floor. Lots of cracks and uneven surfaces on the track/walking path. Standing puddle on walking path. All of this makes it difficult when using walkers, canes, strollers, etc.						

<p>Huber Park 7711 Terrace Dr</p>	<p>Some parts of the park are accessible, however it is very steep and needs handrail. Not good for walkers, strollers</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes - locked - need key</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No signage observed</p>	<p>Not observed.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Additional Comments: Park is in good condition. Steep paths and extremely limited parking make this park not accessible to anyone using a walker, wheelchair, or stroller. Nice picnic tables and bathrooms.</p>							
<p>Castro Park 1420 Norvell St</p>	<p>Accessible entrance on Lawrence and Gladys, but no accessible entrance from Norvell near clubhouse.</p>	<p>Yes - dirty</p>	<p>Yes - locked - need key</p>	<p>Picnic tables & benches by play structure need to be repainted and sanded. Benches/bleachers by baseball field (no shade available). One wooden bench in Pickleball courts (no shade). People bring their own chairs and sit outside the courts.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>A couple of protruding roots that are trip hazards observed.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Additional Comments: Picnic tables and benches near play structure need to be repainted. Only one wooden bench by pickleball court, people bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit outside courts. Need to add benches or bleachers by pickleball courts. Improve track around park for walking. Need accessible access to park from Norvell near clubhouse. No hot ash bin, but bbqs.</p>							
<p>Canyon Trail Park 6757 Gatto Ave</p>	<p>Two main access points to the park - section 1 is not easily accessible and section 2 is accessible.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes - locked - need key</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Signage clear in some areas of the park - no signage on pathway from Conlon up.</p>	<p>Uneven ground on main path from Canyon Trail to Conlon. Overgrowth of vegetation.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

	<p>Additional Comments: Restrooms were locked and I didn't have a bathroom key so I couldn't see what shape they were in.</p> <p>One handrail suggestion: There has never been a rail at the clubhouse path into lower canyon. It's steep and a handrail would probably be helpful.</p> <p>I wasn't there at a time when sprinklers were running so I can't report on any broken heads.</p> <p>Excess litter after party rentals & sports games. There are 2 sections to Canyon Trail Park - the upper section on Canyon Trail St (section 1) and the bottom section near Conlon (section 2). Section 1: there is a water fountain at the Clubhouse/ Prospect Sierra TK building, but none elsewhere in the park. There are steps near Jordan for people to enter with disabilities, but nothing on Canyon Trail St. While walking from Conlon up, there was someone with a dog that was off leash. There is NO signage at all on that pathway regarding dogs. Pathway has lots of pine needles which make walking very slippery. Section 2 (Conlon) - overgrown and not inviting. Weeds look 3-4ft tall. Main path from Canyon Trail to Conlon there are many trip hazards due to uneven pathway. Overgrown vegetation.</p>
--	--

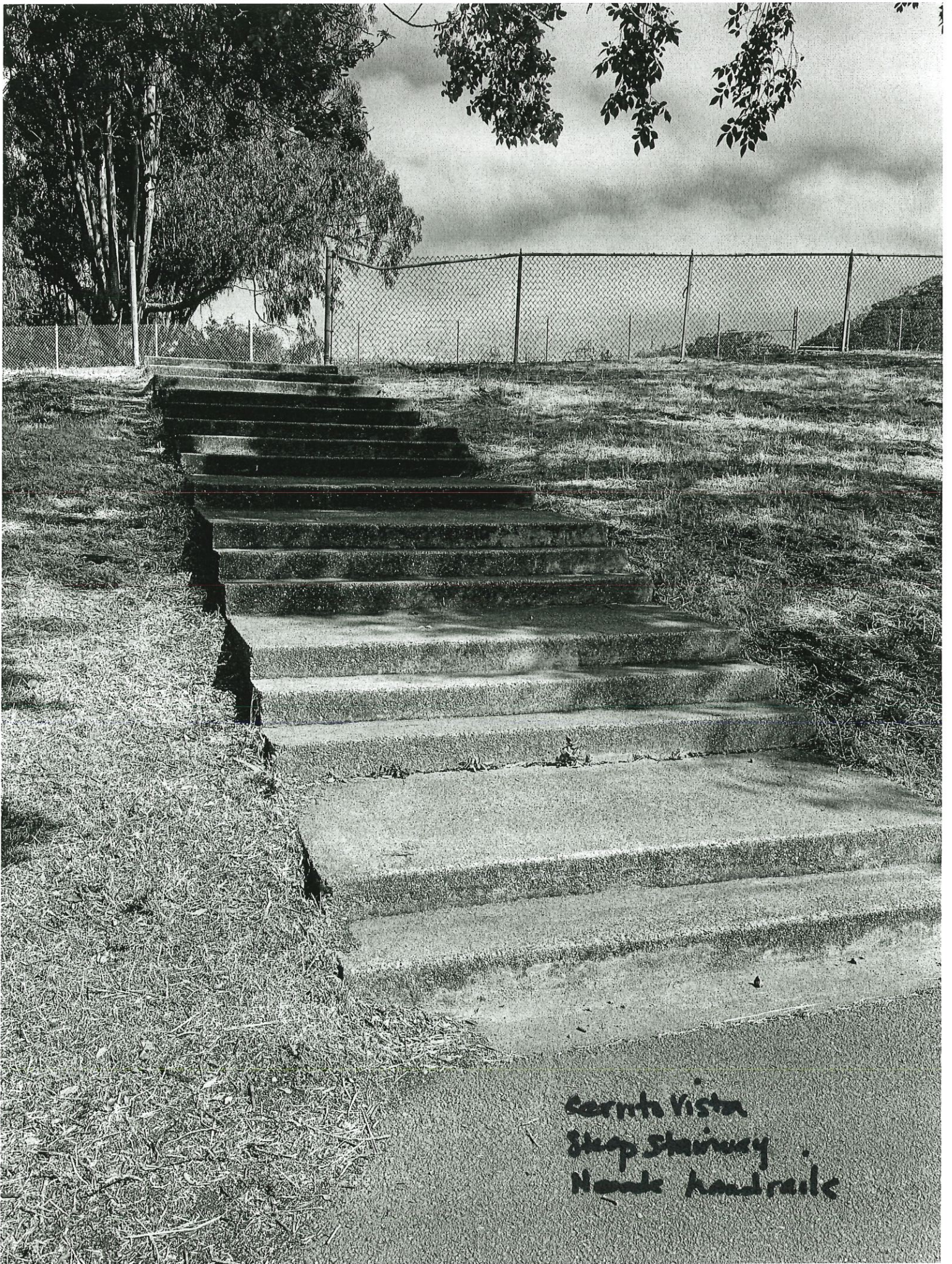
Tassajara Park 2575 Tassajara Ave	Yes, but angles of park landscape can make it difficult for walkers, wheelchairs and those with visual	Yes, but not working clogged with sand.	Yes - locked - need key	Yes	Yes		
<p>Additional Comments: Only one fountain outside at the club house. Drain clogged. None by the tennis courts. Angles of park landscape makes people with walkers, wheel chairs, and those visually impaired, including white cane difficult to walk in both directions. While I had no issues, others may.</p> <p>Walkway south of tennis courts needs clearing, angle of stairs to Alva Street should not have vegetation grown under center hand rail without yellow strips for the visually impaired. Pottery class has no rest room key. I informed someone that the Park and Recreation Department offers keys with a refundable deposit, and that keys are not for sale. Please note by definition, the pottery class is a functional City program with Seniors actively participating. Lack of a key may be a problem. Back door is narrow, not sure if it is to ADA or fire code. No Hot Ash bin but bbqs. Mat in the playground area is soft and may not support seniors walking to enjoy the play area with children. Little League locker was broken into. In children's play area there are cones and caution tape due to a hole? *Street sign is difficult to read on Alva and Tassajara (would not be able to see at night). Water faucet was clogged and the basing was flooded/full...water stream was weak. Unswept stairs on tennis court</p>							
Harding Park 7115 C Street	Yes	Yes	Yes - locked - need key	Bleachers by baseball field, picnic benches in patio of clubhouse primarily for childcare, benches in tennis courts.	Yes	None observed	Yes
<p>Additional Comments: Public restrooms were locked - keys for restroom rented from the El Cerrito Community Center. Adequate benches, etc. Seems to be used mostly for tennis, baseball/softball, and young children. No picnic benches or barbeque available. Baseball field and tennis courts can be rented.</p> <p>Clubhouse and playground used for kids activities through the Rec Center.</p>							
Centennial Park Liberty St & Eureka Ave	Yes	No	No	Yes	No signage observed	None observed	Yes
<p>Additional Comments: Park is well maintained. No drinking fountain and no public restroom. No signage.</p>							
Bruce King Memorial Dog Park 1600 Lexington Ave	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	None observed	Yes

	Additional Comments:

Cerrito
Vista

Steep
Walkway



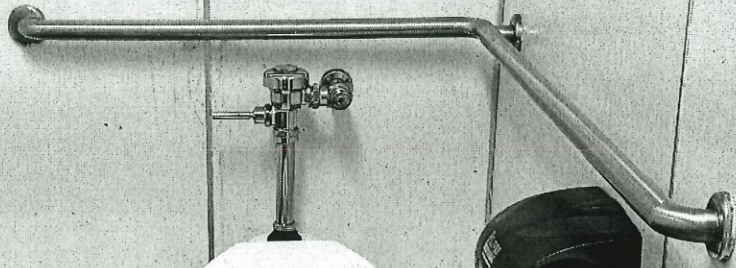
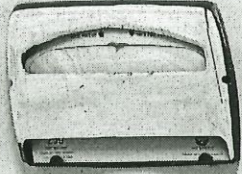


Corinto Vista
Step Stairway
No Handrail



Cerrito Vista
Perennial Puddle
obstacle for walker
+ wheelchair users

Cemito Vista
Bathroom floor needs
resurfacing
Drain needs replacing





Soap dispenser
drips onto
floor

Cerrito
Vista
Cracks
& Uneven
Surfaces
Walking
Path







Bridget Cooney

From: pansy.kwong@icloud.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 12:07 PM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: [UNKNOWN SENDER] Castro Park pictures







Sent from my iPhone

Castro Pickleball Courts 10/7/2025





SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIALS

REGULAR COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025, at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Public Comments received by 9:00 a.m. on October 15, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETING CALENDAR

2. Draft 2026 Committee on Aging meeting calendar for discussion and possible motion to adopt.



**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIALS
PUBLIC COMMENT INDEX**

**REGULAR COMMITTEE ON AGING MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025, at 3 p.m.**

The following Public Comments were received by 9:00 a.m., 10/15/2025, were provided directly to the Committee on Aging members in advance of the meeting, and were posted online as supplemental materials at:

<https://www.elcerrito.gov/Archive.aspx?ADID=8083>

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Cordell Hindler
2. Anton Schep
3. Madeleine Schep
4. Cathy Taruskin
5. Tanya Edgar
6. Kate Meadows
7. Pablo Heiber
8. Scott T

Bridget Cooney

From: Cordell Hindler [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:50 PM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: Public Comments

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Hello Bridget,

I am sending the comments for the record:

1. the Committee is Invited to the Contra Costa Mayors Conference on December 4th, 6:30 PM Hosted by the City of Pinole

\$70.00 Per Person RSVP Is Required

2. Also the Council Of Industries Boat Tour, October 24th 1:00 PM. Harbormaster's Building

RSVP Required

Sincerely
Cordell

Bridget Cooney

From: Anton Schep [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2025 5:02 PM
To: [REDACTED] Public comments for the Committee on Aging meeting of
[REDACTED] October 15

Dear Committee on Aging Members,

I would like to thank you for your work on behalf of El Cerrito seniors. As an El Cerrito resident and senior (74 yrs young), I am grateful that you are working to improve accessibility, seating, water fountains and restroom availability. I would like you to include the Castro Park Pickleball Courts in your plans. The local pickleball community raised funds recently to convert the Castro Tennis Courts to Pickleball Courts. The beautiful new courts are my favorite courts of the East Bay. My spouse and I go about three times a week by bicycle to the courts to play. Most of the players are senior citizens in their 60's, 70's, and 80's. In addition, there are people who come to watch, including those with wheelchairs and baby strollers.

It is well known that pickleball provides seniors exercise and a real sense of community and connection. As relatively new residents of the Bay Area, it allowed us to make many new connections.

It seems well worthwhile to implement improvements at Castro Park due to the huge number of seniors that use the pickleball courts every day. Specifically, seniors would be served well by:

- a bike rack for seniors like me, to secure my bike.
- a water fountain next to the courts
- a shaded seating area for people watching and waiting to play
- improved accessibility by means of paved sidewalks

Please feel free to contact me, if you would like to speak to me directly about any of the above suggestions.

Thank you for your work and your consideration, Anton R Schep
6762 Glen Mawr Ave
El Cerrito
Cell 8036737158

Sent from my iPad

Bridget Cooney

From: Madeleine Schep [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2025 5:08 PM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: [REDACTED] Public Comments for Committee on Aging Oct 15 Meeting

Dear Committee on Aging Members,

Thank you for your work on behalf of El Cerrito seniors. As an El Cerrito resident and senior, I am grateful that you are working to improve accessibility, seating, water fountains and restroom availability. I would like to draw your attention to the Castro Park Pickleball Courts. As you may be aware, the local pickleball players raised funds to refurbish the Castro Courts. The beautiful new courts have been a hub of activity. Many, if not most, of the players are senior citizens in their 60's to 80's, and beyond! In addition, there are folks who come to watch, including those with wheelchairs and strollers. I am playing there several days a week.

This is a wonderful asset for area seniors providing exercise, learning, and mental challenge. As a relatively new resident to El Cerrito, I especially appreciate the connections I have been able to build in this welcoming and diverse community.

It seems well worthwhile to implement the improvements you are working on at Castro Park due to the huge number of seniors and other area residents that use the pickleball courts every day. Specifically, seniors would be served well by:

- a water fountain next to the courts
- a shaded seating area for people watching and waiting to play
- a table for social gathering and community building
- improved accessibility with sidewalks
- bike racks for the many people, like myself, using this environment friendly mode of transportation

Please reach out if you would like to speak with any of the enthusiastic senior picklers at Castro. A word of caution though, they will recruit you to join the fun!

Thank you for your work and for your consideration,

Madeleine Schep

6762 Glen Mawr Ave
El Cerrito

Bridget Cooney

From: Cathy Taruskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 11:56 AM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: Public Comments for Committee on Aging Oct 15 Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#)

Attention El Cerrito Committee on Aging Members:

I'd like to advocate for your attention toward improving conditions at Castro Park for seniors as part of your cited goal for Fiscal Year 2025-26 to "Advocate for improved safety and comfort for seniors in public spaces in El Cerrito."

Specifically, I am asking for improvements near the new pickleball courts, where many seniors play pickleball and need a place to sit and rest between games. In addition to the players, we often see elder seniors in wheelchairs being wheeled to the courts by their attendants, stopping to watch play for a while before moving on. The courts are a popular site throughout the day.

About half of the hundreds of pickleball players who go to Castro are seniors, many in their 70s and a few in their 80s. There is no seating or water near the courts. Many of the senior players and observers, like me (73), cannot sit on the ground and are required to carry our own chairs. It's hard for those of us who are not supposed to lift heavy objects. Players who are more agile sit on the ground, which is infested with dozens of gopher holes at this time. To address this problem, anonymous people have donated a mish-mash of used outdoor furniture, as pictured below, but the site is in dire need of the city's attention.



Our organization, the East Bay Pickleball Association, has told city representatives that we are willing to donate \$35,000 to a project that would add seating and shade to the area east of the pickleball courts. We also need a water fountain, since the closest water is in the restroom a block away, which is only accessible with a key. The majority of the donors are senior citizens. I hope you will recognize the dire need of benches, tables, water and improved access at Castro and help us encourage the Parks and Rec Commission and the City Council to prioritize this project.

Sincerely,
Cathy Taruskin
Vice-President
East Bay Pickleball Association
USA Pickleball Ambassador

Bridget Cooney

From: Tanya Edgar [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 11:18 AM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: [REDACTED] Committee on Aging

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Bridget Cooney,

It looks like the pickle ball courts at Castro are beautiful and being beautifully used by the community.

As a senior (77) and also a tennis player it would be wonderful if we could have some spectator benches outside the courts with backs, a water fountain/bottle filler and maybe some shade.

More narrow benches inside the courts would also be welcome.

Is there a bathroom nearby. Is the area ADA compliant for wheelchairs? It would be great to spruce up the path from the upper parking lot also as it is very uneven and weed ridden.

Never thought I would say it, but let's help our pickle ball community as several of my old friends in tennis now play this regularly and now my daughter is getting me to play also.

Thanks so much for any help you can be on this. A resident for over 35 years....

Tanya Edgar
1519 ARLINGTON BLVD.
El Cerrito, CA 94530

510-207-8934

Bridget Cooney

From: peggy jg [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 7:30 PM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: [REDACTED] Public Comments for Committee on Aging Oct 15 Meeting

Dear Committee on Aging Members,

Thank you for your work on behalf of El Cerrito seniors. As an El Cerrito resident and senior, I am grateful that you are working to improve accessibility, seating, water fountains and restroom availability. I would like to draw your attention to the Castro Park Pickleball Courts. As you may be aware, the local pickleball players raised funds to refurbish the Castro Courts. The beautiful new courts have been a hub of activity. Many, if not most, of the players are senior citizens in their 60's, 70's, 80's and even 90's! In addition, there are regular folks who come to watch, including those with wheelchairs. I am there nearly every day!

This is a wonderful asset for area seniors providing exercise, learning, mental challenge and a real sense of community and connection. In the current National Geographic there is a long article on the benefits of keeping physically activity as one ages. Pickleball is the perfect preventative "medicine" to maintain the health and well-being of seniors!

It seems well worthwhile to implement the improvements you are working on at Castro Park due to the huge number of seniors and other area residents that use the pickleball courts every day. Specifically, seniors would be service well by:

- a water fountain next to the courts
- a seating area for people watching and waiting to play
- a shade structure over the seating
- a table for social gathering and community building
- improved accessibility with sidewalks

Please reach out if you would like to speak with any of the enthusiastic senior picklers at Castro. A word of caution though, they will recruit you to join the fun!

Thank you for your work and for your consideration,

Kate Meadows
El Cerrito Resident

Bridget Cooney

From: Pablo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: Public Comments for Committee on Aging Oct 15 Meeting

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#)

Dear Bridget,

My name is Pablo Heiber and I have lived in El Cerrito with my family of 4 since 2017. The new Castro pickleball courts have been an amazing improvement. I play there between 2 and 4 times every week, for 2.5-3 hours. My oldest daughter (9) also plays there occasionally.

I am told that your committee is studying possible improvements, so I wanted to bring to your attention one that I think will have a large positive impact in my community.

The water availability at the courts is poor. The water fountain is all the way across the park. I have personally shared my water with players that didn't bring enough, and everyone has played under-hydrated at times because of this (especially on days that are or suddenly become hotter than expected). We usually arrange games in between work meetings and kid pickups, so we try not to lose a lot of time with side quests to fill our bottles. Having a second water fountain, or even better, a water bottle filler, close to the courts would improve the health and enjoyment of playing pickleball.

Thanks for your attention,
Pablo

Bridget Cooney

From: Scott T [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:11 PM
To: Bridget Cooney
Subject: [REDACTED] Committee on Aging Meeting

Dear Committee on Aging Members,

Thank you for your work on behalf of El Cerrito seniors. As an El Cerrito senior resident, I am grateful for all the programs and civic projects that help to maintain and enhance the lives of older adults.

The recently renovated Pickleball Courts at Castro Park are a popular destination for people of all ages, myself included. I'm able to exercise, socialize with my peers, reconnect with past classmates and interact with younger players whom I would not meet elsewhere. The courts are a great asset helping to build a strong sense of community.

The planned improvements for Castro Park are worthy endeavors for the city. Enhancements for seniors for consideration would be:

- Seating near the pickleball courts area for spectators
- A water fountain next to the courts

Please feel free to contact me for follow up questions.

Thank you again for all your work and for your consideration,

Scott Takeda



2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

City Holiday/Closed
Regular Meeting
Location: Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Ave
Meeting Time: 3:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE ON AGING

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		