



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

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, September 9, 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 Fred Bialy; Vice-Chair Pamela Austin; Members Howdy Goudey, Heather Hayashi, Sean O’Connor, Eleanor Pilling Chappellear (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 Rebecca Saltzman 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 June 10, 2025.
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. **EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS** *(10 min.)*
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment members to the EQC.
7. **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 2025 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - August 3, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup w/ Baxter Creek volunteers *(Debrief)*
 - September 20, Saturday, [Coastal Cleanup Day](#); Cerrito Creek
 - October 12, Sunday, Northern Gateways cleanup; meet by Del Norte BART
 - December 7, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup w/ Baxter Creek volunteers
 - July 4th WorldOne Festival *(Debrief)*
 - October 25, 2025 – [Fall Citywide Garage Sale](#); Registration opens 8/15 and closes 9/24
8. **CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (CAAP) IMPLEMENTATION** *(20 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan](#).
9. **SUPPORT FOR A CLIMATE LITERACY RESOLUTION FOR WCCUSD** *(25 min.)*
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding support for a [Climate Literacy Resolution](#) for the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD).

- 10. BRAINSTORMING: WAYS TO INCREASE VOLUNTEER EVENT ATTENDANCE** (20 min.)
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding outreach to increase volunteer participation and attendance at Green Teams volunteer events.
- 11. EL CERRITO FOODWARE ORDINANCE** (10 min)
Participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding supporting the implementation of the city's [Expanded Foodware Ordinance](#).
- 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:
 - Discussion of the Hillside Natural Area Plan
 - 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
Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Bialy called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Fred Bialy; Vice-Chair Pamela Austin; Members Simrun Dhoot Howdy Goudey, Heather Hayashi, Sean O'Connor, Eleanor Pilling Chappellear (Youth Member), Sheila Tarbet **Absent:** Members Simrun Dhoot, Paloma Pavel **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Leard had nothing to report.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting held on May 13, 2025.
Move/Second: Goudey / Bialy **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the May 13, 2025 EQC meetings. **Ayes:** Bialy, Austin, Goudey, Hayashi **Youth Member Chappellear:** Aye **Noes:** None **Absent:** O'Connor **Abstain:** Tarbet
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell provided updates from the most recent meeting of the Urban Forest Committee.
6. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:
 - Green Team 2025 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - June 8, Sunday, Cerrito Creek/Creekside Park cleanup; meet at South end of Santa Clara (*Debrief*)
 - August 3, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup w/ Baxter Creek volunteers
 - September 20, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day; Location TBD
 - October 12, Sunday, Northern Gateways cleanup; meet by Del Norte BART
 - December 7, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup w/ Baxter Creek volunteers
 - May 15, 2025 – Bike to Wherever Day (*Debrief*)
 - Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler and El Cerrito resident Robin Mitchell.
 - July 4th WorldOne Festival
 - Christina to send around a signup sheet.
 - Public comment was received from Richmond resident Cordell Hindler and El Cerrito resident Robin Mitchell.

7. FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 BIENNIAL WORK PLAN & FY 24-25 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Committee members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding the EQC Biennial Work Plan for FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 and FY 24-25 Accomplishments.

Public comment was received from Robin Mitchell, Cordell Hindler and El Cerrito resident Mike Rodriguez of MCE.

Move/Second: Goudey / O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the EQC Biennial Work Plan for FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 and FY 24-25 Accomplishments. **Ayes:** Bialy, Austin, Goudey, Hayashi, O'Connor, Tarbet **Youth Member Chappellear:** Aye **Noes:** None

8. SUPPORT FOR A CLIMATE LITERACY RESOLUTION FOR WCCUSD

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding support for a [Climate Literacy Resolution](#) for the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD).

This item was continued to the next meeting.

9. 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 2025, including:

- Wednesday, June 11, 2025: Advisory Body Recognition Dinner; 5-8pm
- El Cerrito Foodware Ordinance
- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Implementation
- Brainstorming ways to increase volunteer event attendance (Aug)
- Review of [Brown Act](#) and [Rosenburg's Rules of Order](#) (Parliamentary Procedure)
- Youth Engagement; Earth Team

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Fred Bialy, 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 10, 2025 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Christina Leard, Staff Liaison



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

Environmental Quality Committee

Chair **Fred Bialy**; Vice-Chair **Pamela Austin**; Members **Simrun Dhoot**,
Howdy Goudey, **Heather Hayashi**, **Sean O'Connor**,
Eleanor Pilling-Chappelear (Youth Member), **Sheila Tarbet**

Staff Liaison

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

MISSION STATEMENT: 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: 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	1) Participate in or Promote Public Engagement Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote public events such as films, lectures, and workshops to raise awareness about environmental issues, climate change, and sustainability. 	1)	1)	1)	1) Pam
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize or promote a film showing in Spring 2026. 	\$400	4 hours	Spring 2026	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore offering activities like EV car and bike test-drives to showcase sustainable transportation options, possibly in Library parking lot. 	No cost	1 hour	Ongoing	
	2) Provide Outreach and Resources:	2)	2)	2)	2) Fred
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform residents about tax incentives and rebates for electrification and sustainable practices. 	\$50	1 hour	Dec 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a fact sheet about available incentives/rebates 	\$50	1 hour	Dec 2025	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer education materials on active transportation alternatives and programs for reducing car ownership. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary fact sheet based on materials from the Go Green! Active transportation fair. 					
3) Engage Youth and Schools:	3)	3)	3)	3) Fred & Eleanor	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with schools and youth organizations to expand environmental education programs and involve young residents in climate initiatives. 	No Cost	None	Ongoing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support effort by EQC Youth Member to pass a climate literacy resolution for the WCCSD 	No cost	None	Dec 2025		

	<p>4) Community Outreach and Collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage with the public at city events and through other outreach activities to raise awareness about environmental conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tabling at EC 4th of July Festival and other city events as they occur. ● Co-sponsor relevant community events such as the Hillside Festival, hikes, Fix-it Clinics, and Free Market events. 	<p>4) No cost</p> <p>No cost</p> <p>No cost</p>	<p>4) None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>	<p>4) Ongoing</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>4) Howdy</p>
<p>Facilitate Community Engagement through Volunteer Work Parties</p>	<p>1) Organize Regular Green Teams Work Parties with Diverse Habitat Improvement Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hold Green Teams work parties every other month to establish a consistent schedule. <p>2) Collaborate with other environmentally focused community groups (Trail Trekkers, Friends of Five Creeks, Baxter Creek Volunteers, Friends of Hillside Natural Area) in habitat improvement projects (e.g. Broom pulls, removal of other invasive species)</p> <p>3) Stewardship of Hillside Natural Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand stewardship efforts in the Hillside Natural Area. ● Support the implementation of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan and collaborate with the Urban Forest Committee. 	<p>1) No cost</p> <p>2) No cost</p> <p>3) No cost</p> <p>No cost</p>	<p>1) 2 hours per month</p> <p>2) 1 hour</p> <p>3) None</p> <p>None</p>	<p>1) Every other month</p> <p>2) Ongoing</p> <p>3) Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1) Sean</p> <p>2) Howdy</p> <p>3) Pam & Heather</p>
<p>Advocate for Implementation of CAAP Policies and other Policy Change</p>	<p>1) Advocate for policies in the CAAP update to accelerate progress toward zero net greenhouse gas emissions, promote electrification, and prioritize equity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborate with EC staff to implement city CAAP priorities and receive regular updates on implementation. <p>2) Engage in Budget Process to Support CAAP Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocate for CAAP goals during the budget process to ensure allocation of resources for achieving social, racial, and environmental justice objectives. <p>3) Support efforts to electrify new and existing buildings and transportation in El Cerrito.</p>	<p>1) No cost</p> <p>2) No cost</p> <p>3) No cost</p>	<p>1) Monthly updates</p> <p>2) None</p> <p>3) None</p>	<p>1) Ongoing</p> <p>2) June 2026</p> <p>3) Ongoing</p>	<p>1) Fred</p> <p>2) Howdy & Eleanor</p> <p>3) Fred & Howdy</p>

	4) Support implementation of Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan recommendations:	4) No cost	4) None	4) Ongoing	4) Heather & Pam
	5) Explore alignment with local and global climate policies.	5) No cost	5) 1 hour	5) Ongoing	5) Eleanor

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	1) Participate in or Promote Public Engagement Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote public events such as films, lectures, and workshops to raise awareness about environmental issues, climate change, and sustainability. Explore offering activities like EV car and bike test-drives to showcase sustainable transportation options, possibly in Library parking lot. 	1) \$400	1) 4 hours	1) Spring 2027	1) Pam	
		No cost	1 hour	Ongoing		
	2) Provide Outreach and Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	2) \$50	2) 1 hour	2) Ongoing	2) Fred	
	3) Engage Youth and Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with schools and youth organizations to expand environmental education programs and involve young residents in climate initiatives. 	3) No Cost	3) None	3) Ongoing	3) Fred	
4) Community Outreach and Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the public at city events and through other outreach activities to raise awareness about environmental conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tabling at EC 4th of July Festival and other city events as they occur. 	4) No cost	4) None	4) Ongoing	4) Howdy		
		No cost	1 hour	Annual		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-sponsor relevant community events such as the Hillside Festival, hikes, Fix-it Clinics, and Free Market events. 	No cost	None	Ongoing	
Facilitate Community Engagement through Volunteer Work Parties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Organize Regular Green Teams Work Parties with Diverse Habitat Improvement Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold Green Teams work parties every other month to establish a consistent schedule. Collaborate with other environmentally focused community groups (Trail Trekkers, Friends of Five Creeks, Baxter Creek Volunteers, Friends of Hillside Natural Area) in habitat improvement projects (e.g. Broom pulls, removal of other invasive species) Stewardship of Hillside Natural Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand stewardship efforts in the Hillside Natural Area. Support the implementation of the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan and collaborate with the Urban Forest Committee. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No cost No cost No cost 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 hours per month 1 hour None 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Every 2 months Ongoing Ongoing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sean Howdy Pam & Heather
Advocate for Implementation of CAAP Policies and other Policy Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for policies in the CAAP update to accelerate progress toward zero net greenhouse gas emissions, promote electrification, and prioritize equity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with EC staff to implement city CAAP priorities and receive regular updates on implementation. Support efforts to electrify new and existing buildings and transportation in El Cerrito. Support implementation of Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan recommendations: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No cost No cost No cost 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly updates None None 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fred Fred & Howdy Heather & Pam

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.	None	2 hours per month	Sean
Hillside Festival	Assist Trail Trekkers in production of the annual event celebrating the Hillside Natural Area with many hikes, talks, and activities.	None	1 hour	Pam
Climate Action and Adaptation Implementation and Progress Metrics	Work with City staff to implement strategies and tasks identified in the CAAP adopted in July, 2024. 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.	None	1 hour/month	Fred & Howdy

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) Received a presentation on El Cerrito's participation in the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge at the August meeting. d) Co-sponsored Albany FilmFest at the Rialto Cinemas Cerrito that included Albany GreenFest, a showing of five environmental short films on October 10, 2024. e) Co-sponsored and co-organized the April 26 GO GREEN! Mobility Fair at El Cerrito BART f) Promoted the Annual Hillside Festival, co-sponsored with El Cerrito Trail Trekkers. g) Co-sponsored June 7, 2025 Green@Home East Bay Electrification Tour. h) Maintained steady coordination with the Urban Forest Committee, including participation in the March, 2025 Arbor Week event. i) Received a presentation from City Staff at the December 2024 joint meeting with the Urban Forest Committee on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience And Forest Conservation Management Plan. j) Continued to Co-sponsor El Cerrito Free Market events. k) Co-sponsored Fix-it event on March 22, 2025 at El Cerrito Community Center. l) Tabled at Bike to Work Day 2025. m) Provided input for public information about all-electric ADU's for City distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recurring b) Complete c) Complete d) Complete e) Complete f) Recurring g) Recurring h) Ongoing i) Complete j) Recurring k) Complete l) Complete m) Complete
Volunteer Work Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Organized eight (8) in-person Green Teams work parties that focused on trash removal from streets, parks, and creeks (including participation in Coastal Clean-up Day). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing
Policy Development and Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provided a member to represent the EQC on the Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. b) Received a presentation on the Richmond Complete Streets project at the September 2024 meeting and offered feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing b) Ongoing
Implementation of City Environmental Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Supported City programs through public education, outreach, and work parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing

Move/Second: Goudey / O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the EQC Biennial Work Plan for FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 and FY 24-25 Accomplishments. **Ayes:** Bialy, Austin, Goudey, Hayashi, O'Connor, Tarbet **Youth Member Chapplelear:** Aye **Noes:** None