



Staff Liaison
Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Thursday, February 15, 2024 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 Simrun Dhoot; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Fred Bialy, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony
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 Council Liaison Carolyn Wysinger may report on policies, priorities, and actions taken by the City Council, and/or on matters of general interest to the EQC.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting held on January 9, 2024.
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE** *(10 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the City's Urban Forest Committee.
6. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *(30 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 2024 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Jan. 20, Saturday, 10am, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers, HNA (Debrief)
 - Feb. 17, Saturday, 10am, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers, HNA Madera Open Space
 - March 16, Saturday, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers. Location TBD
 - March 24, Sunday, El Cerrito Plaza Bart Station cleanup
 - April 6, Saturday, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers. Location TBD
 - April 20, Saturday, Earth Day TBD
 - May 19, Sunday, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers. Location TBD
 - June 2, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (w/ Baxter volunteers)
 - Aug. 11, Sunday. Northern Gateways Park cleanup
 - Sept. 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park (TBD)
 - Oct. 12, Saturday, Northern San Pablo Ave. cleanup
 - Dec. 1, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park (w/ Baxter volunteers)
 - Arbor Week – March 7-14
 - **Earth Day** - April 20, 2024
 - Hillside Festival – May 4 & 5
 - Bike to Work Day – May 15
 - El Cerrito Ride Electric & Alt. Transportation Event (fall 2024)

- 7. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS (15 min.)**
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment members to the EQC.
- 8. COLLABORATION WITH THE EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL ECO CLUB (20 min.)**
Hear updates from Member Bialy, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the El Cerrito High School Eco Club.
- 9. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) (10 min.)**
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding development of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.
- 10. HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA FIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT (10 min.)**
Receive an update from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items.
- 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (10 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:
 - Draft CAAP (March 12 meeting)
 - Elections for Chair and Vice-chair (April 9 meeting)
 - Local Road Safety Plan Presentation from City Staff (April 9 meeting)
 - Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (Joint meeting with UFC - July)
- 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, 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.



Staff Liaison
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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Simrun Dhoot; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Fred Bialy, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony
Absent: Paloma Pavel **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison

2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no communications from the public.

3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Staff Liaison Leard provided brief updates on the following:

- El Cerrito has a new Mayor: Tessa Rudnick and Mayor Pro Tem: Carolyn Wysinger
- El Cerrito is in final stage of recruitment for the Environmental Specialist position
- New California Redemption Value (CRV) items added to the Bottle Bill. Adds wine, spirits, and juices to the CRV program, as well as new wine and liquor containers (pouches, boxes, and cartons). Will also be accepted in the curbside program.
- Reminder of EQC member term expirations and timeline for interviews and reappointments
- Berkeley Gas Ban status: US/Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to rehear the case of Berkeley's ban on new natural gas hookups. Ruling is final.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting held on December 12, 2023.

Move/Second: O'Connor/Bialy **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the December 12, 2023 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Goudey, Akacić, Austin, Bialy, Miner, O'Connor, Tarbet, Vekony **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Dhoot

5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave updates from the recent Urban Forest Committee meeting, including updates for Arbor Week to take place March 7-14.

6. **HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA FIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION
MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION FROM CITY STAFF**

The committee received a presentation from City staff on the process and timeline of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan (Plan) and participated in discussion. There were public comments from Susan Schwartz, Heather Hayashi, and Robin Mitchell.

Chair Goudey appointed members Austin, Bialy, and Miner to an Ad Hoc Committee to work together to advise the EQC on potential recommendations on the Plan.

7. FRIENDS OF FIVE CREEKS PRESENTATION ON THE HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA FIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee received a presentation from Friends of Five Creeks and participated in discussion on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan.

- Presentation and public comment letter attached to the agenda.

There were public comments from Sue Duncan, Robin Mitchell, Brian Richmond, and Heather Hayashi.

8. EQC ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Consider a motion to approve the EQC Work Plan and Calendar for 2024.

- 2024 Calendar, Work Plan and 2023 Achievements attached to the agenda.

Move/Second: O'Connor/Dhoot **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the EQC 2024 Calendar, Work Plan and 2023 Achievements. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. 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 2024, including:

- Green Team 2024 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Jan. 20, Saturday, 10am, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers, HNA Madera Open Space
 - Feb. 17, Saturday, 10am, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers, location TBD
 - March 24, Sunday, El Cerrito Plaza Bart Station cleanup (lead by O'Connor & Miner)
 - April 20, Saturday, Earth Day TBD (O'Connor proposed Northern Gateways)
 - June 2, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (w/ Baxter volunteers)
 - Aug. 11, Sunday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup
 - Sept. 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park (TBD)
 - Oct. 12, Saturday, Northern San Pablo Ave. cleanup
 - Dec. 1, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park (w/ Baxter volunteers)
- Earth Day - April 20, 2024
- **10th Annual Hillside Festival – May 4 & 5, Saturday & Sunday**

Move/Second: Miner/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to motion to co-sponsor the 10th Annual Hillside Festival. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- An EC Drive Electric Event
- EQC Interviews & appointments – February
- Member Akacić announced the Janet Abelson Memorial Walk on 1/14 at 2pm
- Member Austin announced the Trail Trekkers meeting on 1/27
- Member Bialy to meet with ECHS Eco Club on 1/22 at 11:20am

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

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 Jan 9, 2024 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison