



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

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, June 11, 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 Simrun Dhoot; Vice-Chair Fred Bialy; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Howdy Goudey, Heather Hayashi, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Seth Shonkoff, 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. 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 May 14, 2024.
5. **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.
6. **FY24-25 & FY25-26 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION AND ADOPT FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS** *(30 min.)*
Review and comment on the Draft EQC Biennial Work Plan. Discuss and adopt accomplishments for the prior fiscal year, to be adopted no later than July 1, 2024.
7. **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION** *(10 min.)*
Discuss and consider the option to request the City advertise interest in a youth member appointment to the advisory body.

General Process will be as follows:

- City Clerk will advertise for all interested advisory bodies on website and social media
- Applications are submitted to the City Clerk (who will ensure parental consent is received)
- Applications will be provided to the Staff Liaison
- Staff Liaison will agendaize informal interview/consideration of appointment
- Staff Liaison will notify City Clerk of any Appointment made
- City Clerk will gather the required filing and trainings required from the youth member
- "Term End Date" will be the date the youth member will age out of qualification to serve
- Upon end of service, Staff liaison will encourage and work with City Clerk for the youth to provide a brief presentation to Council about their experience

8. CLEANER CONTRA COSTA CHALLENGE (10 min.)

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding promotion of the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge (<https://cleanercontracosta.org/>).

- Tied to CAAP Action ID: CRE (Community Resilience and Empowerment) 2.3 – Personal Climate Action

9. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JANET ABELSON EL CERRITO WALL OF FAME APPLICATION (10 min.)

Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding drafting a letter of support for a Janet Abelson El Cerrito Wall of Fame application.

10. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS (15 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:
 - May 19, Sunday, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers, Madera Open Space (debrief)
 - June 2, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (w/ Baxter volunteers) (debrief)
 - 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)
- Bike to Work Day – May 16 (debrief)
- Sat. June 1; East Bay Green Home Tour (debrief)
- Sun. June 2; El Cerrito Library Parking Lot – El Cerrito Free Market (debrief)
- worldOne 4th of July Festival
- EC Drive Electric Event (Fall, TBD)
 - Location evaluation
- Sept. 21, 2024 - CA Coastal Cleanup Day - TBD

11. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) HANDOUT SUGGESTIONS (20 min.)

Report-out from the ad hoc subcommittee, participate in discussion and consider possible action items for suggestions for the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) handout for property owners wishing to develop an ADU.

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:

- June 14, 5pm - Annual Recognition Dinner for Advisory Body Members; El Cerrito Community Center
- Liaison with the Human Relations Commission
- Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (Joint meeting with UFC – Summer/Fall 2024)
- Review of [Brown Act](#) and [Rosenburg's Rules of Order](#) (Parliamentary Procedure)
- Youth Engagement; Earth Team

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.



Staff Liaison
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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Dhoot called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Simrun Dhoot; Vice-Chair Fred Bialy; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Howdy Goudey, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony
Absent: Heather Hayashi and Seth Shonkoff **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Paloma Pavel, El Cerrito resident, shared that she is working on a film series collaboration with Gabe Quinto and “Albany Film Series.”
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Leard announced that the City is currently hiring for Operations & Environmental Services Division (OESD) Manager. She also gave highlights on the City's 2-year budget process and shared that revenues are relatively flat while expenses are increasing, so department heads were tasked with cutting the budget for their departments by 5%. When asked if the EQC had a budget for the next 2 years, Ms. Leard said she would check and report back.
4. **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN PRESENTATION**
EQC members received a presentation from the El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department and participated in discussion on the [Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting held on April 9, 2024.
Move/Second: O'Connor/Bialy **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the April 9, 2024 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Dhoot, Bialy, Akacić, Austin, Goudey, Miner, O'Connor, Tarbet
Noes: None **Abstain:** Vekony
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave updates from the recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.
7. **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 Bialy/Miner **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend to City Council that Paloma Pavel be appointed to the EQC. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
8. **REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**
EQC members discussed and considered passing a motion to reduce the regular meeting schedule based on the new minimum requirement to meet quarterly (not monthly) as adopted by City Council in April.

The committee discussed the possibility of canceling the December meeting to hold a social event instead; Staff Liaison Leard to verify that does not violate the Brown Act.

Move/Second: Goudey/Bialy **Action:** Passed a motion to keep the monthly meeting schedule. **Ayes:** unanimous **Noes:** None

Public Comment was received from Richmond Resident Cordell Hindler.

9. FY 24-25 & FY 25-26 WORK PLAN AND FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EQC members reviewed and commented on the Draft EQC Biennial Work Plan and discussed and documented accomplishments for the prior fiscal year, to be adopted no later than July 1, 2024.

Member Miner volunteered to take notes and incorporate edits to the Work Plan, with committee comments due by 5/31.

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 2024, including:

- Green Team 2024 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - April 20, Saturday, Earth Day (debrief)
 - May 19, Sunday, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers, Madera Open Space
 - 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 (debrief)
- Hillside Festival – May 4 & 5 (debrief)
- Bike to Work Day – May 16
- Sat. June 1; East Bay Green Home Tour
- Sun. June 2; El Cerrito Library Parking Lot – El Cerrito Free Market (formerly “Swap It”)
- EC Drive Electric Event (TBD)
 - Staff Liaison Leard shared that the EC Plaza BART parking lot at Central Ave would be the best location for the event. (Used for MLK Parade)
 - Ms. Leard to reach out to BART about a Saturday in October
 - Not enough staff capacity to support a street closure
 - City does not have contacts for DMV parking lot
 - Other options: St. John’s Church parking lot

11. HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA FIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING UPDATE

EQC members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan.

12. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JANET ABELSON EL CERRITO WALL OF FAME APPLICATION

EQC members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding drafting a letter of support for a Janet Abelson El Cerrito Wall of Fame application.

Member Akacić to provide draft letter of support to Staff Liaison for approval at the June meeting.

13. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)

EQC members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding development of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Move/Second: Members Miner/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to send EQC Recommendation to Council on Climate Action “Early Wins” and CAAP Integration into Budget **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

See attachment for recommendations.

There was public comment received by Richmond Resident Cordell Hindler.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- May TBD - Annual Recognition Event for past Advisory Body Members
- June 11 – Adopt FY 2024 Accomplishments (must be adopted by July 1, 2024)
- June 11 – Youth Membership Discussion
- Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) handout suggestions
- Liaison with the Human Relations Commission
- Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (Joint meeting with UFC – Summer/Fall 2024)
- Youth Engagement; Earth Team

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9.23 p.m.

Simrun Dhoot, 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 May 14, 2024 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison

EQC Recommendation to Council on Climate Action “Early Wins” and CAAP Integration into Budget

Mayor Rudnick and Councilmembers:

With the Draft Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) expected for adoption in the next few months, the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) has the following recommendation that we encourage you to take into consideration during your current 2-year budget setting process.

- The 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration, and the subsequent Council direction to bring climate action “early wins” prior to CAAP adoption, should be met with substantive, stated and funded, climate action in the current 2-year budget.
- Also, the new budget should include funding for near term elements in the draft CAAP, as it is expected to be adopted at the beginning of that 2-year period.
- The identified “early wins” in the draft CAAP should be implemented and strengthened, in a timely manner, to be consistent with the intention of the Climate Emergency Declaration and the “early wins” idea, that has largely been postponed by the complications preventing further action on the intended all-electric building ordinance.

Please consider some of the following for explicit inclusion and funding in the next 2-year budget:

- A prompt alternative to the intended all-electric building ordinance that delivers a very strong incentive to build all-electric buildings without raising concerns of legal challenges.
- Modification of the Real Property Transfer Tax rebate program to exclude using the rebate for funding the installation of gas appliances.
- Adoption of a revised Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy, perhaps renaming it the Environmentally Preferred and Climate Action Purchasing Policy, that emphasizes forward looking purchases that make meaningful contributions to climate action
- Support the draft “early wins” by funding a watering trailer (“water buffalo”) to enable proper maintenance of newly planted street trees.
- Support the other draft “early win” by funding public, and city fleet and employee, EV charging at the Community Center and other feasible City locations.
- Make an explicit statement that climate action is expected to be implemented as standard practice in all job descriptions and employee evaluations.



Staff Liaison

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

BIENNIAL WORK PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 - 2025/2026

Environmental Quality Committee

Chair **Simrun Dhoot**; Vice-Chair **Fred Bialy**; Members **Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Fred Bialy, Howdy Goudey, Heather Hayashi, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Seth Shonkoff, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony**

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

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

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

1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council, staff, other boards, commissions, and committees, and the citizens of the City with regard to environmental quality issues within the City of El Cerrito
2. To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts
3. To promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito residents regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts

The EQC **goals** are

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

The EQC's work is guided by the 2024–2029 El Cerrito Strategic Plan (excerpted below):

Goal: Environmental Sustainability: *Promote environmental sustainability and stewardship by engaging in initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint, conserve natural resources, and foster a culture of environmental responsibility.*

- Update and implement the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and infuse it in all that we do.
- Maintain and leverage the Recycling Center as a community asset.
- Develop a plan to support the infrastructure needed to shift to clean energy vehicles.
- Promote strategies that address the climate emergency.
- Seek regional funding for environmental solutions.

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

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Since the EQC's establishment in 2008, the committee's emphasis has cycled between public education, community volunteer organization, and environmental policy, but the general commitment to all forms of action envisioned for the EQC has remained consistent over time. The committee has also consistently maintained a high fraction of the 15 member capacity, with both long-serving members and a rotation of new members.

FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025*Items listed in priority order*

Goal or Objective	Proposed Activities	Funding and other Resources requested	Estimated Staff time needed	Timeline For Completion	Lead Committee Member
Promote Environmental Awareness and Education	Participate in or Promote Public Engagement Events: • Promote public events such as films, lectures, and workshops to raise awareness about environmental issues, climate change, and sustainability. • Offer activities like EV car and bike test-drives to showcase sustainable transportation options. Provide Outreach and Resources: • Inform residents about tax incentives and rebates for electrification and sustainable practices. • Offer education materials on active transportation alternatives and programs for reducing car ownership. Engage Youth and Schools: • Collaborate with schools and youth organizations to expand environmental education programs and involve young residents in climate initiatives. Community Outreach and Collaboration: • Engage with the public at city events and through other outreach activities to raise awareness about environmental conservation. • Co-sponsor relevant community events such as the Hillside Festival, hikes, Fix-it Clinics, and Free Market events.				
Facilitate Community Engagement through Volunteer Work Parties	Organize Regular Green Teams Work Parties with Diverse Habitat Improvement Projects • Hold Green Teams work parties every other month to establish a consistent schedule. • Offer a variety of habitat improvement projects including activities such as invasive species removal.				

Advocate for Policy Change	Provide Input and Promote Public Meetings for CAAP Update: • Promote public meetings to gather community input for the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Update. • Advocate for policies in the CAAP update to accelerate progress toward zero net greenhouse gas emissions, promote electrification, and prioritize equity. Engage in Budget Process to Support CAAP Goals: • Advocate for CAAP goals during the budget process to ensure allocation of resources for achieving social, racial, and environmental justice objectives. Provide Input and Review Hillside Natural Area Plan: • Review and provide input on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan to ensure alignment with environmental goals. Advocate for Policies for Electrification of Buildings: • Advocate for policies to promote electrification of new buildings and phase out natural gas usage, particularly in new developments and landscaping practices citywide. Support Expansion of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: • Support initiatives to promote and expand EV adoption and charging infrastructure. • Participate in the transit-oriented development project at El Cerrito Plaza BART station to promote sustainable transportation options. Collaborate with City Commissions and Committees: Interface with relevant city commissions and committees to develop environmentally friendly policies and/or initiatives.				
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Advocate for Effective Implementation of City Environmental Initiatives	Enhance and Promote Active Transportation: - Promote active transportation modes and improve access. Stewardship of Hillside Natural Area - Expand stewardship efforts in the Hillside Natural Area. - Support the implementation of the Hillside Natural Area Master Plan and collaborate with the Urban Forest Committee. Implement City Policies for Solid Waste Regulations: - Assist in the implementation of new state solid waste regulations for businesses and residents.				
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FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

Items listed in priority order

Goal or Objective	Proposed Activities	Funding and other Resources requested	Estimated Staff time needed	Timeline For Completion	Lead Committee Member
Promote Environmental Awareness and Education	Participate in or Promote Public Engagement Events: - Promote public events such as films, lectures, and workshops to raise awareness about environmental issues, climate change, and sustainability. - Offer activities like EV car and bike test-drives to showcase sustainable transportation options. Provide Outreach and Resources: - Inform residents about tax incentives and rebates for electrification and sustainable practices. - Offer education materials on active transportation alternatives and programs for reducing car ownership. Engage Youth and Schools: - Collaborate with schools and youth organizations to expand environmental education programs and involve young residents in climate initiatives. Community Outreach and Collaboration:				

	- Engage with the public at city events and through other outreach activities to raise awareness about environmental conservation. - Co-sponsor relevant community events such as the Hillside Festival, hikes, Fix-it Clinics, and Free Market events.				
Facilitate Community Engagement through Volunteer Work Parties	Organize Regular Green Teams Work Parties with Diverse Habitat Improvement Projects - Hold Green Teams work parties every other month to establish a consistent schedule. - Offer a variety of habitat improvement projects including activities such as invasive species removal.				
Advocate for Policy Change	Advocate for Policies for Electrification of Buildings: - Advocate for policies to promote electrification of new buildings and phase out natural gas usage, particularly in new developments and landscaping practices citywide. Support Expansion of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: - Support initiatives to promote and expand EV adoption and charging infrastructure. - Participate in transit-oriented development projects. Collaborate with City Commissions and Committees: - Interface with relevant city commissions and committees to develop environmentally friendly policies and/or initiatives.				

Advocate for Effective Implementation of City Environmental Initiatives	Assist in Implementation of CAAP Strategies: • Assist in monitoring progress towards CAAP goals and providing feedback to city officials and the public. • Solicit feedback from residents and stakeholders to promote participation in implementation activities. • Advocate for policies that support the goals of the CAAP. This may include advocating for funding, incentives, or regulatory changes at various levels of government. • Provide technical assistance to help city staff, businesses or residents implement CAAP initiatives effectively. Engage in Budget Process to Support CAAP Goals: • Advocate for CAAP goals during the budget process to ensure allocation of resources for achieving social, racial, and environmental justice objectives. Assist in Implementation of Hillside Natural Area Plan: • Utilize various communication channels to disseminate information about the goals, objectives, and key initiatives outlined in the plan. • Organize or sponsor guided nature walks to showcase ecological significance, biodiversity, and ongoing conservation efforts. Enhance and Promote Active Transportation: • Promote active transportation modes and improve access.				
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ONGOING PROJECTS

Project	Activities	Funding and other Resources requested	Estimated Staff time needed	Lead Committee Member
Green Team Work Parties	Coordinate roughly six trash clean-up events each year in various City parks, the Ohlone Greenway, and City streets. Organize other volunteer work parties focused on weed/invasive plant removal, pollinator habitat restoration/stewardship, tree planting (in collaboration with the Urban Forest Committee and City arborist), and maintenance/stewardship of the Hillside Natural Area.			
Hillside Festival	Assist Trail Trekkers in production of the annual event celebrating the Hillside Natural Area with many hikes, talks, and activities.			
Climate Action and Adaptation Implementation and Progress Metrics	Work with City staff to complete development of the CAAP and begin to implement it, including timely progress on “early wins.” Explore opportunities to reduce residential natural gas use and promote electrification of home appliances, automobiles, and landscaping equipment as a complement to 100% renewable electrical power. Promote improved municipal electric vehicle infrastructure/readiness and fleet management. Explore ways to achieve greater social, racial, and environmental justice.			

PRIOR FISCAL YEAR (FY 23-24) ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Updated annually by July 1 and provided to City Council on Consent

Goal/Objective	Activities Supporting Goal	Status
Public Education and Outreach	a) Promoted electric vehicle outreach and education in collaboration with Drive Clean Bay Area. b) Participated in National Drive Electric Week events. c) Tabled at Bike to Work Day and the WorldOne 4th of July festival to promote electrification of vehicles, home heating and cooking, including induction cooktop loaner programs. d) Promoted the SunShares program. e) Promoted and hosted 2023 Earth Day work parties. f) Co-sponsored 2023 East Bay Green Home Tour. g) Promoted the postponed 7th Annual Hillside Festival, co-sponsored with El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. h) Maintained steady coordination with the Urban Forest Committee, including participation in Arbor Week event. i) Received presentations from the Sustainable Transportation Program manager and from El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers (now El Cerrito/Richmond Annex Walk & Roll). j) Co-hosted a screening of <i>The Street Project</i> with El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers at the Rialto Cinemas. k) Co-sponsored El Cerrito Free Market events and secured a site for them in the library parking lot. l) Continued recurring agenda items to present an example of environmental art at each meeting.	
Volunteer Work Parties	Organized in-person Green Teams work parties, including trash removal from streets, parks, and creeks and participation in Coastal Clean-up Day; held broom pulls in the Hillside Natural Area.	
Policy Development and Recommendations	a) Hosted public meetings on the CAAP and provided recommendations and feedback to the CAAP consultant. Two EQC members serve on the CAAP stakeholder advisory group. b) Provided a member to represent the EQC on the new Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group Provided advice to Council about changes to the communications between advisory groups and Council, Staff and other advisory groups, as well as other aspects of how advisory bodies operate	
Implementation of City Environmental Programs	a) Supported City programs through public education, outreach, and work parties.	

June 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter of support for Janet Abelson's inclusion to the City of El Cerrito Wall of Fame - is submitted for due consideration by the City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee.

Our experience and our perception is that Janet's life commitment to serving the public welfare in and around El Cerrito for some 30 years is absolute evidence and embodiment of inspiration to us all. We can think of no one more important to us as an icon dedicated to creating an El Cerrito that improves our lives. Janet's active involvement in local community affairs and always with an intense passion toward the betterment of local conditions for the people who live here inspires us to support her nomination for the El Cerrito Wall of Fame. Our belief is that she has in fact earned her place on our City of El Cerrito Wall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Simrun Dhoot
Chair, Environmental Quality Committee

The El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee passed a motion to send a letter in support of Janet Abelson's nomination to the City of El Cerrito Wall of Fame at their meeting on June 11, 2024. The motion passed unanimously with Members _____ voting Aye.

Draft EQC Recommendations for ADU Brochure Content
Outreach About All-electric ADUs
June 6, 2024

Dear Planning Staff,

For consistency with the City's 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration and 2024 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, choosing all-electric power for an ADU is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce construction and operating costs and improve indoor air quality and health outcomes.

Please consider including the content presented here in the new ADU brochure that is being developed for those interested in building an ADU in El Cerrito. Some short bullet points are followed by longer versions of the same statements for more background. Please include these ideas in the ADU brochure as much as possible, as space allows.

Thank you,

The Environmental Quality Committee

An all-electric ADU . . .

- Reduces GHG emissions.
- Saves money upfront during construction as well as during ongoing operation.
- Eliminates the poor indoor air quality and adverse health consequences associated with gas appliances.
- Provides a greater selection of high quality small electric appliances that are appropriate for the scale of an ADU.
- Is supported by strong financial incentives to reduce the cost of electric appliances.
- Uses electric induction cooktops that are cleaner and more efficient than gas cooktops with similar cooking responsiveness.
- Is future proof, unlike using gas appliances, which will be phased out by 2031, and unavailable for future replacement.

Shorter version on previous page, longer version with a little more detail for reference, below:

An all-electric ADU . . .

- Reduces GHG emissions by using clean grid electricity instead of burning fossil fuels
- Saves money upfront during construction by avoiding the installation of an additional gas utility run from the gas service to the ADU and gas piping to appliances in the ADU, as well as removing the need to install combustion flue gas venting. Also saves money over time with lower operating costs.
- Eliminates the poor indoor air quality and adverse health consequences associated with gas appliances (both operating normally and malfunctioning). An ADU exacerbates indoor air quality issues with gas appliances because they are generally small, relatively air tight new construction, and have relatively few room divides, such that there are higher personal exposures, including in sleeping areas.
- Provides a greater selection of high quality small electric appliances compared with the limited choices for smaller gas appliances that are appropriate for the scale of an ADU.
- Is supported by strong financial incentives to reduce the cost of electric heat pump space heating and cooling, heat pump hot water heaters and electric induction cooktops.
- Uses electric induction cooktops that are cleaner for indoor air quality, easier to clean, and more efficient than gas cooktops with similar cooking responsiveness.
- Is future proof, unlike using gas appliances, which will be phased out by 2031, and unavailable for future replacement, making them more vulnerable to high conversion costs in the future.

Links/references:

[The Switch Is On](#)

[BayREN rebates](#)

[BAAQMD appliance regulation](#)