



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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, August 13, 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, 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. **CLEANER CONTRA COSTA CHALLENGE** *(20 min.)*
Receive a presentation, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding promotion of the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge.
 - cleanercontracosta.org/elcerrito
5. **HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA FIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION** *(20 min.)*
Receive a presentation, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding the [Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan](#).
6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(5 min.)*
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting held on June 11, 2024.
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. **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.
9. **REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX (RPTT) REBATE RECOMMENDATIONS** *(10 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider appointing an ad hoc subcommittee to make recommendations on suggested changes to the RPTT rebate.
10. **SUPPORT FOR RECYCLEMORE DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) REPAIR WORKSHOP** *(10 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with RecycleMore on a DIY repair workshop in El Cerrito with focus on bike repair.

11. YOUTH EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS (5 min.)

Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment youth members to the EQC.

12. 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 2024 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - o Aug. 11, Sunday. Northern Gateway Park cleanup (Debrief)
 - o Sept. 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park (TBD)
 - o Oct. 12, Saturday, Northern San Pablo Ave. cleanup
 - o Dec. 1, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park (w/ Baxter volunteers)
- worldOne 4th of July Festival (Debrief)
- EC Drive Electric Event – Update from City Staff – Plan for Earth Day, 2025
- Sept. 21, 2024 - CA Coastal Cleanup Day - TBD

13. 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:

- Liaison with the Human Relations Commission
- Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (Joint meeting with UFC – Fall 2024)
- Review of [Brown Act](#) and [Rosenburg's Rules of Order](#) (Parliamentary Procedure)
- Youth Engagement; Earth Team
- Possible collaboration with the Public Safety Committee

14. 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.



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DRAFT MINUTES

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

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

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Simrun Dhoot; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Howdy Goudey, Heather Hayashi, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet
Absent: Fred Bialy, Rose Vekony, Seth Shonkoff (resigned) **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison, and Carolyn Wysinger, Council Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
The committee received public comments from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler and El Cerrito resident Robin Mitchell.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Council Liaison Wysinger provided a brief update on City Council priorities. Staff Liaison Leard provided the following updates:
 - City Council to have the second Proposed Biennial Budget Hearing on June 18
 - Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to be considered for adoption by the City Council at the July 16 meeting
 - Provided a flyer on the Red Flag Parking Pilot Program
 - The Exchange Zone at the Recycling Center would tentatively reopen on July 8.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting held on May 14, 2024.
Move/Second: O'Connor/Pavel **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the May 14, 2024 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell had nothing to report from the recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.
6. **FY24-25 & FY25-26 WORK PLAN DISCUSSION AND ADOPT FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
Committee members discussed that the EQC Biennial Work Plan would be shifting to Cycle 2 (FY 25-26 & 26-27) to allow more time to complete the work plan. The committee then discussed and documented accomplishments for the prior fiscal year and provided direction to staff Liaison Leard on updates to make to the document.

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler.

Move/Second: O'Connor/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 23-24 Accomplishments with the revisions suggested during the meeting. **Ayes:** Akacić, Austin, Dhoot, Goudey, Hayashi, Miner, O'Connor, Pavel, Tarbet **Noes:** None **Absent:** Bialy, Vekony

7. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Committee members discussed and considered the option to request the City advertise interest in a youth member appointment to the advisory body.

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler, and El Cerrito residents Steve Price and Robin Mitchell.

Move/Second: Goudey/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to request the City advertise interest in a youth member appointment to the EQC. **Ayes** Unanimous **Noes:** None

8. CLEANER CONTRA COSTA CHALLENGE

Staff and Committee members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding promotion of the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge (cleanercontracosta.org). Committee members agreed to promote the Challenge while tabling at the July 4th worldOne festival with outreach provided by Staff Liaison Leard.

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler, and El Cerrito residents Steve Price and Robin Mitchell.

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

Committee 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.

Move/Second: O'Connor/Dhoot **Action:** Passed a motion to send a letter of support for a Janet Abelson El Cerrito Wall of Fame application. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler and El Cerrito resident Steve Price.

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:
 - o May 19, Sunday, Broom pull w/ Trail Trekkers, Madera Open Space (debrief)
 - o June 2, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (w/ Baxter volunteers) (debrief)
 - o Aug. 11, Sunday. Northern Gateways Park cleanup
 - o Sept. 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park (TBD)
 - o Oct. 12, Saturday, Northern San Pablo Ave. cleanup
 - o 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 – EQC Table**
 - o **Move/Second:** Goudey/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to sponsor the Water Refill Station for the worldOne 4th of July Festival in the amount of \$830 to come from FY 23-24 EQC budget. **Ayes:** Akacić, Austin, Dhoot, Goudey, Hayashi, Miner, O'Connor, Pavel, Tarbet **Noes:** None
- EC Drive Electric Event (Fall, TBD)
 - o Location evaluation, event name, and collaborators were discussed.
- Sept. 21, 2024 - CA Coastal Cleanup Day – TBD

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler.

11. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) HANDOUT SUGGESTIONS

Move/Second: O'Connor/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to bring this item back to the July meeting for discussion and possible action. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- June 14, 5pm - Annual Recognition Dinner for Advisory Body Members; El Cerrito Community Center
- Collaboration with RecycleMore on hosting a Fix-It Clinic in El Cerrito
- Liaison with the Human Relations Commission
- Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (Joint meeting with UFC – Late July/Early August 2024)
- Review of [Brown Act](#) and [Rosenburg's Rules of Order](#) (Parliamentary Procedure)
- Youth Engagement; Earth Team
- Possible collaboration with the Public Safety Committee

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 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 June 11, 2024 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison



FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Environmental Quality Committee

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

Staff Liaison

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Public Works Department

Action: The Environmental Quality Committee approves documentation of the EQC Accomplishments for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Motion / Second: O'Connor / Goudey **Ayes:** Nine (9) Akacić, Austin, Dhoot, Goudey, Hayashi, Miner, O'Connor, Pavel, Tarbet,

Nays: None **Absent:** Two (2) Bialy, Vekony

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 the WorldOne 4th of July festival to promote electrification of vehicles, home heating and cooking, including induction cooktop loaner programs. d) Sponsored the water refill station at the 2023 and 2024 WorldOne 4th of July festivals e) Promoted the SunShares program. f) Promoted and hosted 2024 Earth Day work parties. g) Co-sponsored 2024 East Bay Green Home Tour. h) Promoted the postponed 10th Annual Hillside Festival, co-sponsored with El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. i) Maintained steady coordination with the Urban Forest Committee, including participation in Arbor Week event. j) Received a presentation from EQC Member Paloma Pavel on her Fulbright residence in Norway and her attendance at the United Nations Climate Summit in Egypt (COP 27). k) Received a presentation from EQC Member Simrun Dhoot on BAAQMD's efforts to reduce harmful impacts from natural gas appliances and wood smoke on Bay Area residents. l) Received a presentation from City Staff on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan. m) Received a presentation from City Staff on the Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. n) Co-hosted a screening of <i>The Street Project</i> with El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers at the Rialto Cinemas.	a) Ongoing b) Recurring c) Recurring d) Complete e) Recurring f) Ongoing g) Recurring h) Recurring i) Ongoing j) Complete k) Complete l) Complete m) Complete n) Complete

	o) Co-sponsored El Cerrito Free Market events and assisted with securing a site for them in the library parking lot. p) Continued recurring agenda items to present an example of environmental art at each meeting.	o) Recurring p) Ongoing
Volunteer Work Parties	a) Organized thirteen (13) in-person Green Teams work parties, including seven (7) that focused on trash removal from streets, parks, and creeks and participated in Coastal Clean-up Day; and six (6) broom pulls in the Hillside Natural Area with El Cerrito Trail Trekkers.	a) Ongoing
Policy Development and Recommendations	a) Hosted three (3) public meetings on the CAAP and provided recommendations and feedback to the CAAP consultant and to City Council. Two EQC members served on the CAAP Stakeholder Advisory Group. b) Provided a member to represent the EQC on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group. c) Provided a member to represent the EQC on the Local Road Safety Plan Stakeholder Group. d) 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.	a) Complete b) Ongoing c) Ongoing d) Complete
Implementation of City Environmental Programs	a) Supported City programs through public education, outreach, and work parties.	a) Ongoing

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](#)