THE CITY OF
EL CERRITO

PUBLIC WORKS

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

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

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, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet

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. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS** *(5 min.)*
Staff and/or Mayor Lisa Motoyama may report on policies, priorities, and actions taken by the City Council, and/or on matters of general interest to the EQC.

4. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART** *(5 min.)*
Discuss a standing agenda item for presenting environmental art.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting February 14, 2023.

6. **EQC RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT ANTI-OIL AND GAS DRILLING RESOLUTION** *(25 min.)*
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding a recommendation to City Council for El Cerrito to pass a resolution Urging Contra Costa County to End New Permitting of Oil and Gas Drilling in Contra Costa County and Phase out Existing Oil and Gas Development Activities and Associated Infrastructure. *(Draft Resolution and Comments of support attached).*

7. **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.

8. **EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS** *(10 min.)*
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment members to the EQC.

9. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *(10 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 2023 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
     - Mar. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with Baxter volunteers) (debrief)
     - Mar. 26, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull
     - Apr. 8, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull

    - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup Northern Gateways Park cleanup
    - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day work party, PG&E site on Moeser ROW
    - June 10, Saturday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup
    - Aug. 13, Sunday, Creekside Park cleanup
    - Sept. 16, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park cleanup
    - Oct. 22, Sunday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup
    - Dec. 3, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Earth Day, April 15, 2023
- Hillside Festival May 6 and 7, 2023
- 4th of July Planning
    - EQC interest in sponsoring water refill station

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION *(20 min.)*

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

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)
    - Status Update from Staff
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates

11. EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICIES *(25 min.)*

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding the El Cerrito Compostable Product and Recycled Organics Purchasing Policy and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy *(See attached policies)*.

12. 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**
- Sustainable Transportation report from City Staff
- 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)
- Open Space Preservation
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act

13. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, Christina Leard, at (510) 215-4338. 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.

THE CITY OF
EL CERRITO

PUBLIC WORKS

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

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84748637420?pwd=aUVxRktVR1VmbWt6ZUR4YXVwOVlKUT09
Meeting ID: 847 4863 7420 **Password:** 2154350
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL –** Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet, and Neil Tsutsui **Absent:** Members Dave Weinstein and Ellen Spitalnik **Also Present**: Mayor Lisa Motoyama, Council Liaison; and Christina Leard, Staff Liaison

2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito residents Maggie Winslow and Pamela Austin introduced themselves and informed the Committee that they had submitted applications for membership to the EQC.

3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Council Liaison Mayor Lisa Motoyama provided a summary of the recent City Council retreat that took place on Saturday, February 4. She noted that a point of discussion was how committee recommendations get to City Council, and that there will be a future Council workshop to discuss it. Other topics mentioned were adjustments to the Council agenda flow, and future updates to the Strategic Plan. Staff Liaison Leard added that the Council also discussed allowing under 18 participation in Advisory Bodies. Ms. Leard also provided other updates from the City, including announcing that the City had received the first of two new recycling trucks for the commercial sector, and that the City had received a Pro Housing Designation.

4. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
Members Mitchell and Akacić presented local environmental art murals in the City of El Cerrito.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting January 10, 2023.
Move/Second: Members Akacić/Vekony **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Goudey; Vekony; Akacić, Bialy, Dhoot, Mitchell, Tsutsui, and Tarbet **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Miner and O'Connor **Absent:** Pavel.

6. **EQC PARTNERSHIP WITH SWAP IT EVENTS**
EQC Members participated in discussion regarding EQC partnership with Swap It events. Staff Liaison Leard to come back in March with an update on the EQC budget and clarification on facility rental fees. The next event is set for April 23.
Move/Second: Members Bialy /Goudey **Action**: Passed a motion to for the EQC to partner with Swap It events and support it being as low cost as possible. **Ayes**: Unanimous of members present **Noes**: None **Absent:** Paloma

7. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave an update from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.

8. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

EQC Members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment members to the EQC.
Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Akacić **Action**: Passed a motion to reappoint Howdy Goudey to the EQC **Ayes**: Unanimous of members present **Noes**: None **Absent:** Pavel

Move/Second: Members Vekony/Tarbet **Action**: Passed a motion to reappoint Mark Miner to the EQC **Ayes**: Unanimous of members present **Noes**: None **Absent:** Pavel

Members Goudey and Tsutsui appointed to interview potential new members to the EQC prior to the next EQC meeting on March 14.

9. CHANGES TO REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN CITY ADVISORY BODY MEETINGS

Staff Liaison Leard provided an update on changes to remote participation in City Advisory Body Meetings. Effective March 1, 2023 all City Advisory Bodies will return to in-person meetings only held in the City Council Chambers. Member of the public Robin Mitchell noted her approach to the issue of Brown Act limitations to remote participation by Advisory Body members and said she will be contacting the Governor and State Representatives to encourage revisions to the Brown Act to allow teleconferencing more freely.

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 2023, including:

- Green Team 2023 Cleanups / Broom Pulls (*Fred to lead cleanups with assistance from Mark. Howdy to lead broom pulls)*:
  - Jan. 21, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull (debrief)
  - Jan. 28, Saturday, Creekside Park cleanup (debrief)
  - Feb. 12, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull (debrief)
  - Mar. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
  - Mar. 26, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull
  - Apr. 8, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull *(Fred unavailable)*
  - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup Northern Gateways Park cleanup *(Fred unavailable. Sean & Mark to lead)*
  - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day work party, PG&E site on Moeser ROW (*Howdy to lead)*
  - June 10, Saturday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup *(Fred unavailable, Mark to lead)*
  - Aug. 13, Sunday, Creekside Park cleanup
  - Sept. 16, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park cleanup
  - Oct. 22, Sunday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup *(Fred possibly unavailable)*
  - Dec. 3, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Saturday March 11 – Arbor Day tree walk
- Earth Day, April 15, 2023
- Hillside Festival May 6 and 7, 2023

11. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)
  - Report from Ad Hoc subcommittee on EQC early input
  - Consider a motion to appoint 2 members to the CAAP Stakeholder Advisory Group *(See attached CAAP background information).*

Move/Second: Members Bialy/O'Connor **Action**: Passed a motion to send the EQC CAAP Early Input document to the CAAP consultants. **Ayes**: unanimous of Members present **Noes**: None **Absent:** Pavel

Move/Second: Members Goudey/Akacić **Action**: Passed a motion to appoint members Goudey and Dhoot to the CAAP Stakeholder Advisory Group, with member Miner as an alternate **Ayes**: unanimous of Members present **Noes**: None **Absent:** Pavel

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates

DRAFT

12. EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICIES

The discussion regarding the El Cerrito Compostable Product and Recycled Organics Purchasing Policy and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy was postponed to the March meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework - Link to the **JEDI Tool**
- Sustainable Transportation report from City Staff
- 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)
- Open Space Preservation
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 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 February 14, 2023 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

_____

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison

DRAFT

Template Resolution on Contra Costa Drilling

Resolution of the [Council] of the City of [ ] Urging Contra Costa County to End New Permitting of Oil and Gas Drilling in Contra Costa County and Phase out Existing Oil and Gas Development Activities and Associated Infrastructure

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in September 2020 declared a Climate Emergency within Contra Costa County that demands "accelerated actions on the climate crisis and calls on local and regional partners to join together to address climate change" by moving away from a fossil fuel-dependent economy; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Climate Emergency Resolution No. 2020/256 cites a June 2019 resolution signed by 70 health organizations, including the American Medical Association and American Public Health Association, which identifies climate change as an urgent health emergency; and

WHEREAS, in May 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world's leading energy organization, stated that "no new oil and natural gas fields are needed in the net zero pathway," and exploitation and development of new oil and gas fields needed to end in 2021 if the world were to stay within safe limits of global heating and meet the goal of net zero emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, a Scientific Advisory Panel appointed by the State of California Geologic Energy Management agency reports that health-damaging air pollutants, including criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, are more concentrated near OGD [oil and gas development] activities compared to further away, and cites "evidence of harm linked to OGD activity at distances greater than 1 km" (or 3,281'); and

WHEREAS, the Scientific Advisory Panel also states that the most health-protective approach is to stop drilling and developing new oil and gas wells, phase out existing OGD activities and associated infrastructure, and properly plug and remediate legacy wells; and

WHEREAS, in a 14-year analysis of air quality across the state of California, Stanford researchers observed higher levels of air pollutants within 2.5 miles of oil and gas wells, likely worsening negative health outcomes for nearby residents; and

WHEREAS, pollutants emitted by OGD, such as particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, ozone and volatile organic compounds, can harm our respiratory and reproductive systems or cause cancer; have adverse effects on our hearts and brains, including neurodegenerative disease, and may lead to movement disorders such as Parkinson's, which has a negative impact on cognitive ability; increase the rate of dementia in the elderly, and may cause depression and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, in addition to emitting health-hazardous air-borne pollutants**,** oil and gas extraction also releases methane, which is 86 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over a twenty-year period and responsible for 25% of the warming felt

today, jeopardizing the continued habitability of our planet and the future prospects of generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the County is currently proposing that oil and gas production remain a permitted land use under its new General Plan, except in "sensitive ecological areas" and within 3,200' of sensitive receptors, such as hospitals, schools and senior facilities; and

WHEREAS, the state's own Scientific Advisory Panel finds that "setbacks do not reduce harms from OGD contributions to regional air pollutant levels, such as secondary particulate matter and ozone, or greenhouse gases, such as methane, which are nearly always co-mingled with health-damaging air pollutants"; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change and natural disasters do not end strictly at the borders of one jurisdiction or another, and toxic pollution from oil and gas production on County land negatively impacts the health and safety of residents of nearby cities, contradicts existing city and County mandates to ensure safe and healthy communities and effect greenhouse gas reduction, and exacerbates the widening climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the Antioch City Council approved a permanent ban on oil and gas drilling, production, and exploratory operations within its city limits, and the Brentwood City Council unanimously approved an immediate moratorium on oil and gas drilling within its own; and

WHEREAS, 130 Contra Costa health professionals and students have signed in support of banning oil and gas drilling within the County, as have the Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission, the Diablo Water District, over 50 county-based environmental and social justice organizations, and a growing number of Contra Costa cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in recognition of the fundamental incompatibility of fossil fuel extraction with effective climate action, and in the spirit of regional collaboration evoked by both the City and the County, that the City of [ ] strongly urges the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County to enact immediate measures to phase out existing oil and gas operations on County lands, and prohibit any new oil and gas drilling.

CITY OF EL CERRITO

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY/PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: COMPOSTABLE PRODUCT & RECYCLED-CONTENT PURCHASING POLICY

NUMBER:
DATE: September 2022
AUTHORITY: City Manager

Karen Pinkos

PURPOSE: To establish a Compostable Product & Recycled-Content Purchasing Policy (Policy) for all city funds, applicable to all departments and divisions to ensure compliance with the City of El Cerrito's Foodware Ordinance and requirements under Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (2016).

POLICY: The City of El Cerrito takes pride in being an environmental leader, recently adopting an Expanded Foodware Ordinance in November 2021, that requires all disposable foodware to be compostable, including at City facilities and events. In addition, the City is actively implementing practices to comply with State requirements to reduce waste, including under SB 1383, to close the loop on organic waste recycling by procuring recovered organic waste products.

This Compostable Product & Recycled-Content Purchasing (Policy) will ensure the City:

A. Complies with State requirements as contained in 14 CCR Division 7, Chapter 12, Article 12 (SB 1383 procurement regulations) to procure a specified amount of Recovered Organic Waste Products, to purchase Recycled-Content Paper Products, and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper, and procure resources in a way that aligns with the City's Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan goals;
B. Purchases Foodware that aligns with the El Cerrito Foodware Ordinance (E.C.M.C. 8.24);
C. Provides implementation guidance in order to empower employees to be innovative and demonstrate leadership by considering sustainability benefits when making purchasing decisions;
D. Communicates the City's commitment to sustainable purchasing to its employees, vendors, and the community.

DEFINITIONS:

A. "Annual Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Target" means the amount of Organic Waste in the form of a Recovered Organic Waste Product that the City is required to procure annually, based on population.
B. "City" means the City of El Cerrito elected officials, staff, and agencies.
C. "Compost (SB 1383 Eligible)" means the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic solid wastes that are source separated from the municipal solid waste stream or which are separated at a centralized facility or as otherwise defined in 14 CCR Section 17896.2(a)(4).

D. “Compostable Foodware” means a foodware item that is capable of composting using El Cerrito's available composting and green-waste collection programs as determined by the Director of Public Works or designee and identified on the City's website, and that the product is free of all intentionally added fluorinated chemicals, as certified by the Biodegradable Product Institute or other independent third-party certifying organization or agency recognized by the City.
E. “Direct Service Provider” means a person, company, agency, contractor, or other entity that provides a service or services to the City through a contractual or other written agreement or as otherwise defined in 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(17).
F. “Electricity Procured from Biomass Conversion” means electricity generated from biomass facilities that convert recovered Organic Waste, such as wood and landscaping waste from the municipal stream, into electricity, and is therefore eligible to meet the City’s Annual Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Target.
G. “Organic Waste” means solid waste containing material originated from living organisms and their metabolic waste products including, but not limited to, food, yard trimmings, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, Paper Products, Printing and Writing Paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges, or as otherwise defined in 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(46). Biosolids and digestate are as defined in 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(4) and 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(16.5), respectively.
H. “Paper Products” include, but are not limited to, paper janitorial supplies, cartons, wrapping, packaging, file folders, hanging files, corrugated boxes, tissue, and toweling; or as otherwise defined in 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(51).
I. “Practicable” means sufficient in performance and available at a reasonable price.
J. “Printing and Writing Papers” include, but are not limited to, copy, xerographic, watermark, cotton fiber, offset, forms, computer printout paper, white wove envelopes, manila envelopes, book paper, note pads, writing tablets, newsprint, reports, magazines, and publications; or as otherwise defined in 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(54).
K. “Procurement of Recovered Organic Waste Products” shall mean purchase or acquisition of (e.g., free delivery or free distribution from a hauler or other entity via a written agreement or contract) Organic Waste Products and end use by the City. The City’s Annual Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Target can be fulfilled directly by the City or by Direct Service Providers through written contracts or agreements for Procurement of Recovered Organic Waste Products at the City’s behest.
L. “Recordkeeping” means the system established by the City Manager or their designee used to track procurement and maintain records that includes Recovered Organic Waste Product procurement efforts by the City.
M. “Recordkeeping Designee” means the public employee appointed by the City Manager or their designee to track procurement and maintain records of

Recovered Organic Waste Product procurement efforts for the City and others, as applicable.

N. “Recovered Organic Waste Products” means products made from California, landfill-diverted recovered Organic Waste, processed at a permitted or otherwise authorized operation or facility, or as otherwise defined in 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(60). Products that can be used to meet the Annual Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Target shall include SB 1383 Eligible Compost, SB 1383 Eligible Mulch, Renewable Gas from an in-vessel digestion facility, and Electricity Procured from Biomass Conversion as described herein and provided that such products meet requirements of 14 CCR, Division 7, Chapter 12, Article 12.

O. “Recyclability” means that the paper products and printing and writing paper offered or sold to the City are eligible to be labeled with an unqualified recyclable label as defined in 16 Code of Federal Regulations Section 260.12 (2013).

P. “Recycled-Content Paper Products and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper” means such products that consist of at least thirty percent (30%) recycled materials, by fiber weight, post-consumer fiber, or as-much as one hundred percent (100%) post-consumer fiber by fiber weight, consistent with the requirements of Sections 22150 to 22154 and Sections 12200 and 12209 of the Public Contract Code, and as amended.

Q. “Recycled Material” means material and byproducts that have been recovered or diverted from solid waste and have been utilized in place of raw or virgin material in manufacturing a product. It is derived from post-consumer recycled material, manufacturing waste, industrial scrap, agricultural waste, and other waste material, but does not include material or byproducts generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.

R. “Renewable Gas” means gas derived from Organic Waste that has been diverted from a landfill and processed at an in-vessel digestion facility that is permitted or otherwise authorized by the State, or as otherwise defined in 14 CCR Section 18982(a)(62).

S. “Reusable Food ware” means all containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, utensils, and other items that are designed for prolonged use, including but not limited to ceramic, glass, porcelain, and metal foodware.

T. “SB 1383” means Senate Bill 1383 approved by the Governor on September 19, 2016, which establishes methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, as amended, supplemented, superseded, and replaced.

U. “SB 1383 Eligible Compost” means the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic solid wastes that is produced at an approved facility and in such a way that makes it eligible to meet the Annual Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Target, as defined by CalRecycle.

V. “SB 1383 Eligible Mulch” means mulch eligible to meet the Annual Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Target, pursuant to 14 CCR Chapter 12 of Division 7. This SB 1383 Eligible Mulch shall meet the

following conditions for the duration of the applicable procurement compliance year, as specified by 14 CCR Section 18993.1(f)(4)

a. Produced at one of the following facilities:
    i. A compostable material handling operation or facility as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852(a)(12), that is permitted or authorized under 14 CCR Division 7, other than a chipping and grinding operation or facility as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852(a)(10);
    ii. A transfer/processing facility or transfer/processing operation as defined in 14 CCR Sections 17402(a)(30) and (31), respectively, that is permitted or authorized under 14 CCR Division 7; or,
    iii. A solid waste landfill as defined in Public Resources Code Section 40195.1 that is permitted under 27 CCR Division 2.

W. "SB 1383 Regulations" or "SB 1383 Regulatory" means or refers to the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP): Organic Waste Reductions regulations developed by CalRecycle and adopted in 2020 that created Chapter 12 of 14 CCR, Division 7 and amended portions of regulations of 14 CCR and 27 CCR.

X. "Vendor" means a person or company who provides goods or services. A vendor can also be referred to as a supplier or direct service provider.

PROCEDURES:

SECTION 1. POLICY

1.1 Requirements for City Departments or Procurement Practices

A. If fitness and quality of Recycled-Content Paper Products and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper are equal to that of non-recycled items, all departments and divisions of the City shall purchase Recycled-Content Paper Products and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper that consists of at least thirty percent (30%), by fiber weight, postconsumer fiber, whenever available at the same or a lesser total cost than non-recycled items, consistent with the requirements of the Public Contracts Code, Sections 22150 through 22154 and Sections 12200 and 12209, as amended.
    1. All Paper Products and Printing and Writing Paper shall be eligible to be labeled with an unqualified recyclable label as defined in Title 16 Code of Federal Regulations Section 260.12 (2013).
    2. Records must be submitted to the City's Recordkeeping Designee of all Paper Products and Printing and Writing Paper purchases on a schedule to be determined by the Recordkeeping Designee and not less than annually (both recycled-content and non-recycled content, if any is purchased) for purchases made by a division or department or employee of the City.
B. City staff, events, projects, and facilities shall utilize reusable foodware or compostable foodware that is in compliance with the City's Foodware Ordinance (E.C.M.C. 8.24).

1.2 Requirements for Vendors

A. All vendors that provide Paper Products (including janitorial Paper Products) and Printing and Writing Paper to the City shall:

1. Provide Recycled-Content Paper Products and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper that consists of at least thirty percent (30%), by fiber weight, postconsumer fiber, if fitness and quality are equal to that of non-recycled item, and available at equal or lesser price.
2. Certify in writing the minimum percentage of postconsumer material in the Paper Products and Printing and Writing Paper offered or sold to the City. This certification requirement may be waived if the percentage of postconsumer material in the Paper Products and/or Printing and Writing Paper can be verified by a product label, catalog, invoice, or a manufacturer or vendor internet website.
3. Only provide Paper Products and Printing and Writing Papers that meet Federal Trade Commission Recyclability standard as defined.
4. Provide records to the Recordkeeping Designee for all Paper Products and Printing and Writing Paper on a schedule to be determined by the Recordkeeping Designee.

B. All vendors providing printing services to the City via a printing contract or written agreement, shall use Printing and Writing Paper that consists of at least thirty percent (30%), by fiber weight, postconsumer fiber, or as amended by Public Contract Code Section 12209.

C. All departments and divisions of the City shall include requirements of this section in the written contract or agreement or execute a purchase order with the applicable vendors.

1.3 SB 1383 Eligible Compost, SB 1383 Eligible Mulch, and Renewable Gas procurement

A. The City, including through its Direct Service Providers, will make every effort to meet its annual procurement target for Recovered Organic Waste Products as determined by the State. Periodically, the City's Recordkeeping Designee shall distribute information to City Staff on the Procurement target and specific products that meet the SB 1383 procurement requirements.

B. Divisions and departments responsible for landscaping maintenance shall:

1. Use SB 1383 Eligible Compost and SB 1383 Eligible Mulch produced from recovered Organic Waste, as defined in the Definitions section of this Policy, for landscaping maintenance as practicable, whenever available, and capable of meeting quality standards and criteria specified.
2. Keep records, including invoices or proof of Recovered Organic Waste Product procurement (either through purchase or acquisition), and submit records to the Recordkeeping Designee, on a schedule to be determined by Recordkeeping Designee. Records shall include:
    a. General procurement records, including:
        (i) General description of how and where the product was used and applied, if applicable;
        (ii) Source of product, including name, physical location, and contact information for each entity, operation, or facility from whom the Recovered Organic Waste Products were procured;
        (iii) Type of product;
        (iv) Quantity of each product; and,
        (v) Invoice or other record demonstrating purchase or procurement.
    b. For SB 1383 Eligible Compost and SB 1383 Eligible Mulch provided to residents through giveaway events or other types of distribution methods, keep records of the SB 1383 Eligible Compost and SB 1383 Eligible Mulch provided to

residents. Records shall be maintained and submitted to the Recordkeeping Designee in accordance with the requirements specified in Section 2.

3. When a Direct Service Provider for the City procures compost or mulch, enter into a written contract or agreement or execute a purchase order between the City and Direct Service Provider with enforceable provisions that include: (i) definitions and specifications for SB 1383 Eligible Mulch, SB 1383 Eligible Compost, Renewable Gas, and/or Electricity Procured from Biomass Conversion; and, (ii) an enforcement mechanism (e.g., termination, liquidated damages) in the event the Direct Service Provider is not compliant with the requirements.
    a. For Renewable Gas procurement (used for fuel for transportation, electricity, or heating applications), the City shall:
        (i) Procure Renewable Gas made from recovered Organic Waste for transportation fuel, electricity, and heating applications to the degree that it is appropriate and available for the City.
        (ii) Keep records in the same manner indicated in Section 2 for the amount of Renewable Gas procured and used by the City, including the general procurement record information specified in Section 2, and submit records to the City on a schedule to be determined by the City and not less than annually. City shall additionally obtain the documentation and submit records specified in Section 2 below, if applicable.

SECTION 2. RECORDKEEPING

2.1 Recordkeeping Responsibilities

A. The City Manager shall select an employee to act as the Recordkeeping Designee that will be responsible for obtaining records pertaining to Procurement of Recovered Organic Waste Products, Recycled-Content Paper Products, and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper. The Recordkeeping Designee will do the following to track Procurement of Recovered Organic Waste Products, Recycled-Content Paper Products, and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper:

1. Collect and collate copies of invoices or receipts (paper or electronic) or other proof of purchase that describe the procurement of Printing and Writing Paper and Paper Products, including the volume and type of all paper purchases; and, copies of certifications and other required verifications from all departments and/or divisions procuring Paper Products and Printing and Writing Paper (whether or not they contain recycled content) and/or from the vendors providing Printing and Writing Paper and Paper Products. These records must be kept as part of the City's documentation of its compliance with 14 CCR Section 18993.3.
    a. If non-Recycled-Content Paper Products and/or non-Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper are provided, include a description of why Recycled-Content Paper Products and/or Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper were not purchased.
2. Collect and collate copies of invoices or receipts or documentation evidencing procurement from all departments and divisions procuring Recovered Organic Waste Products and invoices or similar records from vendors/contractors/others procuring Recovered Organic Waste Products on behalf of the City to develop evidence of the City meeting its Annual Recovered Organic Waste Product Procurement Target.

These records must be kept as part of the City's documentation of its compliance with 14 CCR Section 18993.1.

3. Collect, collate, and maintain documentation submitted by the City's Direct Service Providers and/or vendors, including the information reported to the Recordkeeping Designee.
4. As required, compile data and report on the City's direct procurement, and vendor/other procurement on behalf of the City, of Recovered Organic Waste Products, Recycled-Content Paper Products, and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper, consistent with the requirements for Recycled-Content Paper Products and Recycled-Content Printing and Writing Paper procurement.

SECTION 3. Effective Date of Policy

This Policy shall go into effect immediately.

CITY OF EL CERRITO

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY/PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING POLICY

NUMBER:
DATE: April 2006
AUTHORITY: City Council

Scott Hanin

PURPOSE: To establish an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy for all city funds.

POLICY: The City of El Cerrito prides itself on being an environmental leader. It is the current practice of the City of El Cerrito to purchase environmentally preferable products whenever technically and economically feasible to create markets for environmentally preferable products and close the recycling loop. The City Council hereby establishes a new policy to document these practices and increase participation in environmentally preferable procurement.

A. Each department and the City's Central Purchasing Agent shall make every reasonable effort to purchase and use recycled-content office products, whenever practicable, using US EPA recycled content standards as a guide. The City shall also include such directions in the standard professional services contract. All related departments shall work cooperatively to further the purposes of this policy.

B. The City shall include EPP requirements in Janitorial contract(s) and direct City custodians to purchase/use EPP products.

C. The City shall use recycled mulch and soil products in City landscaping projects whenever practicable and will include the same direction in City landscaping contracts.

D. The City shall use recycled content playground equipment and surfacing whenever practicable.

E. The City shall use recycled-content materials for City building and roadway construction whenever practicable. The City shall

request recycled-content materials whenever practicable in all CIP project contracts.

F. The City shall make an effort to purchase other environmentally preferable products whenever feasible such as energy-saving lights, appliances, and equipment and alternative fuel vehicles.

PROCEDURE:

A. When making purchases, City staff will consider the product's environmental attributes, such as its recycled content, toxicity, energy usage, and polluting emissions. Staff will choose the most environmental preferable product whenever practicable.

B. When recycled products are used, reasonable efforts shall be undertaken to label the products to indicate that they contain recycled materials. Departments shall use letterhead stationary and envelopes that include post-consumer recycled content and indicate on the paper and envelopes that they contain recycled material. Other recycled products used by the City shall also indicate that they contain recycled material to the extent practicable.

C. The City will support, to the greatest extent feasible, other local business and government agencies efforts, with information and networking, to develop environmentally preferable procurement practices.

From: FishCrimes
To: Christina Leard
Subject: An Email on Drilling
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:21:04 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Shobit

From: Reed O"Brien
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Ban new oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:32:44 AM
Attachments: signature.asc

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

We don't need more soil rendered unusable for corporate greed and profit. Represent the residents of the county, not companies that want to extract value and leave toxic waste behind.

Sincerely,
Reed O'Brien

From: Rachel Adams
To: Christina Leard
Subject: ban oil and gas drilling in CC County
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:24:51 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Drilling for more oil and gas is directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and to protect human and environmental health.

Sincerely,
Rachel Adams

From: Carrie Hobbs Schulman
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Ban oil and gas drilling in Coco
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 12:48:31 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Hello,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Carrie Schulman
[redacted]

From: Leslie Weir
To: Christina Leard
Subject: El Cerrito City Council must sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:57:36 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Just this week, residents near the Martinez Refinery were warned not to eat fruits and vegetables growing in their own gardens! Oil and gas production has a long history of ignoring public health and safety and should not be expanded. Further, drilling for more oil and gas is directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Leslie Weir (Resident of El Cerrito for 60 years)

From: James Carter
To: Christina Leard
Subject: end drilling for gas and oil now!
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 1:03:02 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

We would urge the good people that represent us all on the El Cerrito City Council to put the interests of future generations first and end any new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out -- as soon as possible -- any existing gas or oil drilling done in our town and nearby.

This is a crucial moment in world history, one that WILL determine the fate of our children, grandchildren and all generations to come. If we continue to burn fossil fuels there is no way that anyone can slow down, much less reduce, global warming.

We are certain that the good people of the El Cerrito City Council have done diligent research on the measure regarding this issue and are well aware of the depth and extent of the Climate Crisis. Please do the right thing so our efforts at home to reduce carbon emissions are not simply a token gesture undone by activities in our backyard and so we can all sleep at night knowing that it may not be too late to prevent even *greater* climate catastrophes than those we have already witnessed.

Respectfully,

James and Maria Carter
[redacted]
El Cerrito, CA

From: Marisa Singer
To: Christina Leard
Subject: End new permitting of oil & gas drilling
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:29:58 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Marisa Singer
El Cerrito, CA

From: Kathleen Mascarenhas
To: Christina Leard
Subject: End New Permitting of Oil and Gas Drilling
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 10:46:51 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee:

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and to phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Also, drilling for more oil and gas is directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health. In 2023 we should be supporting efforts that move away from fossil fuels, not engaging in new policies that continue to harm the environment and our collective health.

Thank you for your consideration and your work to move El Cerrito and the greater Contra Costa County to a greener future. Your residents appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Mascarenhas

From: Stu
To: Christina Leard
Subject: End oil and gas drilling in CC county
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 8:36:00 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Stuart Sonatina
[redacted]

From: Amei Papitto
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Environmental Quality Committee
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:54:45 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Amei Anders-Papitto
--
Amei Papitto
Artist
[redacted]

From: Polly Mayer
To: Christina Leard
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:58:18 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

In yesterday's SF Chronicle there was an article about how people in Martinez are being warned not to eat the vegetables grown in their gardens due to toxic pollution in the soil from the nearby refinery. This further emphasized the need to prevent any new permitting of oil and gas drilling in our community. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important issue.

Sincerely,
Polly Mayer

[redacted]
El Cerrito, CA 94530

--
Polly S. Mayer, M.Ed., ET/P
Assistant Professor
Director of the Educational Therapy Program
School of Education and Liberal Arts
[redacted]

Notice of Confidentiality: This email, and any attachments, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) and may contain privileged or confidential information. Any distribution, reading, copying or use of this communication and any attachments by anyone other than the addressee, is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify me by email (by replying to this message), and permanently destroy or delete the original and any copies or printouts of this email and any attachments.

From: Renee
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Oil and gas drilling
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:38:06 PM

I am writing to urge the committee to adopt the resolution to end oil and gas drilling in Contra Costa County. Our efforts must be concentrated on reducing contributors to climate change and protecting the health and well being of our communities.

Sincerely,
Renee Tissue
Sent from my iPhone

From: Seth Morrison
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Permitting of oil and gas drilling
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 10:57:21 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,

Seth Morrison
He/Him/His
[redacted]

From: Maggie W.
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Please Ban Oil and Gas Drilling in CC County
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:02:59 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Hello Christina.

As a long-time resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Thank You.

Best,
Maggie Winslow

--
Maggie A. Winslow
[redacted]

From: Keely Tongate
To: Christina Leard
Cc: adam levy; Clio Levy- tongate
Subject: Resolution ending oil and gas drilling
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 10:33:53 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Keely Tongate

From: Karen Leung
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Resolution to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:20:59 AM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a long time resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Karen Leung

From: Nick Brooks
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Resolution to phase out oil and gas drilling
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 6:03:08 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the EC Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,
Nick Brooks

From: Krischelle Love
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Stop oil and gas drilling!
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 9:23:05 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito and on behalf of my spouse and three young children, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,

Krischelle Love
[redacted]

From: Allison Cooper
To: Christina Leard
Subject: To EQC: In support of ending Oil & Gas in Contra Costa County
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 3:23:13 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

As a resident of El Cerrito, I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities.

I hope this includes both drilling itself and also plans to end refining and other petrochemical industries in the area; as we've seen recently with the releases of toxic chemicals in Martinez around Thanksgiving, these have serious impacts on our community — far too close to home for comfort. Not only is this drilling dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells, but these activities are also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.

Sincerely,

Allison Cooper
El Cerrito, CA

From:	CHARLES BURRESS
To:	Christina Leard
Cc:	BNA St
Subject:	Urgent message to Environmental Quality Committee
Date:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 11:02:57 AM
Attachments:	SF Chronicle refinery warning.pdf

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dear El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee,

I strongly urge you to endorse a resolution to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and to phase out existing oil and gas activities in the County. The article below, published on page 2 of this morning's San Francisco Chronicle, reports that Contra Costa Co. health officials are warning residents not to eat produce grown near a Martinez refinery. It is but one example of the many harms now being caused by fossil-fuel extraction and use to County residents, as well as to millions of others around the globe.

Ending our reliance on fossil fuels is vital not only for safeguarding human health now but also for averting massive death and suffering caused by increased global warming in the future.

Thank you for your service to the City.

Sincerely,
Charles Burress
Member, Behrens Neighborhood Association

BAY AREA & BUSINESS

Residents near oil refinery told not to eat local produce

By Rachel Swan

Brittany Hosea-Small/Special to The Chronicle

Dr. Ori Tzvieli, deputy health officer for Contra Costa County, issued the precautionary warning since planting season is underway in East Bay towns.

Health officials have advised residents who live near a Contra Costa County oil refinery to avoid eating produce grown in the soil, which could be tainted by heavy metals that poured from the facility last Thanksgiving.

The 20 tons of dust unleashed from the Martinez Refinery on Nov. 24 left a layer of fine white powder on cars, homes and backyards, later found to have "unusually high" levels of aluminum, chromium, barium, zinc, nickel and vanadium, top officers of Contra Costa Health Services said in a statement.

They described the dust as a "spent catalyst" from a major chemical accident, and said it began wafting from the refinery at about 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 24, dousing nearby communities until the early hours of Nov. 25. Initially, representatives of the refinery kept mum about the incident, not acknowledging it for several days, according to Contra Costa County Health Officer and Public Health Director Dr. Ori Tzvieli.

"We found out about it through social media," Tzvieli said, noting that the health department was unable to warn people about potential respiratory effects from the dust that had suddenly caked their neighborhoods.

"That was a very concerning aspect," Tzvieli added. Refinery officials acknowledged the dust plumes after Contra Costa Health Services released a 72-hour incident report. The health department later referred the incident to the district attorney and to an 11-member oversight committee that is conducting an independent probe.

Spokespeople for Martinez Refining Company LLC, which owns the facility at 3485 Pacheco Blvd., were not immediately available to comment on Tuesday.

Tzvieli said he and his colleagues issued an advisory Tuesday as a precautionary measure, since planting season is underway in East Bay towns with a long tradition of backyard gardening. While public health experts have not yet outlined the perimeter of the danger zone, it seems to encompass the county seat of Martinez and the adjacent suburb of Pacheco, Tzvieli said. Gardeners in those areas should refrain from eating their own vegetables, possibly until early summer when tests are complete. People do not have to worry about produce they buy at grocery stores.

"It's OK to plant, but don't harvest," Tzvieli warned. "Or if you want to be safer, you can bring in fresh soil and plant in containers or garden beds."

Staff at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District are measuring dust particles and reviewing weather and plume models to better understand what risk the chemical residue may pose. The county has also released a request for proposals for a toxicologist to analyze the soil, though it may take several months to finish those tests and make findings, Tzvieli said.

Emergency responders in Martinez did not see an uptick in calls related to respiratory problems after the Thanksgiving dust spill, Tzvieli said. But he and other health experts are more worried about long-term consequences.

Heavy metals may linger in the atmosphere, and ingesting them has been linked to cancer or weakening of the immune system, the health officer said. He advised people not to panic, however, since these health effects tend to accumulate in the body over time. At this point, health experts have no evidence that an isolated dust spill would cause lasting damage.

Reach Rachel Swan: rswan@sfchronicle.com

As North Tahoe snow blocks vents,

BUSINESS IN BRI

INFLATION

Fed may boost key rates higher than predicted

The Federal Reserve could increase the size o its interest rate hikes an raise borrowing costs to higher levels than previ ously projected if evidence continues to poin to a robust economy an persistently high inflation, Chair Jerome Powe told a Senate panel Tues day.

"The latest economic data have come in stron ger than expected, whic suggests that the ultima level of interest rates is likely to be higher than previously anticipated," Powell testified to the Senate Banking Commit tee.

The Fed chair's remarks Tuesday raised th real possibility that the Fed will increase its benchmark rate by a half-percentage point at its next meeting March 21-22.

Over the past year, th central bank has raised key rate, which affects many consumer and bus ness loans, eight times.

MARKETS

Stocks tumble as Powell warns of recession

Stocks sank Tuesday after the head of the Fed eral Reserve warned it could turn the dial back up on its hikes to interes rates if pressure stays high on inflation.

The warning shook markets and raised wor ries about a possible re cession down the line.

The S&P 500 dropped 1.5 percent for one of its worst days of the year so far. The Dow Jones Indu trial Average lost 574 points, or 1.7 percent,

From: Mikah Reeder
To: Christina Leard
Subject: Dear Members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023 4:18:21 PM

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

I am writing to ask you to encourage the El Cerrito City Council to sign a resolution calling on Contra Costa County to end new permitting of oil and gas drilling and phase out existing oil and gas activities. Oil and gas drilling is dangerous to the health of the children and people living in close proximity to wells. Drilling for more oil and gas is also directly at odds with the action we must take to limit global warming and protect health.