



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

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 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, Eleanor Pilling Chapplelear (Youth Member), 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. 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 meetings held on November 12, 2024 and December 10, 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. **EL CERRITO GREEN MOBILITY FAIR** *(25 min)*
Report-out from the ad hoc subcommittee, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding planning efforts around an El Cerrito Green Mobility Fair event on April 26, 2025.
7. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *(25 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. 11, Saturday, Cerrito Creek cleanup (Debrief)
 - **Discuss and plan for 2025 Calendar**
 - March 7-14, 2025 - Arbor Week
 - March 22, 2025 - DIY Repair Workshop with RecycleMore
 - April 19, 2025 - Earth Day
 - April 26, 2025 - EC Green Mobility Fair
 - May 3 and 4, 2025 - 11th Annual Hillside Festival
 - May 15, 2025 – Bike to Wherever Day
 - May 17, 2025 – Spring Citywide Garage Sale

8. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS (15 min.)

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

Conduct an Informal Interview and consider a motion to recommend to the El Cerrito City Council the reappointment of Pamela Austin to the Environmental Quality Committee for a term of four years beginning March 1, 2025.

Conduct an Informal Interview and consider a motion to recommend to the El Cerrito City Council the reappointment of Sheila Tarbet to the Environmental Quality Committee for a term of four years beginning March 1, 2025.

9. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) (10 min.)

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

10. FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 BIENNIAL WORK PLAN WORKSHOP (20 min)

Review and brainstorm ideas for the EQC Biennial Work Plan for FY 25-26 & FY 26-27. Must be adopted no later than July 1, 2025.

11. 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:

- Elections for Chair and Vice-chair (April meeting)
- FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 Biennial Work Plan (Must be adopted prior to July 1, 2025)
- FY 24-25 Accomplishments (Must be adopted prior to July 1, 2025)
- Review of [Brown Act](#) and [Rosenburg's Rules of Order](#) (Parliamentary Procedure)
- Support for Climate Literacy Resolution for WCCUSD
- Youth Engagement; Earth Team

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
Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
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DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Vice-Chair Bialy called the meeting to order at 7:04

1. **ROLL CALL** – Vice-Chair Fred Bialy; Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Heather Hayashi, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Eleanor Pilling Chappellear (Youth Member), Sheila Tarbet **Absent:** Chair Simrun Dhoot; Member Howdy Goudey **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Committee members received public comment from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler, and El Cerrito resident Steve Price.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Leard provided updates on the following:
 - 1) General Plan Safety Element Community Meeting - Wednesday, November 20, 2024 from 6:30-7:30pm in Council Chambers; and 2) afterwards, the Planning Commission will hold a study session on the Safety Element policies during their regular meeting at 7:30 pm.
 - Richmond St Complete Streets Workshop – Thursday, November 21, 2024 from 6-7:30pm in Council Chambers.
 - El Cerrito Makers Faire Sunday, December 8, 2024 at Hana Gardens 11am-2pm.
 - Reminder: SunShares signups end November 15
 - It's rainy season - Sandbags are available at the Recycling Center
 - Term Expirations coming up March 1, 2025 (Members Akacić, Austin, & Tarbet.)
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting held on October 8, 2024.
Move/Second: O'Connor/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 12, 2024 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Akacić, Austin, Bialy, Hayashi, Miner, O'Connor, Pavel, Tarbet **Noes:** None **Youth Member Chappellear:** Aye
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
No report.
6. **EQC ANNUAL MEETING CALENDAR**
Consider a motion to approve the EQC Calendar for 2025.
Move/Second: Miner/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the EQC Calendar for 2025. **Ayes:** Akacić, Austin, Bialy, Hayashi, Miner, O'Connor, Pavel, Tarbet **Noes:** None **Youth Member Chappellear:** Aye

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler.

7. **EL CERRITO GREEN MOBILITY FAIR**

Committee members heard a report-out from Steve Price from the ad hoc subcommittee and participated in discussion regarding planning efforts around an El Cerrito Green Mobility Fair event in April 2025.

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler and El Cerrito resident Janet Byron.

8. 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:
 - Dec. 1, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park (w/ Baxter volunteers)
- October 10, 12, 13 – [Albany Film Fest](#), Rialto Cinemas Cerrito (Debrief)
- October 19, 11am – 4pm – Cedar Rose Park - [Berkeley Ride Electric Event](#) (Debrief)
- DIY Repair Workshop – Tentative for March 2025
- Earth Day – April 19, 2025
- EC Green Mobility Fair – Tentative for April 26, 2025 – TBD
- May 3 and 4, 2025 - 11th Annual Hillside Festival
- Green Team 2025 Cleanups / Broom Pulls: Discuss and plan for 2025 Calendar
 - Jan. 11, Saturday, Cerrito Creek Cleanup. 10am-noon.

Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler.

9. SUPPORT FOR DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) REPAIR WORKSHOP

Committee members heard updates from Staff Liaison Leard and participated in discussion regarding collaborating with RecycleMore and Sustainable Contra Costa on a DIY repair workshop in El Cerrito.

10. CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP)

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

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

11. MCE CLEAN ENERGY & CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION UPDATES

Committee members heard updates and participated in discussion regarding MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission updates.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and Committee members provided updates on recent events the EQC has supported and discussed plans for future events in 2024, including:

- Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 - Hillside Natural Area (HNA) Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (Joint meeting with UFC)
 - 2nd Agenda Item for EQC & UFC Collaboration Planning
 - No other committee business will be discussed unless a separate special meeting is agendized
- 2025 Green Teams Calendar Adoption (January)
- FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 Biennial Work Plan (Must be adopted prior to July 1, 2025)
- FY 24-25 Accomplishments
- Review of [Brown Act](#) and [Rosenburg's Rules of Order](#) (Parliamentary Procedure)
- Youth Engagement; Earth Team
- Support for Climate Literacy Resolution for WCCUSD (Eleanor)

Public comment was received from Richmond Resident Cordell Hindler.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 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 November 12, 2024 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison

DRAFT



DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee and Urban Forest Committee

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Staff Liaisons

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

Stephen Prée | 510-559-7685
spree@ci-el-cerrito.ca.us

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING Staff Liaison Leard called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Cathy Bleier (UFC); Vice-Chairs Fred Bialy (EQC) Members Buddy Akacić, Pamela Austin, Howdy Goudey, Heather Hayashi, Robert Hrubes, Jennifer Kaczor, Yan Linhart, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, **Absent:** EQC Chair Simrun Dhoot; UFC Vice-Chair Robin Mitchell; Members Eleanor Pilling Chappellear (Youth Member), Mark Miner, Sheila Tarbet **Also Present:** Christina Leard, EQC Staff Liaison; Stephen Prée, UFC Staff Liaison; Karineh Samkian, Senior Program Manager; and Chase Beckman, Battalion Chief

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Public comment was provided by El Cerrito resident Steve Price on the upcoming Green Mobility Fair that is planned for April 2025.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Staff Liaison Prée introduced new Operations and Environmental Services Division Manager Amelia Timbers.

Staff Liaison Leard provided the following updates:

- Civic Spark Fellow for Operations & Environmental Services Division to begin in January and will work on projects related to the Hillside Natural Area (HNA) and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP).
- Holiday Closures/Hours:
 - Recycling Center will be closed 12/24, 12/25 & 1/1; Closing early 12/31 at 12:00; No Household Hazardous Waste collection on 12/31
 - No curbside collection on 12/25 & 1/1; collection shifts by 1 day
- State of the City address on Tuesday Dec. 17 by Mayor Rudnick, New Council members will be sworn in.

4. DRAFT FINAL HILLSIDE NATURAL AREA FIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Committee members received a presentation from City Staff, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding the [Draft Final Hillside Natural Area \(HNA\) Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan](#).

Public Comment was received from:

- Jim Hansen of the CA Native Plant Society with recommended changes for the HNA Plan.
- El Cerrito resident Audrey Liese with recommendations to protect natives.
- Paulina Lara, Karin Budi, and Quetzalli Ruiz, interns with Friends of 5 Creeks,

- shared their findings from their Dusky-footed Woodrat survey in the HNA.
- El Cerrito resident Brian Richmond (HNA Stakeholder Advisory Group representative for Make EC Fire Safe, Trail Trekkers member, and founder of Friends of the Hillside) expressed gratitude for comments incorporated into the Plan, and expressed support for Jim Hanson's comments & recommendations provided at the meeting.

Move/Second: Austin / O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend the Draft Final HNA Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan to Council with the following changes proposed by the California Native Plant Society's Conservation Committee Chair: 1) include additional wording in the Plan's Summary Recommendations table and 2) include conservation of sensitive natural plant communities in the "Special Status Plants" categories. **Ayes:** Members Akacić, Austin, Bialy, Bleier, Goudey, Hayashi, Hrubes, Kaczor, Linhart, O'Connor, Pavel **Noes:** None

5. EQC & UFC FUTURE COLLABORATION

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding future collaboration between the Environmental Quality Committee and the Urban Forest Committee.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8.59 p.m.

Simrun Dhoot, EQC Chair

Cathy Bleier, UFC Chair

This is to clarify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Joint Environmental Quality Committee and Urban Forest Committee meeting of December 10, 2024 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee and Urban Forest Committee.

Christina Leard, EQC Staff Liaison

Stephen Prée, UFC Staff Liaison



Staff Liaison

Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
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Public Works Department

**BIENNIAL WORK PLAN
FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 - 2026/2027**

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, Eleanor Pilling-Chappelear (Youth Member), Sheila Tarbet**

MISSION STATEMENT: (State mission as identified in enabling legislation and include legislation citation) The Environmental Quality Committee's **mission**, as established by Resolution 2008-13, is the following:

- 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;
- To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts; and
- Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito citizens regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: (Brief discussion regarding when the commission/committee was established and how it has changed over time) 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 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	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 2026/2027

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 24-25) ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Updated annually by July 1 and provided to City Council on Consent

Goal/Objective	Activities Supporting Goal	Status
Public Education and Outreach	a) Tabled at the WorldOne 4th of July festival to promote electrification of vehicles, home heating and cooking, including induction cooktop loaner programs. b) Sponsored the water refill station at the 2024 WorldOne 4th of July festival. c) Promoted and hosted 2025 Earth Day work parties. d) Co-sponsored 2024 East Bay Green Home Tour. e) Promoted the Annual Hillside Festival, co-sponsored with El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. f) Maintained steady coordination with the Urban Forest Committee, including participation in Arbor Week event. g) Received a presentation from City Staff at a joint meeting with the Urban Forest Committee on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan. h) Co-sponsored El Cerrito Free Market events and assisted with securing a site for them in the library parking lot. i) Continued recurring agenda items to present an example of environmental art at each meeting.	a) Recurring b) Complete c) Ongoing d) Recurring e) Recurring f) Ongoing g) Complete h) Recurring i) Ongoing
Volunteer Work Parties	a) Organized thirteen (___) in-person Green Teams work parties, including seven (___) that focused on trash removal from streets, parks, and creeks and participated in Coastal Clean-up Day; and six (___) broom pulls in the Hillside Natural Area with El Cerrito Trail Trekkers.	a) Ongoing
Policy Development and Recommendations	a) Provided a member to represent the EQC on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group.	a) Ongoing
Implementation of City Environmental Programs	a) Supported City programs through public education, outreach, and work parties.	a) Ongoing

RESOLUTION 2008-13

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO CREATING THE EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito recognizes that environmental quality is an important issue that demands immediate and ongoing attention; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the City, as a whole, has a role and responsibility in reducing our impact on the environment around us; and

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to affect a cultural change in the way that the City and its citizens relate to the environment and how we address the quality of our environment; and

WHEREAS, the City is demonstrating its commitment to environmental leadership by creating a focus on environmental services within the City's internal organization; and

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to extend this commitment to its residents and businesses by assisting them in their efforts to reduce their impact on the environment and improve the quality of the environments in which they live and work; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Quality Committee, made up of residents and business representatives, can be a valuable asset to the City by creating a corps of volunteers that can serve as a resource to residents, businesses and City staff; and

WHEREAS, such a committee would serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council and staff regarding the environment, and would also be charged with the education of residents and businesses on how to reduce their impact on the environment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito hereby establishes an Environmental Quality Committee, with the necessary staff liaison assigned by the City Manager, with the following duties and responsibilities:

- 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;
- To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts; and
- Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito citizens regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Committee shall be open to all El Cerrito residents and representatives of El Cerrito businesses with knowledge of, interest in, and/or involvement in issues affecting environmental quality; and that the Council's intention is to appoint an initial group of seven individuals to serve as charter members of the Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on March 3, 2008 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS Abelson, Bridges, Moore, Potter and Mayor Jones
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on March 12, 2008.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

William C. Jones, III, Mayor



Environmental Quality Committee

2024 WORK PLAN

AND

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

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.

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.

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 2015–2020 El Cerrito Strategic Plan (excerpted below):

Goal F: Foster environmental sustainability citywide

- Be a leader in setting policies and providing innovative programs that promote environmental sustainability.
- Promote environmental education to facilitate behavioral changes by working with the school district and other community groups.
- Implement policies to promote waste diversion (i.e., mandatory commercial recycling and green waste).
- Encourage alternative modes of transportation to the single occupancy vehicle.
- Implement and monitor the City's Climate Action Plan to:
 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled (by creating well-connected, pedestrian, bicycle and transit-oriented urban forms that will make it easier for residents and visitors to leave their car behind.)
 - Facilitate energy and water efficiency and greater use and generation of clean energy
 - Reduce the amount of waste generated in El Cerrito
 - Make municipal operations more resource-efficient and environmentally friendly

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.

2024 WORK PLAN

OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	PRIORITY RANKING	TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION x
1. Public Education and Outreach	a) Use “Reduce Transportation Carbon Emissions” as the EQC’s theme for 2024.	1	1 year
	b) Champion the CAAP (Climate Action and Adaptation Plan).	1	1 year (ongoing)
	c) Implement our JEDI tool (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) as part of all our EQC work.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	d) Host public events (e.g., films, lectures, webinars, workshops, youth activities, EV car and bike test-drives and rides) to mobilize residents about the Climate Emergency and educate them on electrification, sustainability, and resiliency.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	e) Provide outreach and resources to inform residents of tax incentives for electrification and the income-qualified rebates that will become available in 2024 through the federal Inflation Reduction Act, as well as local and state incentives and rebates, with special emphasis on new programs for those with lower incomes.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	f) Provide public outreach and education about active transportation alternatives to automobiles, including public transit and micromobility options, as well as programs offered in our city to reduce car ownership.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	g) Pilot public education and outreach to promote electrification in home retrofits and encourage the replacement of gas-powered home appliances and landscaping equipment.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	h) Expand outreach to youth in the city’s schools and invite El Cerrito High School’s Eco Club to collaborate with the EQC on climate issues.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	i) Engage with the public at major City events that take place in 2024 and perform other outreach activities to spread awareness.	1	1 year (ongoing)

	j) Lead public outreach on water-saving measures and fire-safe practices (defensible space, xeriscaping).	2	1 year (ongoing)
	k) Co-sponsor the Hillside Festival and other related hikes and educational events.	2	1 year (ongoing)
	l) Co-sponsor Fix-it Clinic and El Cerrito Free Market events to promote waste reduction.	2	1 year (ongoing)
2. Volunteer Work Parties	Hold a Green Teams work party every other month (~ 6/year); diversify work party activities; organize broom pulls and other regular habitat improvement projects.	1	1 year (ongoing)
3. Policy Development and Recommendations	a) Provide input to, and host public meeting for, the CAAP update to accelerate achievement of zero net GHG emissions, as stated in our declared climate emergency; to promote electrification to reduce residential and commercial natural gas usage; and to focus on equity. Engage in the budget process to assure it includes CAAP goals and provide recommendations to help achieve social, racial, and environmental justice goals. b) Provide input and review of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan. c) Develop and promote policies to increase electrification of new buildings and decrease or eliminate use of natural gas citywide, with a focus on new developments and landscaping equipment. d) Support efforts to promote and expand the use of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure in the City; support current City efforts such as including charging infrastructure; provide more public charging in logical places as City budget permits. e) Participate in the development of new active transportation and parking management changes expected for the transit-oriented development project at El Cerrito Plaza BART station. f) Interface with other relevant City commissions and committees to help develop environmentally friendly policies	1 1 2 2 2 2	1 year 1 year (ongoing) 1 year (ongoing) 1 year (ongoing) 1 year (ongoing) 1 year (ongoing)
4. Implementation of City	a) Work to enhance and promote active transportation modes and access in El Cerrito and support the initiatives of the Sustainable Transportation Program.	1	1 year (ongoing)

Environmental Programs	b) Expand stewardship of Hillside Natural Area (invasive plants; deferred maintenance) and support wildfire risk reduction while preserving native plants and habitat (as a resource, provide access to the fire-safe plant list from ECFD/Diablo Fire); support the work of the Urban Forest Committee and the Hillside Natural Area Master Plan.	1	1 year (ongoing)
	c) Help implement City policies related to new State solid waste regulations for businesses and residents.	2	1 year (ongoing)

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING GOAL
1. 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.
2. Volunteer Work Parties	a) 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.
3. 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 c) Provided advise 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
4. Implementation of City Environmental Programs	a) Supported City programs through public education, outreach, and work parties.

ONGOING PROJECTS

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES
1. 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.
2. Hillside Festival	Assist Trail Trekkers in production of the annual event celebrating the Hillside Natural Area with many hikes, talks, and activities.
3. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan 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.