



AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Meeting Location
El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Greg Lyman – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson
Councilmember Jan Bridges

Councilmember Mark Friedman
Councilmember Gabriel Quinto

ROLL CALL

7:00 p.m. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF MOMENT OF SILENCE – Councilmember Jan Bridges.

2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS (*Reports of Closed Session, commission appointments and informational reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the City Council & City Staff.*)

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

All persons wishing to speak should sign up with the City Clerk. Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person. The Mayor may reduce the time limit per speaker depending upon the number of speakers. Kindly state your name and city of residence for the record. Comments regarding non-agenda, presentation and consent calendar items will be heard first. Comments related to items appearing on the Public Hearing or Policy Matter portions of the Agenda are taken up at the time the City Council deliberates each action item. Individuals wishing to comment on any closed session scheduled after the regular meeting may do so during this public comment period or after formal announcement of the closed session.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Quality Committee Workplan – Presentation by Howdy Goudey, Chair, Environmental Quality Committee.

Receive a presentation on the Environmental Quality Committee's accomplishments, goals and workplan.

5. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Nos. 5A through 5G

A. Approval of Minutes

Approve the February 16, 2016 Regular City Council meeting minutes.

B. Women’s History Day and Month Proclamation

Approve a proclamation proclaiming March 2016 as Women’s History Month and March 8, 2016 as International Women’s Day in the City of El Cerrito, and encouraging all residents to reflect on, honor, and celebrate the history, courage, commitment, accomplishments, and contributions of women, not only in El Cerrito but throughout America.

C. Administrative Analyst for the Recreation Department

Adopt a resolution authorizing the addition of an Administrative Analyst II position to the Recreation Department.

D. Support Seed Saving in El Cerrito and Changes in State Seed Law

At the request of Mayor Lyman adopt a resolution: 1) Supporting and encouraging the ongoing 10,000 year legacy of seed sharing between community members without legal barriers of labeling fees and germination testing and encouraging the efforts of seed libraries to facilitate sharing of locally grown and saved seed; 2) Supporting the work of seed libraries in seed saving, educating community members about the value of seed sharing, developing best practices to enhance seed saving skills, and encouraging voluntary and accurate seed labeling; and 3) Support Assembly Bill 1810 (Levine), “The Seed Exchange Democracy Act,” which supports the sharing of seeds between individuals and through seed libraries by removing the application of any labeling, testing, and permitting requirements to interpersonal or seed library seed sharing.

E. Resolution Opposing Islamophobia

At the request of Councilmembers Friedman and Quinto, adopt a resolution joining with the City of Richmond in stating the City Council’s support for its Muslim neighbors and respect for the world religions which make up the City of El Cerrito and calling on all municipalities of the United States to show support for their Muslim neighbors and state opposition to Islamophobia.

F. Tree Committee Appointment

Approve a Tree Committee recommendation to appoint Mary Torrusio to the Tree Committee, effective March 1, 2016.

G. Quarterly Cash and Investment Report

Receive and file the City’s Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2015.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. Discussion and Possible Direction on a New El Cerrito Library Location

Staff requests that the Council take the following actions: 1) Receive a presentation on the status of a potential new library for the City of El Cerrito; 2) Adopt a resolution approving a staff and consultant recommendation selecting the “Lower Portola Playfield – Option 1B” as the preferred option and location for a new, modern and safe El Cerrito Library, and formally requesting that the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) enter into a fifty year lease at no cost or a nominal cost to the City for the “Lower Portola Playfield,” and ensuring adequate room for a Fairmont Elementary School temporary campus until completion of a new or renovated school at the current location as soon as possible; and 3) Direct the Mayor and City Manager to work with the School District to facilitate such a lease, and to direct staff to work with the WCCUSD to develop a plan for the ultimate

disposition of the current Senior Center and Library sites adjacent to Fairmont Elementary School upon successful passage of a ballot measure to fund the new library.

B. Authorize Agreements Related to Public Information Effort for a Potential New Library Facility

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into standard professional service agreements with the Lew Edwards Group for the proposed public information strategy and associated materials and mailings and Godbe Research for a targeted library survey in a total amount not to exceed \$96,000 for technical assistance associated with a potential ballot measure to fund construction of a safe, modern library facility; and approve a budget amendment to appropriate these funds from the unrestricted General Fund balance.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

Mayor and City Council communications regarding local and regional liaison assignments and committee reports.

9. ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next regular City Council meeting is Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito.

The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

- Council Meetings can be heard live on FM Radio, KECG – 88.1 and 97.7 FM and viewed live on Cable TV - KCRT-Channel 28 and AT&T Uverse Channel 99. The meetings are rebroadcast on Channel 28 the following Thursday and Monday at 12 noon, except on holidays. Live and On-Demand Webcast of the Council Meetings can be accessed from the City's website <http://www.el-cerrito.org/ind-ex.aspx?NID=114>. Copies of the agenda bills and other written documentation relating to items of business referred to on the agenda are on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, at the El Cerrito Library and posted on the City's website at www.el-cerrito.org prior to the meeting.
- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk, (510) 215-4305. 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).
- **The Deadline for agenda items and communications** is eight days prior to the next meeting by 12 noon, City Clerk's Office, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA. Tel: 215-4305 Fax: 215-4379, email cmorse@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us
- IF YOU CHALLENGE A DECISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN COURT, YOU MAY BE LIMITED TO RAISING ONLY THOSE ISSUES YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE RAISED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING. ACTIONS CHALLENGING CITY COUNCIL DECISIONS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE TIME LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTION 1094.6.
- The City Council believes that late night meetings deter public participation, can affect the Council's decision-making ability, and can be a burden to staff. City Council Meetings shall be adjourned by 10:30 p.m., unless extended to a specific time determined by a majority of the Council.

Environmental Quality Committee

Annual Work Plan – 2016 Presentation to City Council March 1, 2016



Photo M. Miner



Photo D. Weinstein



Photo D. Weinstein



Photo TJ Gehling

EQC 101

- ◉ Committee of up to 15 citizens
 - Currently 10 sitting on the Committee
 - One continuous member since inception in 2008
- ◉ Meet 2nd Tuesday, 7 PM, City Hall
- ◉ Mission:
 - To educate, inspire, and activate ourselves and our community to sustainably thrive in harmony with our earth systems

Role of the EQC

- To serve in an advisory capacity to City Council, staff and other committees with regard to environmental quality issues in El Cerrito
- To recommend programs and policies to the City Council
- Foster public awareness, education and interest in the City's environmental quality efforts

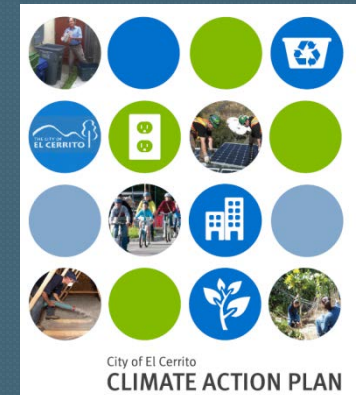
EQC Goals

1. Promote environmental action
2. Involve learners of all ages
3. Work with residents and businesses to be more environmentally sustainable
4. Inform and Champion the City's environmental efforts
5. Support GHG emissions reductions (CAP)
6. Minimize hazardous chemical use
7. Support protection and creation of open green space
8. Support sustainable water systems

Past EQC Accomplishments

● Policies

- Supported policy development and hosted public forums for:
 - Animal Ordinance – 2012
 - Climate Action Plan – 2013
 - Single-Use Plastic Bag and EPS Foam Take Out Container Bans – 2013
 - Community Choice Aggregation – 2014



● Programs

- Recurring “Green Team” volunteer events
- Recurring Eco-film and lecture events and workshops
- Participation in City events
 - Earth Day
 - 4th of July
- Created new events
 - Hillside Festival
 - Music for Madera



Photo D. Weinstein



Photo M. Miner

2015 EQC Accomplishments

◉ Policies

- Pollinator Safe Community Ordinance
- Urban Greening Plan
 - Contributed to review and hosting public forums
- Priority Conservation Areas

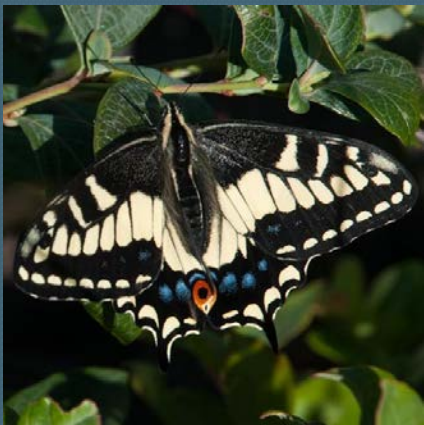


Photo H. Goudey



Photo H. Goudey



2015 EQC Accomplishments

● Programs

- Community Choice Aggregation enrollment outreach
 - Eco-film “The Future of Energy”
- Lectures/Workshops
 - Solar installation/financing workshop
 - Phytophthora lecture, three experts discussing native plant pathogens
- Hillside Festival and Music for Madera
 - Concluded Madera acquisition fundraising
 - Transitioned to maintenance and restoration
- Semi-Monthly Green Team Events
 - Litter Removal & Habitat Restoration



Photo TJ Gehling



Photo TJ Gehling



2016 Work Plan

● Green Team and Volunteer Events

- Semi-Monthly Events
- Earth Day - PG&E Habitat Restoration on Moeser
- Tree planting with Tree Committee (pending grant)

● Eco-Film & Lecture Series

- “This Changes Everything” – March 5, 10:30 AM
- Healthy & Pollinator-Safe Garden Workshop

● Climate Action Implementation

- Outreach on Deep Green Enrollment in MCE
- Cool California Challenge Outreach – ends Mar. 30

2016 Work Plan

● Hillside Natural Area

- 3rd Annual Hillside Festival – May 15
- Fundraise and support maintenance and restoration activities in Hillside Natural Area

● Trash Mitigation Strategies

- Beyond Volunteer Clean-Ups

● Support the Urban Greening Plan

- Pollinator habitat connectivity

2016 Work Plan

● Education Events / Workshops

- Grey Water
- Electric Vehicles (National Plug-in day Sept.)
- Healthy Gardens
- Energy Efficiency
- Solar Energy
- Water Conservation

EQC Upcoming Events

- Eco-Film: *This Changes Everything* – Mar. 5th, 10:30am
- Earth Day stewardship on PGE ROW (Moeser) – Apr. 16th
- 3rd Annual Hillside Festival – May 15th



Photo G. Hill

Coming soon to Rialto Cinemas Cerrito



This Changes Everything
Film Screening & Mingle

Sat, March 5 • 10:30 am • FREE

For more info & registration:
www.ecologycenter.org

Presented by El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee

EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENT

ecology center

EQC Calendar of Events

2016 EQC Calendar		
<u>January</u>	<u>February</u> Green Team Clean Up (Feb 21) Cerrito Creek at the Plaza	<u>March</u> “This Changes Everything”(Mar 5) at Rialto Cinemas Cerrito
<u>April</u> Earth Day Celebration (4/16)	<u>May</u> Green Team Clean Up Hillside Natural Area Festival (5/15)	<u>June</u>
<u>July</u> El Cerrito 4 th of July Festival Green Team Clean Up	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u> Coastal Cleanup Day – Green Team EV event for National Plug-in Day
<u>October</u>	<u>November</u> Green Team Clean Up	<u>December</u>



Photo TJ Gehling

El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee 2016 Work Plan

The EQC plans to undertake the following activities in 2016. Items noted *** are core activities and will receive the majority of Committee resources, while items noted ** and * are still important to the Committee, but may not receive as much Committee time and effort.

1. Green Teams/Volunteer Events – Continue to implement regular volunteer events and activities to help keep El Cerrito clean and to help restore El Cerrito’s natural environment
 - *** Hold a Green Team work party every other month (6 for the year) - DW, MM, HG, RSc
 - *** Diversify work party activities, including native plant restoration, trail work, and park maintenance (in partnership with Trail Trekkers and others) - MM, HG
 - *** Improve volunteer recruitment and turnout - RM
 - ** Hold a volunteer appreciation party
2. Eco Film and Lecture Series – Continue to educate, inspire and activate our community through screenings of environmental films, lectures and workshops featuring guest speakers (including elected officials) and audience discussion
 - *** Hold at least three film and lecture events - RM, ES, PP, HG, CH
 - *** Improve event publicity and turnout - RM
3. Climate Action Plan Implementation - Support implementation of El Cerrito’s *Climate Action Plan (CAP)*
 - *** Continue to work with Marin Clean Energy (MCE) on a “deep green” campaign to increase the number of 100% renewable electricity customers (particularly businesses) - MM, RSc, RM, HG
 - *** Engage community outreach for El Cerrito’s participation in the Cool California Challenge (in partnership with MCE) - RM
 - ** Review/evaluation of CAP goals and accomplishments to date with the potential for recommending adoption of updated goals by Council - MM, RM, HG, RSo
 - ** Work with MCE on an enrollment “challenge” campaign with a potential “prize” from MCE like a small solar system installation on a City building
 - * Participate in data collection and analysis of CAP metrics (bike/ped count on greenway, etc.?)
4. Hillside Natural Area & Parks – Support native habitat maintenance, restoration, and fire protection activities in the Hillside Natural Area, and parks
 - *** Co-sponsor awareness and fundraising events, such as the Hillside Festival and Music for Madera (potentially combined) - DW, RSc, HG
 - *** Pursue the opportunity to organize native plant restoration, fire management maintenance and trail maintenance on the Moeser utility corridor in partnership with PGE (potential Green Team activity) - MM, HG
 - *** Invasive plant removal, fuel load reduction, native plant restoration and trail maintenance and building (potential Green Team activity) - MM, HG
 - ** Engage in Dorothy Rosenberg Memorial Park (DRMP) planning with emerging Friends of DRMP effort (potential Green Team activity) - HG
 - ** Support acquisition of public open space or public access easements on appropriate private land in partnership with other organizations and community groups

- ** Contribute to the implementation of the National Park Service design for a comprehensive trail signage plan
 - * Support, and participate in, Tree Committee development of a tree protection ordinance
5. Urban Greening Plan – Contribute to the implementation of the *Urban Greening Plan* with an emphasis on following up on the Bee Haven ordinance with pollinator habitat implementation, UGP 4.05 (Sustainable Landscape)
- *** Pollinator habitat connectivity (incorporate into Green Team activities) - MM, HG
 - ** Non-toxic (pollinator habitat friendly) gardening and yard maintenance (community workshop)
 - * Explore a net-hardscape policy with a cap and trade type mechanism to preserve and improve a minimum threshold of greenspace
6. Trash Mitigation Strategies – Help the City in developing policies and strategies to reduce and eliminate trash at its source, CAP W1.4
- *** Continue to hold Green Team trash clean-up work parties
 - ** Engage businesses regarding trash reduction, recycling and composting
 - * Explore a zero waste program/policy (educate ourselves about SF policy)
7. Grey Water and Water Efficiency– Increase public awareness and explore policy options for local water reuse
- *** Public outreach and minimization of barriers to implement laundry to landscape systems (event/seminar), CAP EW4.2 - TM, RSo, RM
 - * Explore a water re-use ordinance, CAP EW2.1 “reach code”
 - * Research a policy requiring sub-metering of water in multi-unit dwellings for occupant feedback and understanding of costs -HG
8. Electric Vehicle (EV) Awareness/Infrastructure – Support the deployment of public and multi-family charging infrastructure, as well as EV education (including electric bikes) and sharing of information and experiences between EV drivers and the wider public
- *** Organize an awareness event for National Drive Electric week_(September) - RM, MM, HG
 - ** DC fast charger siting in a commercial district as economic development (brings in customers) (CAP SC3.4) - HG
 - * Review existing and potentially expand requirements/resources for EV charging in multifamily residential (CAP SC3.4) -HG
9. Energy Efficiency and Renewables – Support City initiatives to reduce energy use and CO₂ emissions in the residential, commercial and transportation sectors through efficiency and deployment of renewable energy (primarily solar)
- ** Support City implementation of Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs (PACE), and hold a PACE community workshop (in partnership with MCE), CAP EW1.2
 - ** Review the recently revised solar building permit process, encourage further streamlining of the process, if necessary
 - * Research a solar access ordinance for El Cerrito - HG
 - * Research current sub-metering practices of electricity and gas in multi-unit dwellings for opportunities to improve occupant feedback – HG

10. Green Business Program - Support existing certified green businesses to get re-certified.

- *** Outreach about MCE Deep Green enrollment with Green Business participants.
- MM, RSc, RM, HG

Committee Member Work Plan Assignments:

From Dec. 8th 2015 Meeting

Abbreviations used in the work plan notes

HG - Howdy Goudey (Chair)

RSc - Robert Schaad (Vice Chair)

CH - Charles Hargrove

TM - Trina Mackie

RM - Rebecca Milliken

MM - Mark Miner

PP - Paloma Pavel

RSo - Renee Solari

ES - Ellen Spitalnik

DW - David Weinstein

2016 EQC Calendar

<u>January</u> • Green Team Clean Up	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u> • Green Team Clean Up • EcoFilm "This Changes Everything"
<u>April</u> • Earth Day Celebration • DRMP dedication?	<u>May</u> • Hillside Natural Area Festival (possibly combined with Music for Madera?) • Green Team Clean Up	<u>June</u>
<u>July</u> • El Cerrito 4th of July Festival • Green Team Clean Up	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u> • Coastal Cleanup Day – Green Team • National Drive Electric Week – El Cerrito EV event
<u>October</u> • We Love Our Volunteers Recognition Party	<u>November</u> • Green Team Clean Up	<u>December</u>

Other events under consideration of the EQC, but currently unscheduled include:

- Green Living Workshops, potential topics including:
 - Healthy gardening and pollinator-friendly practices
 - Greywater, water efficiency, and drought awareness
 - Energy efficiency, solar energy, green building (PACE funding)
- Environmental Lectures, potential topics/speakers include:
 - Rainforest protection, by David Seaborg (World Rainforest Fund)
 - Sudden Oak Death, by Matteo Garbelotto (UCB Forest Pathology)
- Eco-Film Series, potential upcoming titles include:
 - This Changes Everything
 - Designing Healthy Communities
 - Sand Wars

Appendix A: Future ideas

- Resiliency
 - Localized energy and water (other community resources)
- Urban/rural partnership (sister community relationships)
 - Food/water and economic connections
 - Engage land trusts to tie urban infill development to near rural agricultural and recreational open space preservation
 - Bring a locally sourced (Brentwood, etc) farmers market to the BART stations for easy after work shopping. Food brought in on BART during low traffic afternoon hours to reduce truck traffic. (CAP SC-2.3)
- Urban Ag incentive zone policy (AB 551) (UGP 11.4) property tax rebate on use of vacant/blighted land for urban ag (incentive for “temporary beneficial uses”)
- Environmental innovation hub (office/center for shared resources for environmental start-ups and non-profits), explore with Economic Development Committee? (CAP SC-2.3)
- Energy audit/upgrades at time of sale (CAP EW1.3)
- Land conservation and restoration (UGP 7.4)
- Creek daylighting incentives program (UGP8.2)
- Resource development for owners of private lots containing or adjacent to creeks
- Restructure building permit fees/codes to incentivize energy efficiency (CAP EW1.1)
 - High cost for large sq ft per capita?
- Adopt a place program (UGP 4.05 Volunteerism-4, UGP5.5 for street)
- Grant solicitation (UGP 4.3/5.3)
- Green “welcome packet” (CAP SC5.1) resource dissemination (rEC guide, mailers?)
- Watershed management plan (part of upcoming storm water master plan)
- Hillside Natural Area master planning effort (grant?)
- Tiny house code accommodation and other policies to make auxiliary unit infill more flexible
- Bike tow, gondola, funicular car or other uphill lift system

Appendix B: EQC Accomplishments

Recurring activities:

- Organized semi-monthly Green Team volunteer work parties (including clean-ups and invasive plant removal), to help the City keep priority areas and waterways clear of trash, and maintain public spaces and parks
 - Recognized volunteer efforts at an annual volunteer appreciation party
- Held numerous successful environmentally themed film and lecture events with guest speakers and audience interaction (approximately 2-4 per year)
- Hillside Festival and Music for Madera
- Provided volunteer environmental community outreach at City events (i.e. World One 4th of July, Earth Day, etc.) to promote EQC mission and activities

2015:

- After EQC helped research and review Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) options over several years, Council joined Marin Clean Energy (MCE), as EQC recommended
- Assisted MCE with CCA outreach (energy film, Earth day and July 4th tabling)
- Concluded the very successful \$100k private fundraising campaign to help acquire the Madera open space connection for the Hillside Natural Area
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the Urban Greening Plan and recommended to Council for adoption (expected adoption fall 2015)
- Completed development and proposed to Council the adoption of a “Bee Haven” Pollinator Friendly Community ordinance (adopted May 2015)
- Educational lecture event with three experts on Phytophthora (native plant pathogen)
- Provided input and a recommendation to Council to designate Priority Conservation Areas (Hillside Natural Area, lower Cerrito Creek and the Ohlone Greenway)

2014:

- Worked toward CCA adoption (recommended to Council)
- Assisted fundraising effort toward purchase of the Madera Open Space. Co-sponsored two new fundraising events (Hillside Fest and the Music for Madera Festival)
- Co-sponsored successful green living workshops on residential home energy efficiency and drought resiliency
- Developed “Bee Haven” Pollinator friendly Ordinance
- Provided input on the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan, (adopted 2014)
- Provided review and input to the Urban Greening Plan
- Participated in the Ohlone Greenway reopening celebration and an Earth Hour event

Earlier accomplishments:

- Supported policy development and hosted public forums toward passage of the Climate Action Plan (adopted 2013)
- Supported policy development and hosted public forums toward passage of the ordinances banning Single Use Plastic Bags and EPS Foam Take Out Containers (adopted 2013)
- Hosted forums for citizen input and policy review of the revised Animal Ordinance (adopted in 2011)

Appendix C: EQC Role and Responsibilities

Established in 2008 by Resolution 2008-13, the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) is a Council-appointed body of El Cerrito residents and business owners who work to involve the community directly in understanding and reducing our impact on and supporting a more regenerative environment, with particular emphasis on environmental quality within the City of El Cerrito. The EQC is comprised of up to 15 members. It meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in City Council Chambers.

The duties and responsibility of the EQC, as stated in its enabling resolution, are as follows:

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. 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

EQC Mission and Goals:

The EQC mission is to *educate, inspire, and activate* our community to sustainably thrive in harmony with our earth systems. The EQC mission and goals are both guided by and fulfill the environmental aspects of the 2015-2020 El Cerrito Strategic Plan adopted by Council (see Appendix 2).

The EQC goals are:

1. Promote community and individual action and engagement
2. Involve learners of all ages
3. Help businesses and residents live in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly fashion
4. Inform and champion the City's environmental policies and ordinances
5. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet and exceed targets of the El Cerrito Climate Action Plan (propose revised climate action stretch goals, as appropriate)
6. Change material use patterns by encouraging Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting
7. Champion energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and efficient transportation
8. Minimize hazardous chemical use and human/environmental exposures to toxics
9. Protect and create open green space 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 developed areas
10. Support sustainable water use, healthy creeks, and green infrastructure

Appendix D: 2015-2020 El Cerrito Strategic Plan (excerpt)

Strategic Plan, Value: Sustainability

- Champion policies to protect, preserve and restore the natural environment
- Take steps to minimize waste and conserve resources

Strategic Plan, Goal F: Foster environmental sustainability citywide

Strategies

- 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 a 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

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Meeting Location
El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Greg Lyman – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson
Councilmember Jan Bridges

Councilmember Mark Friedman
Councilmember Gabriel Quinto

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Abelson, Bridges, Friedman, Quinto and Mayor Lyman all present.

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Lyman convened the regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF MOMENT OF SILENCE was led by Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson.

2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Lyman announced that the Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury is seeking applications for grand jury service. The deadline is March 25, 2016. More information can be obtained by contacting the Grand Jury at 925-957-5638 or www.cc-courts.org/grandjury.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, followed up on concerns he had expressed to the City Council at previous meetings regarding the presence of El Cerrito Police Department (ECPD) vehicles in his neighborhood. He has not seen the Police on his street. There is an upcoming Community Grant Program Informational Meeting in Richmond. Mr. Hindler also reported that the Manager of Walgreens informed him that there is loitering in front of the store and that it takes the police 20-30 minutes to respond. He invited the City Council to the “The Clean House” at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre and also expressed support for the El Cerrito Stars intern program.

Julia Heath, Senior Consultant, Contra Costa Climate Leaders, encouraged the City Council to check out the organization’s new website www.cccclimateleaders.org and include the Ygreen program into its energy portfolio. Ms. Heath also commended the Council for adopting a Climate Action Plan and all of the other environmental work the City has been

doing.

Al Miller, El Cerrito, reported on the successful “*Sip and Savor Fundraiser*” event co-sponsored by the Rotary Club and the El Cerrito Library Foundation, and informed the Council that the Rotary Club showed its commitment to the community and support for a safe and modern library by contributing \$15,000 to the Library. Mr. Miller invited all to attend the next “*Sip and Savor*” event in October 2016 at the Mira Vista Country Club.

Howdy Goudey, El Cerrito, provided the City Council with a spreadsheet of additional financial and environmental information regarding the city’s purchase of a four wheel drive vs. an electric or other vehicle and encouraged the City Council to acknowledge and consider public comment in the future. Mr. Goudey stated that he provided additional information to the Council so that it could make the best decision for the City.

Gregg Visineau, El Cerrito, thanked the Public Works Department, specifically Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Tigbao for their courtesy and professionalism regarding Consent Calendar Item No. 5(B). Staff fielded many written comments and phone calls from his neighborhood. Mr. Visineau also thanked Councilmember Bridges for visiting the site and reported that he and his neighbors are supportive of staff’s recommendation however he and his neighbors have experienced many difficulties with parking, traffic flow, congestion and property damage over the years and anticipate significant difficulties from the 600 student school despite the well intentioned plans and efforts of city and school district staff. Mr. Visineau asked the City to be ready if the neighborhood needs help or intervention.

Valerie Snider, El Cerrito, commented on Consent Calendar Item No. 5(B) and expressed concerns about traffic congestion on neighboring streets surrounding the school that are near the drop off and pick up zones. Traffic will be chaotic. There isn’t enough room for the cars to park or wait in the afternoon.

Kevin O’Neal, El Cerrito, stated that Fairmount Elementary School is having a hard time being rebuilt and could use the City Council’s support to help the project move forward. The school has a very diverse population of different nationalities, religions, languages and special needs.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation Commending Detective Aaron Leone for his Selection as Officer of the Year

Approve a proclamation commending and congratulating Detective Aaron Leone on the occasion of his recognition by the Richmond Elks Lodge No. 1251 – Peace Officer Appreciation Night and extending the City Council’s sincere appreciation to Detective Aaron Leone for his devotion to the mission, vision and values of the El Cerrito Police Department.

Action: Moved, seconded (Friedman/Bridges) and carried unanimously to approve the proclamation.

B. Contra Costa College Update – Presentation by Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, Interim President.

Receive a presentation from Contra Costa College Interim President, Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, on current construction projects and community engagement.

Speaker: Cordell Hindler, Richmond, expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

Action: Received presentation.

5. **ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Nos. 5A and 5B**

Moved, seconded (Friedman/Quinto) and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 5A as indicated below. Consent Calendar Item No. 5B was removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Councilmember Bridges and voted on separately as indicated below.

A. Approval of Minutes

Approve the February 2, 2016 Regular City Council meeting minutes.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk, announced that there was an inadvertent clerical error on the agenda and clarified that the City Council would be considering approval of the February 2, 2016 minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Various Parking Revisions around Korematsu Middle School

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Public Works Director/City Engineer to: 1) Install sixty feet of green curb marking and associated signs on the north side of Donal Avenue, just east of Norvell Street in front of Korematsu Middle School; and 2) Remove the existing eighty-four feet of yellow curb marking and replace with green curb marking and associated signs on the east side of Norvell Street in front of Castro Park clubhouse. *Exempt from CEQA.*

Action: Moved, seconded (Bridges/Abelson) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2016–08.

Removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Councilmember Bridges who expressed appreciation for staff's work with the community and noted that staff from the Police and Public Works Departments along with a cadre of parent volunteers will monitor the parking. Citations will be issued if the traffic and parking regulations are not followed.

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

7. **POLICY MATTERS**

Study Session Regarding Paid Sick Leave and Service Charge Regulations Relating to the City's Minimum Wage Policy

Staff requests that the Council take the following actions: 1) Discuss the development of regulations for local Paid Sick Leave Benefits and Hospitality Service Charges and provide direction to staff; and 2) Adopt a resolution approving an appropriation of \$20,000 from the General Fund balance for FY 2015-16 including \$10,000 for a temporary part-time administrative clerk specialist and \$10,000 to cover outreach materials related to implementing the City's Minimum Wage Standards.

Presenter: Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager.

Speakers: Cordell Hindler, Richmond, stated that he liked the presentation and inquired about impacts relating to city jobs.

Sue Goldberg, El Cerrito, encouraged the City Council to adopt an ordinance that includes more paid sick days.

Al Miller, El Cerrito, encouraged the City to continue the City's outreach to the community and business owners for feedback. Mr. Miller stated that he strongly supports the requested allocation of resources to ensure that the requirements of the law are understood so that all of the businesses can comply in the least aggravating and frustrating manner.

Jessica Lynam, El Cerrito members of the California Restaurant Association, stated that service charges are very complex for the restaurant industry and are heavily regulated at the state and federal level. Ms. Lynam asked the City Council to wait and work with the restaurants in the community on service charges and paid sick leave language that everyone can agree on that will allow restaurants to continue to operate and to also look at what will

happen at the state level.

Nick Arzio, El Cerrito, encouraged the approval of \$20,000 for outreach purposes. Regarding paid sick leave, Mr. Arzio commended the staff report for mentioning effects on individuals and small businesses however it did not say much about the effect on large businesses. The model ordinance from Ensuring Opportunities says that larger businesses should give up to 72 hours per leave of sick leave. Bigger businesses have the ability to pay the extra sick leave. Mr. Arzio encouraged the City Council to pass an ordinance requiring larger businesses to give sick pay above what is being proposed at the state level now and study impacts on how it would affect small businesses.

Tom Panas, El Cerrito, stated that the Council should go beyond the state minimum sick leave. Mr. Panas said he believes the amount of sick leave should be based on hours worked. Mr. Panas said he was very disappointed that the City Council did not discuss impacts on small business when the ordinance was passed in November 2015.

Kevin O'Neal, El Cerrito, questioned the City's relationship with the Ensuring Opportunity organization and said he is of the impression that the Council hates business owners and businesses in general and small business owners in particular. The Council is considering cutting into the income of his business by 2.5% if the proposal is adopted. It is an additional administrative burden to deal with. Businesses already have to deal with the county, state and federal government. Mr. O'Neal said he does not think that [paid sick leave and service charges] should be approved, that he does not trust the City Council and that the Council is anti-business.

Action: By mutual consensus, the City Council deferred any further discussion on paid sick leave until the state ballot measures are finalized and will keep an eye on the development of hospitality service charges in other jurisdictions and minimum wage increase changes for now.

Moved, seconded (Quinto/Friedman) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2016-09 approving funds for additional outreach.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

Mayor and City Council communications regarding local and regional liaison assignments and committee reports.

Councilmember Quinto reported that he attended an Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) meeting in Sacramento with Bay Area leaders in the Senate and Assembly to discuss possible legislation regarding affordable housing and transportation. Discussions will continue in Oakland on February 20.

Mayor Lyman reported that he attended two solid waste meetings since the Council last met. The new chair of the Integrated Waste Management Authority is Councilmember Pete Murray (City of Pinole). The Authority is discussing the future of the organization including goals and objectives. Disbursement from the Authority is going smoothly. Mayor Lyman also attended a Marin Clean Energy (MCE) budget meeting. MCE is preparing for the March 1, 2016 California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) public hearing regarding the PCIA exit fee. On January 28, El Cerrito began hosting the West Contra Costa County Mayors Conference. The West County Mayors received a presentation from Tom Dalziel, Program Manager, Contra Costa County Clean Water Program, regarding NPDES regulations and new Municipal Regional Permit requirements. Mayor Lyman noted that the regulations will increase costs for the City. Mayor Lyman also attended a League of California Cities Environmental Policy Committee meeting in Sacramento recently and the Fred Korematsu Day Celebration at the new middle school. There were several excellent performances. The School Principal informed Mayor Lyman that the School District is taking traffic seriously and that he will personally knock on every door in the neighborhood

to introduce himself and will also distribute his business card.

9. ADJOURNED REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 8:25 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 7 Study Session Regarding Paid Sick Leave and Service Charge Regulations Relating to the City's Minimum Wage Policy

1. Comments encouraging the City Council to pass an ordinance providing at least six days of sick pay a year for those that work at least 30 hours per week – *Submitted by Lisa Hirsch, Jobs Task Force Chair and Melody Howe Weintraub, Steering Committee Chair, Multi-faith ACTION Coalition.*
2. Powerpoint presentation – *Submitted by Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager.*

Other:

3. Chart comparing financial and environmental details of thirteen different vehicles that the City may consider in purchasing a vehicle for the city – *Submitted by Howdy Goudey, El Cerrito.*
4. Richmond – ECIA Community Grant Program Informational Meeting – *Submitted by Cordell Hindler, Richmond.*

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

***Designating the Month of March as “Women’s History Month”
and March 8, 2016 as “International Women’s Day”***

WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of the United States, the state of California, and the City of El Cerrito in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of our nation and in the City of El Cerrito by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside the home; and

WHEREAS, Women have played a unique role throughout our history by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force; and women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the United States and throughout the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, Women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and the peace movement, to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, Locally, women have played a key role in the City of El Cerrito’s history as leaders in the community, in our schools and universities, and at City Hall; and the City proudly recognizes the importance of issues affecting women and girls and supports further sustainable change in their well-being and advancement; and

WHEREAS, International Women’s Day is celebrated globally on March 8th and addresses the social, economic, and political barriers still facing women and girls while celebrating their achievements and the progress that have been made in support of women’s equality.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito does hereby proclaim March 2016 as Women’s History Month and March 8, 2016 as International Women’s Day in the City of El Cerrito, and encourages residents to reflect on, honor, and celebrate the history, courage, commitment, accomplishments, and contributions of women, not only in El Cerrito but throughout America.

Dated: March 1, 2016

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 5(C)

Date: March 1, 2016
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Christopher Jones, Recreation Director
Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager
Subject: Authorization of an Administrative Analyst II position to the Recreation Department

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a resolution authorizing the addition of an Administrative Analyst II position to the Recreation Department.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The El Cerrito Recreation Department is a full service department offering programs, services, and events for people of all ages. The department currently employs 22 full-time employees and, depending on the season, 100 to 250 part-time employees. Excluding the Director and 5 custodians, the remaining 16 full-time employees and nearly all of the part-time employees are dedicated to specific programmatic functions of the Department, including administrative and logistical duties. Staff conducted a review of department personnel and classifications and determined that a generalist position that is responsible for department-wide and City-wide assignments and projects applying technical and analytical skills is desired. With an operational budget of over \$4 million and the corresponding programs and services, the Department would benefit from the increased capacity to research and implement updated policies and procedures.

The proposed Administrative Analyst II position in the Recreation Department would assume responsibilities that would include but are not limited to: cost and fee analysis and implementation, budget development and monitoring, contract administration, grant writing, audit reporting, benchmark measuring, cash handling process review, marketing and outreach, RecTrac software administration and technical support, working with outside organizations and stakeholder groups, and customer service management. This position would also be responsible for supervising the clerical staff in the Recreation Main Office. All of these functions are crucial to delivering high quality services emphasizing excellent customer service and fiscal responsibility.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed addition of an Administrative Analyst II position in the Recreation Department furthers the following goals and corresponding strategies of the City's Strategic Plan:

Goal A: Deliver exemplary government services

Agenda Item No. 5(C)

- Increase productivity and efficiency by utilizing data-driven analysis to ensure appropriate resource allocation.
- Recruit and retain a talented and effective workforce.
- Develop and strengthen relationships with public and private partners, residents, businesses, schools, and community groups.
- Maintain emphasis on providing excellent customer service.

Goal B: Achieve long-term financial sustainability

- Maintain financial discipline by establishing decision-making guidelines to evaluate whether or when to pursue a new project or program.
- Ensure policies, procedures and systems represent best practices in financial management.
- Maximize opportunities for existing and expanding businesses.
- Continue to pursue and support opportunities for new funding, including outside grants and ballot measures.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The total cost of an Administrative Analyst II position per year, including salary and benefits, is approximately \$102,000. It is anticipated that the cost of this position for the remainder of FY 2015-16 is approximately \$23,500. The City will conduct an internal recruitment for this position. There will be no increase in the Recreation Department's personnel budget for FY 2015-16 for this additional position due to savings from partial year vacancies of other Recreation Department positions. Final staffing numbers and costs for the Recreation Department's personnel budget will be determined during the FY 2016-17 budget process.

Reviewed by:



Scott Hanin, City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO AUTHORIZING THE
ADDITION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST II POSITION TO THE RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito has an adopted Classification Plan for positions in the City's service; and

WHEREAS, staff conducted a review of Recreation Department personnel and determined that the Department would benefit from having an Administrative Analyst II position to increase its analytical and technical capacities on a department-wide and City wide level; and

WHEREAS, an Administrative Analyst II position in the Recreation Department was not included in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget that was adopted by the City Council.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that it hereby authorizes the addition of an Administrative Analyst II position to the Recreation Department.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on March 1, 2016 the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on March XX, 2016.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor

RESOLUTION 2016–XX

RESOLUTION OF THE EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING SEED SAVING WITHIN THE CITY OF EL CERRITO AND REQUESTING CITY STAFF TO SUPPORT CHANGES IN STATE SEED LAW TO ALLOW SEED SHARING WITHOUT COST OR GERMINATION TESTING

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito wishes to promote access to healthy food for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article 25 of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights recognizes that every person has the right to food; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries are nonprofit repositories of seed for the benefit of the public where free seed is distributed to promote seed sharing, provide increased access to healthy food, educate about seed saving skills, strengthen local food security, improve the health of our community members, preserve and promote our local biodiversity, celebrate local varieties that are important to our community's cultural heritage and provide seed that is locally adapted to local soils and climate; and

WHEREAS, gardening is a healthy activity supporting food access and promoting physical activity. Humans have a history of sharing seeds that created and supported civilizations for over 10,000 years; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, over 90% of the vegetable varieties grown 100 years ago are now lost and the three largest seed companies control over 50% of the market share in commercial seeds; and

WHEREAS, the current industrial model of agriculture relies on a few, patented varieties of seeds to produce the majority of the food in our food system, putting our food system at considerable risk; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries and seed sharing have been able to preserve fruit and vegetable varieties that have historical and cultural significance to communities. Many locally adapted varieties are only available through seed libraries and not through commercial seed companies; and

WHEREAS, local seeds adapted to local soils and climate make our bioregional food system more resilient; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito supports strategies to strengthen community food assets, including community gardens, seed banks, seed libraries; and

WHEREAS, the official legislative purpose of the California Seed Law is to protect consumers from purchasing inadequately or illegally labeled seed and to promote fair competition; and

WHEREAS, the sharing of seeds between individuals or facilitated by seed libraries is a voluntary, community based activity that does not take place within a marketplace and does

Agenda Item No. 5(D)

not involve a commercial transaction. Seed libraries do not “sell” seeds, as that term is commonly defined, nor are the members of seed libraries “customers;” and

WHEREAS, there are over 450 seed libraries in the United States with the longest one operating for over 15 years, nearly 50 in California and two seed libraries in the City of El Cerrito; and

WHEREAS, the two seed libraries located at the library and Recycling and Environmental Resource Center have disbursed a variety of seeds to hundreds of El Cerrito residents over the past two years; and

WHEREAS, the seed libraries offer seed saving classes to educate members on best practices for saving seed and water conservation; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries and seed sharing protect the Nation’s food supply and can play an important role in strengthening our communities’ access to healthy food and facilitate access to healthy, locally grown food in food deserts where little may be available; and

WHEREAS, many members of the community cannot afford to meet their family’s food budget; and

WHEREAS, seed sharing enables people to grow and feed wholesome food to their families and by saving seed they can ensure their food supply in the future; and

WHEREAS, seed libraries and seed sharing protect and encourage seeds that have cultural and historical significance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito supports and encourages the ongoing 10,000 year legacy of seed sharing between community members without legal barriers of labeling fees and germination testing and encourages the efforts of seed libraries to facilitate sharing of locally grown and saved seed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the El Cerrito City Council supports the work of our seed libraries in seed saving, educating community members about the value of seed sharing, developing best practices to enhance seed saving skills, and encouraging voluntary and accurate seed labeling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the El Cerrito City Council of supports Assembly Bill 1810 (Levine), “The Seed Exchange Democracy Act,” which supports the sharing of seeds between individuals and through seed libraries by removing the application of any labeling, testing, and permitting requirements to interpersonal or seed library seed sharing.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on March 1, 2016, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

Agenda Item No. 5(D)

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on March XX, 2016.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor



California

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

AB-1810 California Seed Law: exclusions: seed microenterprises and noncommercial seed sharing. (2015-2016)**Senate:****Assembly:** 1st

Bill Status	
Measure:	AB-1810
Lead Authors:	Levine (A)
Principal Coauthors:	-
Coauthors:	-
Topic:	California Seed Law: exclusions: seed microenterprises and noncommercial seed sharing.
31st Day in Print:	03/10/16
Title:	An act to amend Sections 52288, 52311, 52451, and 52486 of, and to add Sections 52258.1 and 52258.2 to, the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to seed.
House Location:	Assembly
Introduced Date:	02/08/16

Type of Measure
Active Bill - Pending Referral
Majority Vote Required
Non-Appropriation
Fiscal Committee
Non-State-Mandated Local Program
Non-Urgency
Non-Tax levy

Last 5 History Actions	
Date	Action
02/09/16	From printer. May be heard in committee March 10.
02/08/16	Read first time. To print.



AB-1810 California Seed Law: exclusions: seed microenterprises and noncommercial seed sharing. (2015-2016)

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2015–2016 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1810

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

February 08, 2016

An act to amend Sections 52288, 52311, 52451, and 52486 of, and to add Sections 52258.1 and 52258.2 to, the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to seed.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1810, as introduced, Levine. California Seed Law: exclusions: seed microenterprises and noncommercial seed sharing.

The California Seed Law (the seed law) regulates seed sold in California, and generally requires agricultural and vegetable seed that is sold in the state to be labeled in accordance with specified provisions. Specified penalties are prescribed for violating the provisions of the seed law.

This bill would exclude from the labeling requirements of the seed law seed distributed through noncommercial seed sharing activities, and would also exclude seed sold by a seed microenterprise, which would be defined as a person or farm that grows and sells up to \$5,000 annually of agricultural, flower, or vegetable seed. The bill would revise applicable penalty provisions to exclude a seed microenterprise that sells only untreated and uncertified seed, and the collection, storage, or distribution of agricultural, flower, or vegetable seed for noncommercial purposes. The bill would also define the term "sell" for purposes of the seed law, and would state that the Legislature declares that the seed law is not intended to regulate seed microenterprises or noncommercial seed sharing, as specified.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 52258.1 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

52258.1. "Seed microenterprise" means any person or farm that grows and sells within this state up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) annually of agricultural, flower, or vegetable seed.

SEC. 2. Section 52258.2 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

52258.2. "Sell" includes to offer, expose, or possess for sale, and to commercially exchange, barter, or trade.

SEC. 3. Section 52288 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

52288. The Legislature hereby declares that it is the intent of this chapter to enable the seed industry, with the aid of the state, to ensure that seed purchased by the consumer-buyer is properly identified and of the quality and amount represented on the tag or label. The Legislature further declares that the success of agriculture and the seed industry in this state depends upon the continued commitment to industry-funded research in order to improve the quality and variety of seed available to the consumer-buyer. *The Legislature further declares that this chapter is not intended to regulate seed microenterprises or noncommercial seed sharing, including through seed libraries, seed exchanges, or other informal and formal noncommercial seed sharing activities.*

SEC. 4. Section 52311 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

52311. A person is not subject to the penalties ~~which~~ *that* are prescribed by this chapter in any of the following cases:

(a) For selling in this state any agricultural or vegetable seed ~~which~~ *that* is incorrectly labeled or represented as to kind, variety, or type, which ~~seed~~ cannot be identified by examination of it, unless ~~he~~ *the person* has failed to obtain an invoice or grower's declaration ~~which~~ *that* gives the commonly accepted name of the kind, kind and variety, or kind and type, and to take ~~such~~ other precautions as may be necessary to insure the identity to be that which is stated.

(b) As to any matter ~~which~~ *that* is required by Article 8 (commencing with Section ~~52451~~) ~~of this chapter, 52451~~, for selling ~~such~~ *the* seed in original unopened sealed packages ~~which~~ *that* are fully labeled by another dealer, unless ~~he~~ *the person* has failed to have ~~such~~ *the* seed retested and relabeled as to the percentage of germination within the period ~~which~~ *that* is prescribed by Section 52481, or unless ~~he~~ *the person* has failed to correct the label after notice that ~~such~~ *the* label has been found to be incorrect.

(c) For shipping, delivering, transporting, or selling within this state any agricultural or vegetable seed ~~which~~ *that* has a false labeling as to percentage of germination or hard seeds, unless ~~he~~ *the person* has first been given an opportunity by the ~~director~~ *secretary* to be heard. This exemption does not, however, relieve any person from the obligation, upon order of an enforcement official, to stop further sale of any seed ~~which~~ *that* is found to be incorrectly labeled as to germination, nor does it exempt such seed from seizure pursuant to this chapter.

(d) For operating a seed microenterprise that sells only untreated and uncertified seed.

(e) For collecting, storing, or distributing in this state any labeled or unlabeled agricultural, flower, or vegetable seed for noncommercial purposes.

SEC. 5. Section 52451 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

52451. This article does not apply to any of the following:

(a) Seed or grain that is not intended for sowing purposes.

(b) Seed that is in storage in, or consigned to, a seed cleaning or conditioning establishment for cleaning or conditioning.

(c) Seed or grain that is transported without transfer of title for sowing on land that is owned by the person by whom the seed or grain was produced.

(d) Seed that is weighed and packaged in the presence of the purchaser from a bulk container, if the container is properly and conspicuously labeled as provided by this chapter.

(e) Seed or grain that is transported from one warehouse to another without transfer of title or in storage in a warehouse, if each container is plainly marked or identified with a lot number or other lot identification and the label information that is required by this article is available at the request of an enforcing officer.

(f) Seed distributed in the state through formal or informal noncommercial seed sharing activities, including, but not limited to, seed libraries and seed exchanges.

(g) Seed sold by a seed microenterprise.

SEC. 6. Section 52486 of the Food and Agricultural Code is amended to read:

52486. Sections 52481, 52482, and 52484 of this article do not apply to any *of the following*:

(a) Any common carrier in respect to any seed ~~which~~ that is transported or delivered for transportation in the ordinary course of its business as a carrier if ~~such~~ the carrier is not engaged in conditioning or merchandising seed ~~which~~ that is subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(b) A seed microenterprise that sells only untreated and uncertified seed.

(c) Noncommercial seed sharing.

California Seed Exchange Democracy Act

What is the California Seed Exchange Democracy Act?

- The California Seed Exchange Democracy Act (AB 1810, Levine) will update California's state seed law so that seed libraries and other forms of noncommercial seed sharing are given the clear legal space to operate.
- The bill amends the California Seed Law to ensure that seed libraries, and other forms of noncommercial seed sharing activities, are not subject to the same labeling, testing, and permitting requirements that apply to large-scale commercial seed enterprises.
- The bill makes three main changes to existing law to achieve this goal:
 - Redefines the term "sell" so that noncommercial seed sharing cannot be interpreted as "selling" seed, which triggers the labeling, testing, and permitting requirements,
 - Promotes noncommercial seed sharing by removing these activities from the scope of the law's labeling, testing, and permitting requirements, and
 - Promotes seed micro-enterprises (anyone who sells within California up to \$5,000 annually of seed they grew themselves) by reducing labeling and testing requirements.

Reasons to support Seed Sharing and AB 1810

1. **Seeds are a commons, not commodities.** Communal stewardship of our resources, practiced by indigenous communities around the world, is a framework for how we can operate a sustainable and equitable economy. Perhaps the oldest of these common resources are seeds - being saved and shared among people for the better part of 10,000 years. Recently, western notions of private property have been extended to commodify seeds into pieces of personal or intellectual property. Meanwhile, there has been a steep decline in plant genetic diversity around the world.
2. **Resilient, local food economies are dynamic.** With wealth inequality at its highest ever since the Great Depression, we know that dollars are just not getting around to all of us like they should. Who knows how long it will take for us to all have enough dollars to provide for ourselves? Seed sharing allows us to branch out into the wonderful world of the gift economy as a real, practical solution to this problem while building personal connections within our communities around one thing we all need to get by - food.
3. **More local seeds = more local food.** Nearly 10% of Californians struggle with food insecurity, meaning that at some point they do not know where their next meal will come from. At the same time, Californians only consume about 10% of their food from local sources, so there is a huge opportunity to increase local food production **for** local communities, particularly communities poorly served by our current global food system.
4. **Seed saving is one of the oldest human traditions.** The act of saving seeds and sharing them is what birthed agriculture thousands of years ago. Only in the last century has seed saving lost its ubiquity (though it remains the main form of exchange in many communities around the world). Seed saving and sharing is a human right.
5. **Consolidation in the seed industry is worrisome.** Three companies control more than 55% of the global seed market. Not only does this present a number of possible problems, but the impact of this control on our choices of what foods are even available places us at the mercy of a just a

handful of board rooms. More and more seed companies are moving away from diversity in favor of single-trait, commodity seeds to serve industrial-scale agribusiness.

How to Engage on this Issue

There are several different things to do:

- **Pass a local resolution.** Encourage your city council to pass a resolution in support of seed sharing. It helps to have many cities officially supporting seed sharing.
- **Visit your legislator's office.** Drop by and talk to staff about the Seed Democracy Act and why you want your legislator's support on this bill. Putting a face to a name always has impact.
- **Organize a letter writing party.** A written letter sent to your legislator goes a long way in urging their support of the bill.
- **Make a phone call.** Calls to specific legislator offices can be influential in persuading someone to vote a certain way.
- **Spread the word on social media.** Whatever social networking platform you like to use, whether it's Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, or something else, share #seeddemocracy so people know about it!

RESOLUTION NO. 2016–XX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO IN
OPPOSITION TO ISLAMOPHOBIA**

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito strives to empower all of its residents with lives free of violence, hate crimes, or any type of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, due to the recent events of the Charlie Hebdo Attack, the Paris Terror Attacks, the San Bernardino shooting, the inflammatory rhetoric used by 2016 presidential candidates, and the ongoing violence of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Syria and Iraq, Islamophobia is a growing challenge in the United States and in the world; and

WHEREAS, Islamophobia was first defined in a 1991 Runnymede Trust Report as a general unfounded hostility towards Muslims, and therefore fear or dislike of all or most Muslims; and

WHEREAS, the recent hate crime toward members of a mosque within our neighboring City of Richmond, California is another urgent example of the dangers of Islamophobia; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Police Department is commended for acting swiftly in investigating the threat to ensure the well-being of the Richmond community and is committed to working with the appropriate federal law enforcement authorities and the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office to file charges against suspects of hate crimes and terrorist threats or attacks; and

WHEREAS, the El Cerrito City Council denounces all acts brought about as a result of Islamophobia; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Cerrito embodies a community that values and respects the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito joins with the City Council of the City of Richmond in stating its support for its Muslim neighbors and respect for the world religions which make up the City of El Cerrito and calls on all municipalities of the United States to show support for their Muslim neighbors and state opposition to Islamophobia.

I CERTIFY that at a regular meeting on March 1, 2016, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito passed this Resolution by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on March XX, 2016.

Agenda Item No. 5(E)

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 5(F)

Date: March 1, 2016

To: El Cerrito City Council

From: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager/City Arborist
Maria Sanders, Interim Operations + Environmental Services Manager
Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Subject: Tree Committee Appointment

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Tree Committee recommendation to appoint Mary Torrusio to the Tree Committee, effective March 1, 2016.

DISCUSSION

The Tree Committee recommends to City Council the appointment of a new member after an applicant attends three or more meetings, becomes familiar with the Committee's mission and current work plan, after they reiterate their desire to serve on the Tree Committee and after a favorable vote by the Committee to recommend them.

Mary Torrusio has attended three regular monthly meetings of the Tree Committee since submitting her Applicant Questionnaire for Commissions and Boards in October 2015. As Ms. Torrusio has participated in open discussions at Tree Committee meetings, the Committee has become acquainted with her insight and perspective. After she reiterated her interest in serving the City on the Tree Committee, members voted unanimously at their February meeting to recommend to Council that Ms. Torrusio be appointed as a member.

Ms. Torrusio has said in her application that she is excited to put down roots in El Cerrito after moving to the City two years ago from Florida with her young family, and that she wants to be involved with developing the community. Her previous experience as Communications Coordinator for a state environmental agency where she wrote and edited publications and gave presentations will enhance the Tree Committee's mission to "Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for urban forestry efforts." She has evaluated grant applications and awarded state funding to school districts, museums and non-profit organizations for projects related to environmental education and research. Ms. Torrusio holds a bachelor's degree in English and master's degrees in English and Communication.

If the Council approves this recommendation, the number of Committee members will be nine out of a total possible membership of fifteen, as established by City Council in the Tree Committee's enabling Resolution 2007-96.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the Tree Committee helps the City realize the following goals of the El Cerrito Strategic Plan:

- Goal C to "Deepen a sense of place and community identity"
- Goal F to "Foster environmental sustainability citywide"

As stated in its enabling Resolution 2007-96, the Tree Committee was established to assist the City in its "stewardship of its urban forest, including establishing a citywide commitment to a healthy, growing forest, and creating a coordinated, high quality forestry management program."

Reviewed by:



Scott Hanin
City Manager

Attachments:

1. Mary Torrusio Application



**March 1, 2016
Regular City Council Meeting**

**Agenda Item No. 5(F)
Tree Committee Appointment
Attachment 1 Application**

Hardcopy is available for review at:

Office of the City Clerk
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA
(510) 215-4305

and

The El Cerrito Library
6510 Stockton Avenue
El Cerrito, CA



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 5(G)

Date: March 1, 2016
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Shannon Collins, Accounting Supervisor
Subject: Quarterly Cash & Investments Report for Period Ending December 31, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive and file the City's Quarterly Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2015.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Quarterly Investment Report Review

The Quarterly Investment Report for October 2015 – December 2015 shows that the City's investments had a par value of \$1,561,170.39 as of December 31, 2015. During the quarter, interest of approximately \$49 was earned and debt service payments for the Swim Center, City Hall and the Solar Lease were made totaling \$791,816.

The City continues to have minimal investments that are not required for debt service reserves and to have limited, if any, interest earnings on restricted funds. Of the total amount invested, \$2,706 is invested in the pooled funds with the State Treasurer's Local Agency Investment Funds (LAIF) and \$1,558,464 is held in money market funds.

Cash Balance

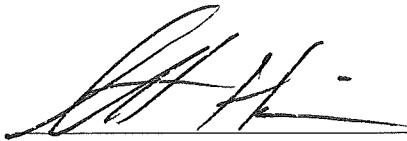
The cash balance in the City's general checking account for the period ending December 31, 2015 was \$6,431,581. This is higher than the average balance due to the receipt of \$5,000,000 from the issuance of the City's Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRAN) received in July.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of the City's Investment Policy is to provide guidelines for prudent investment of the City's idle funds and maximum efficiency of the City's cash management system.

The ultimate goal is to enhance the City's economic condition while protecting the funds at all times. The City's investments comply with the "Authorized Investments" section of the Investment Policy.

Reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hanin', is written over a horizontal line.

**Scott Hanin
City Manager**

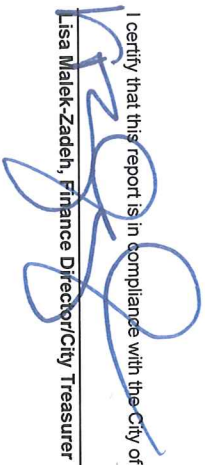
Attachment:

1. City of El Cerrito Quarterly Investment Report For Period Ending December 31, 2015

City of El Cerrito
Quarterly Cash & Investment Report
For the Period Ending September 30, 2015

FUND	INVESTMENT TYPE	INVESTMENT	TRUSTEE/ BROKER	PAR VALUE	COST	INTEREST OR YIELD	MATURITY DATE	COST/ 100	*MARKET VALUE
Pooled Investments	Pooled Fund	LAIF	CA State Treasurer	\$2,706.06	\$2,706.06	0.24%	N/A	100.00	\$2,706.06
Solar Project Financing	Prime Money Market	Deutsche Bank Prime Money Market	Deutsche Bank	\$10,170.49	\$10,170.49	0.01%	N/A	100.00	\$10,170.49
Swim Center Fund	Blackrock Institutional Money Market	Union Bank/Blackrock Liquidity	Union Bank of CA	\$185,340.92	\$185,340.92	0.01%	N/A	100.00	\$185,340.92
City Hall Debt Fund	Blackrock Institutional Money Market	Union Bank/Blackrock Liquidity	Union Bank of CA	\$621,721.21	\$621,721.21	0.01%	N/A	100.00	\$621,721.21
Street Improvement Fund	Blackrock Institutional Money Market	Union Bank/Blackrock Liquidity	Union Bank of CA	\$741,231.71	\$741,231.71	0.01%	N/A	100.00	\$741,231.71
				\$1,561,170.39	\$1,561,170.39				\$1,561,170.39
Cash Account (General Checking)	Mechanics Bank	N/A	N/A	\$6,431,580.81	\$6,431,580.81	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$6,431,580.81
Total Cash and Investments				\$7,992,751.20	\$7,992,751.20				\$7,992,751.20

I certify that this report is in compliance with the City of El Cerrito Investment Policy and that there are adequate funds available to meet the next six months of estimated expenditures as required by the California Government Code


Lisa Malek-Zadeh, Finance Director/City Treasurer



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 7(A)

Date: March 1, 2016
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Scott Hanin, City Manager
Subject: Discussion and Possible Direction on a New El Cerrito Library Location

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests that the Council take the following actions:

1. Receive a presentation on the status of a potential new library for the City of El Cerrito; and
2. Adopt a resolution approving staff and consultant recommendation selecting the “Lower Portola Playfield – Option 1B” as the preferred option and location for a new, modern and safe El Cerrito Library; and formally requesting that the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) enter into a fifty-year lease at no cost or a nominal cost to the City for the “Lower Portola Playfield”, and ensuring adequate room for a Fairmont Elementary School temporary campus until completion of a new or renovated school at the current location as soon as possible, and
3. Direct the Mayor and City Manager to work with the District to facilitate such a lease, and direct staff to work with the WCCUSD to develop a plan for the ultimate disposition of the current Senior Center and Library sites adjacent to Fairmont Elementary School upon successful passage of a ballot measure to fund the new library.

BACKGROUND

The City’s Strategic Plan identifies “Develop and Rehabilitate Public Facilities as Community Focal Points” as a primary goal. The strategies outlined for this goal include continuing to assess facilities to prioritize and strategize investment (i.e., library, public safety building, senior center, community center).

The El Cerrito Library was built in 1948 and does not currently meet earthquake safety standards of libraries built today. The Library is overcrowded and too small for the community’s public safety, educational, and informational needs. For many years the City has been considering its options for a new library. Unfortunately, with the Great Recession and the dissolution of the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency by the State, the planning of a new library was put on hold a number of times.

In July 2013, staff received direction from the City Council to pursue planning for a new library building, including the steps necessary to consider a ballot measure to fund the facility in November 2016. In March 2014, the Council received the results from the update to the 2006

Needs Assessment for the El Cerrito Library as part of the first phase of the planning process. The City Council then authorized a survey in February 2015 that focused on the funding mechanisms and potential language for a ballot measure in 2016 that would assist the City in determining the best options for financing the facility. In general, the results of the survey demonstrated approximately 70% support for a new library in El Cerrito.

At that meeting, staff identified that the next steps in the process would include identification of funding for necessary studies and plans; engagement of an architectural firm to assist with site selection, massing studies, elevations, and ultimately design; possible site studies (e.g., seismic and hazardous materials) and environmental review; and engagement of a consultant for development of a public information strategy. Tonight, the results of the Site Feasibility and Assessment Report are presented for the City Council's consideration. Approval of funding for additional public information and survey research is included in a separate agenda item.

ANALYSIS

In order to develop the Site Feasibility and Assessment Report, staff relied on two consulting firms: Swinerton Management and Consulting and Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc. Swinerton was selected as the result of a competitive RFP process for the rebuilding of the City's Recycling Center. Based on their exceptional performance, staff elected to use them in this role as cost estimator and construction advisor. Swinerton oversaw an informal bid process with a short list of qualified architecture firms to do this relatively small engagement to assist with site selection and massing studies. Group 4 was selected by staff based on their qualifications and recent library projects in Palo Alto and Walnut Creek. Tonight, Group 4 and Swinerton present their report which includes the following:

1. Project Description
2. Project Schedule and Work Plan
3. Library Assessments
4. Library Program Summary
5. Site Analysis
6. Site Development Strategies
7. Evaluation Criteria and Analysis of Strategies
8. Recommendations

The 2014 Space Needs Assessment Update confirmed that the recommended size for a library facility for the City of El Cerrito is about 21,000 square feet. The current building, located at 6510 Stockton Avenue, is 6,500 square feet and is adjacent to Fairmont Elementary School and the City's Senior Center. The Senior Center building sits on land owned by WCCUSD and leased to the City. There is not enough space to accommodate a larger library facility on the current and adjacent sites on Stockton Avenue, and would potentially impact the space needs of Fairmont Elementary. Therefore, City staff has been working to determine a process for selecting a site for the new Library. Staff and the consultants developed selection criteria based on feedback collected through the Needs Assessment process and both formal and informal survey data. Based on this information, as well as the desire to optimize facility usage, only centrally-located sites were considered as possible development options. As shown in the report, three specific locations with multiple options were studied:

Agenda Item No. 7(A)

1. **Former Portola Middle School Site:** The former Portola Middle School site, owned by the WCCUSD, is divided into one lower parcel that runs horizontally across the length of the site and two upper portions that are currently vacant. The lower portion, known as the Lower Playfield, was the home of the Portola Middle School play area and is the only parcel under discussion at this time. Because of its central location, public ownership, and connectivity with the Community Center, Cerrito Vista Park and the Contra Costa Civic Theatre, it is believed to be the most optimal site for the new library.
 - a. Option 1A – Library Only
 - b. Option 1B – Library and additional community center space
2. **Contra Costa Civic Theatre Site:** The Contra Costa Civic Theatre property and building is leased from the City of El Cerrito. Because of its central location and City ownership, staff and the consultants, with the approval of the Theatre’s Board of Directors, evaluated this site for consideration as a mixed-use, City-owned project.
3. **Generic San Pablo Avenue site:** Another alternative could be for the City to purchase land on San Pablo Avenue as either a stand-alone library building along with retail, or as a portion of a mixed-use housing project to serve as a place-making location.
 - a. Option 3 — Library + Housing + Retail
 - b. Option 4 — Library + Retail

Based on the site evaluation criteria utilized in the report and the cost estimates, Option 1B – the Former Portola Middle School Lower Playfield with additional community center space, is the most desirable option. This option would work very well by creating a synergy with the current Community Center campus, and provide the opportunity to increase programming and meeting room space that could potentially accommodate the Senior Center programs, freeing up the current Library and Senior Center locations adjacent to Fairmont Elementary School. Should the City Council ultimately place a ballot measure before the voters this November and it prevails with the additional community space proposed, it is possible that all of the land currently used for the Library and Senior Center could be used as additional space for Fairmont Elementary School.

The Lower Playfield site is owned by the WCCUSD and has served recently as a temporary campus for Kensington Elementary School and currently the temporary Korematsu Middle School campus. The recommended Option 1B assumes that the site would have adequate room to maintain a temporary Fairmont Elementary School campus while the school is reconstructed, hopefully very soon. After the temporary Fairmont Elementary campus leaves the Lower Playfield, that portion could be developed into playfields as shown in the report.

Further, this analysis assumes that WCCUSD would enter into a long-term lease with the City for a minimum of 50 years at no cost or a very nominal cost. This assumption is based on the fact that the site has always been used for public services, that the City and the District largely have the same constituencies, and the notion that the public should not have to pay again for a site that would remain owned by a public agency. Separately, staff recommends that the City

work with the District to develop a long-term Master Plan for the upper two-thirds of the former Portola Middle School site.

Next Steps

Should the City Council accept the recommendation of staff and the consultants, the Mayor and City Manager would forward the report to the WCCUSD Board of Education, and address the Board at its March 16, 2016 meeting. Should the Board of Education concur and formally take action in support of the recommendation, City staff will develop a draft lease agreement for both the Council and the Board to consider in the near future.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

This planning process is within the considerations of *Goal D: Develop and Rehabilitate Public Facilities as Community Focal Points* as detailed in the City of El Cerrito Strategic Plan; as well as *Goal B: Achieve Long-term Financial Sustainability* and *Goal C: Deepen a Sense of Place and Community Identity*. As envisioned, the recommended Option 1B has the ability to significantly address needs at the Library, Senior Center and Community Center. Specifically, this would contribute to achieving the following strategies:

- Continue the facilities assessment to prioritize and strategize investment (i.e., library, public safety building, senior center, community center).
- Develop a financial plan to address ongoing and deferred maintenance of facilities and infrastructure.
- Identify, promote, and/or develop entertainment, recreational, and leisure activities for people of all ages and demographics.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

At this time, there are no additional funding requests associated with this recommendation. The Report shows that in the event the City can obtain the Lower Playfield at no cost, Option 1B is the most cost-effective option. A mixed-use project with the Contra Costa Civic Theatre would be the most expensive based on its complexity and need for decked parking. A stand-alone library located on San Pablo Avenue would also be more expensive because of the need to acquire land. Although the most complex option, a mixed-use library and housing project on San Pablo Avenue could be the most cost-effective as the City would only own the library portion of the project, however, the timeline for completion is longer and relies on an outside development team.

Should the City and WCCUSD not be able to reach an agreement as requested by the City Council, staff may return for additional direction and funding associated with the desired Option 1B or the development of another option.

Reviewed by:



Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. Site Feasibility and Scope Development Report
2. Resolution



**March 1, 2016
Regular City Council Meeting**

**Item No. 7(A) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION
ON A NEW EL CERRITO LIBRARY LOCATION**

Attachment 1 Presentation is available from this link

<http://www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/5528>

and is also available for review in hardcopy format at the following locations:

Office of the City Clerk
10940 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito
(510) 215-4305

and

The El Cerrito Library
El Cerrito
6510 Stockton Avenue

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO SELECTING THE FORMER PORTOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL LOWER PLAYFIELD AS THE PREFERRED LOCATION FOR A NEW MODERN LIBRARY, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND MAYOR TO WORK WITH THE WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DEVELOP A LEASE AND PLAN FOR THE NEW LIBRARY IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF A NOVEMBER 8, 2016 BALLOT MEASURE.

WHEREAS, the current El Cerrito Library was opened in 1948, does not currently meet earthquake safety standards of libraries built today, and is overcrowded and too small for the community's public safety, educational, and informational needs; and

WHEREAS, after performing a Library Needs Assessment, it was determined that the City would be properly served with a new, modern, safe library of approximately 21,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, through both formal and informal survey research, the public has expressed considerable support for a new library; and

WHEREAS, City Staff and consultants Group 4 Architecture, Research, + Planning, Inc. and Swinerton Management and Consulting undertook a Site Assessment and Scope Evaluation for a new Library in El Cerrito; and

WHEREAS, the Report analyzed three potential locations for a new library and recommended the Former Portola Middle School Lower Playfield as the preferred option; and

WHEREAS, the preferred option shall include square footage for additional community programming space; and

WHEREAS, as a current publicly-owned property, the City requests that the Former Portola Middle School Lower Playfield site be leased to the City by the West Contra Costa Unified School District for no cost or nominal cost to maintain it as a publicly-owned facility; and

WHEREAS, space shall be maintained for a temporary Fairmont Elementary School campus while the current location is being rebuilt in the fastest timeframe possible and, upon direction of the City Council, City staff will work with the WCCUSD on the ultimate disposition of the current Library and Senior Center sites.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito that it hereby approves a recommendation made by City staff and the City's consultants to select the "Former Portola Middle School Lower Playfield – Option 1B" as the preferred option and location for a new, modern and safe El Cerrito Library, and formally requests that the West Contra Costa Unified School District enter into a fifty year lease at no cost or a nominal cost to the City for the Former Portola Middle School Lower Playfield site.

Agenda Item No. 7(A)

Attachment 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will ensure adequate room for a temporary Fairmont Elementary School campus on the “Former Portola Middle School Lower Playfield site until completion of a new or renovated Fairmont Elementary School at its current location and that it is the City Council’s desire that construction be completed as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Manager are directed to work with the West Contra Costa Unified School District to facilitate such a lease, and directs staff to work with the WCCUSD to develop a plan for the ultimate disposition of the current Senior Center and Library sites adjacent to Fairmont Elementary School upon successful passage of a ballot measure to fund the new library.

I CERTIFY that at the regular meeting on March 1, 2016 the El Cerrito City Council passed this resolution by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on March __, 2016.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor



AGENDA BILL

Agenda Item No. 7(B)

Date: March 1, 2015
To: El Cerrito City Council
From: Suzanne Iarla, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Authorize Agreements Related to Public Information Effort for a Potential New Library Facility

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into standard professional service agreements with the Lew Edwards Group for the proposed public information strategy and associated materials and mailings and Godbe Research for a targeted library survey in a total amount not to exceed \$96,000 for technical assistance associated with a potential ballot measure to fund construction of a safe, modern library facility; and approve a budget amendment to appropriate these funds from the unrestricted General Fund balance.

BACKGROUND

The City's Strategic Plan identifies "Develop and Rehabilitate Public Facilities as Community Focal Points" as a primary goal. The strategies outlined for this goal include continuing to assess facilities to prioritize and strategize investment (i.e., library, public safety building, senior center, community center).

The El Cerrito Library was built in 1948 and does not currently meet earthquake safety standards of libraries built today. The Library is overcrowded and too small for the community's public safety, educational, and informational needs. In July 2013, staff received direction from the City Council to pursue planning for a new library building, including the steps necessary to consider a ballot measure to fund the facility in November 2016. In March 2014, the Council received the results from the update to the 2006 Needs Assessment for the El Cerrito Library as part of the first phase of the planning process. The City Council then authorized a survey in February 2015 that focused on the funding mechanisms and potential language for a ballot measure in 2016 that would assist the City in determining the best options for financing the facility. Godbe Research conducted a statistically valid survey of voters and in June 2015 informed the City Council that the survey results indicate support for a bond measure to fund replacement of the 67-year-old Library.

During the past year, staff has been working on site selection for a library facility and continues to solicit input from the community about their library needs and priorities. Additionally, the City has been receiving feedback through an informal survey about the community's priorities. The El Cerrito Library Foundation has been helping to circulate this brief survey, which is available in hardcopy and also online at www.el-cerrito.org/librarysurvey. Between July 2015 and January 2016, the City received almost 600 responses to the community survey on library priorities. See attachment 2 for a summary of the responses received to date.

ANALYSIS

One of the next steps for pursuing a ballot measure to fund a library facility is to develop a formal public information effort and financing plan. To assist the City in determining the best options for gaining public support for the facility and ensure the most effective public information strategy, staff is recommending to engage a professional public affairs firm and to conduct a survey of El Cerrito voters that is focused on the funding mechanisms as well as the desired physical elements for the building. The proposed survey would build on the results of recent community input about library needs and results from prior surveys conducted by Godbe Research about the development of a library facility.

The Lew Edwards Group was originally selected to provide technical assistance related to public information and survey research as a result of a competitive procurement process. Since that time, the firm has assisted the City in conducting public information for the street improvement program Measure A in 2008, and both the original Measure R sales tax in 2010 and its recent extension in 2014. Staff has been consistently very happy with the quality of work and the firm's responsiveness and requests City Council authorization to sole source this engagement.

Godbe Research was also originally selected as the City's polling and research firm as a result of a competitive procurement process. Since that time, they have assisted the City in survey research related to the Utility Users Tax, Landscape and Lighting Assessment District, communication methods, City facilities, capital improvement programs, the street improvement program Measure A, and the sales tax Measure R. Staff has been consistently very happy with the firm's research and responsiveness and requests City Council authorization to sole source this engagement.

Additionally, in order to ensure the community is kept informed about the current needs of the library and possible funding considerations, staff wishes to augment the City's current outreach efforts (which include the City's website, quarterly newsletter and other publications) with three additional mail pieces focused on the library.

STRATEGIC PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

Efforts towards building a safe, modern library for El Cerrito would help fulfill *Goal D: Develop and Rehabilitate Public Facilities as Community Focal Points* as detailed in the City of El Cerrito Strategic Plan; as well as *Goal B: Achieve Long-term Financial Sustainability* and *Goal C: Deepen a Sense of Place and Community Identity*. Specifically, it would contribute to achieving the following strategies:

- Continue the facilities assessment to prioritize and strategize investment (i.e., library, public safety building, senior center, community center).
- Develop a financial plan to address ongoing and deferred maintenance of facilities and infrastructure.

- Identify, promote, and/or develop entertainment, recreational, and leisure activities for people of all ages and demographics.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Staff is recommending an amendment of \$96,000 to the FY 2015-16 adopted budget to come from unrestricted General Fund reserves to be used for contracts related to the Library project. Staff believes the costs are in line with similar services performed in the past and comparable to similar services rendered elsewhere. The requested appropriation includes a small contingency should actual expenses exceed the projected costs in this request:

1. An appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 for the Lew Edwards Group to develop and design the public information program.
2. An appropriation in the amount of \$33,000 for Godbe Research to provide survey research.
3. Staff is also requesting an appropriation of \$33,000 to cover the expense of design, printing and mailing three public information mail pieces focused on the library.

These amounts are consistent or less than prior efforts associated with City ballot measures.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

These agreements have been approved to form by the City Attorney.

Reviewed by:



Scott Hanin
City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Summary of Library Survey Responses through 2/2/16

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL CERRITO AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE LEW EDWARDS GROUP AND GODBE RESEARCH AND TO APPROPRIATE \$96,000 FROM FY 2015-16 UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND BALANCE RELATED TO A FUTURE REVENUE MEASURE TO FUND A SAFE, MODERN LIBRARY FACILITY IN EL CERRITO

WHEREAS, the El Cerrito Library was built in 1948 and does not currently meet the earthquake safety standards for libraries built today; and

WHEREAS, in the last decade, visits to the El Cerrito Library visits have increased 26% and circulation is up by 28%; and

WHEREAS, the current Library building is too small to serve the needs of our community, lacks modern technologies and is frequently overcrowded; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the City completed an update to the 2006 Library Space Needs Assessment, which found that a larger, well-designed, efficient, technologically-current building is necessary to provide El Cerrito residents with a library that meets their needs; and

WHEREAS, the City has expressed interest in further studying a future ballot initiative to fund a safe, modern library facility; and

WHEREAS, the City had previously selected the Lew Edwards Group and Godbe Research through independent competitive proposal processes; and

WHEREAS, City staff has been very happy with the work products, responsiveness and professionalism of both firms; and

WHEREAS, the Lew Edwards Group has submitted a proposal to design and oversee the city's public information strategy related to a library revenue measure; and

WHEREAS, Godbe Research has submitted a proposal for future research in order to provide the City Council with more information related to voter priorities and preferences for financing a library facility.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Cerrito authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Lew Edwards Group to design and oversee the City's public information strategy and Godbe Research for survey research and technical assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council appropriates \$96,000 from unrestricted General Fund balance to cover the cost of the consultants, printing, mailing and other items associated with the public information strategy for FY 2015-16 as follows:

Agenda Item No. 7(B)

Attachment 1

The requested appropriation includes a small contingency should actual expenses exceed the projected costs in this request:

1. An amount of \$30,000 for the Lew Edwards Group to develop and design the public information program.
2. An amount of \$33,000 for Godbe Research to provide survey research and other technical support.
3. An amount of \$33,000 to cover the expense of design, printing and mailing three public information mail pieces focused on the library.

I CERTIFY that at the regular meeting on <date>, the El Cerrito City Council passed this resolution by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

IN WITNESS of this action, I sign this document and affix the corporate seal of the City of El Cerrito on <date>.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

APPROVED:

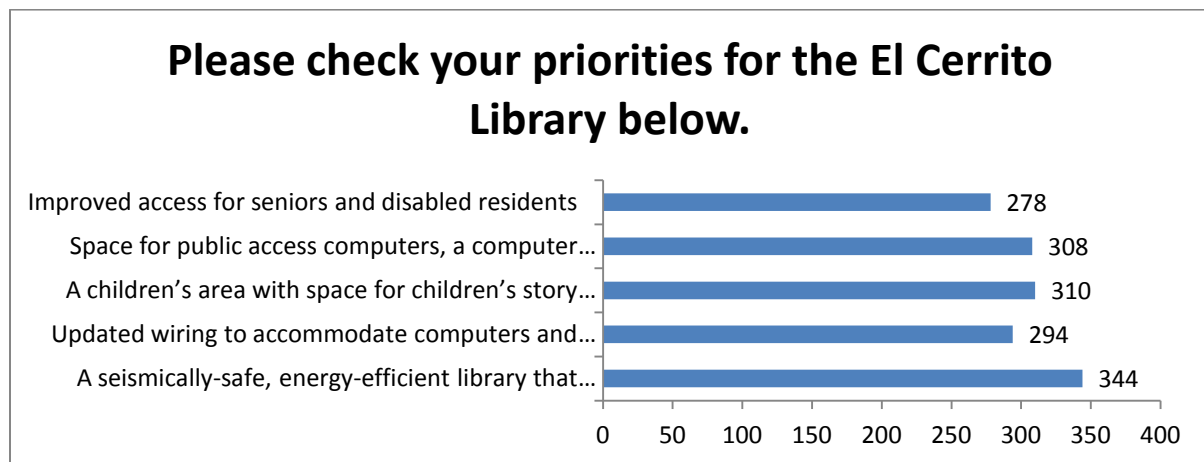
Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor

Survey Responses on Library Priorities

447 Responses as of February 02, 2016

Q1: Please check your priorities for the El Cerrito Library below.

A seismically-safe, energy-efficient library that meets earthquake and fire codes	344	73%
Updated wiring to accommodate computers and technology	294	63%
A children's area with space for children's story times	310	66%
Space for public access computers, a computer learning center, and free Wi-Fi	308	66%
Improved access for seniors and disabled residents	278	60%



Other Priorities:

- A broad range of books and other materials, to suit an equally diverse array of interests and needs.
- A café, longer hours, evening meeting room, space for groups.
- A comfortable and welcoming environment. A sunny environment. Natural materials in the interior when possible. Comfortable seating. An outdoor area with seating where people can access public wifi when the library is closed. Water bottle refill station on the inside and outside. New bike racks that are placed far enough from the wall that bikes can be placed in them. Keep the bike racks under cover from the elements, as they are now.
- A community meeting room
- A display case for EL Cerrito artists , kids, clubs, and crafters....Example January an display from EC Rotary exchange student who traveled to Japan....With pictures and a story.... Teacher's corner where EC Teachers once a year showcase a book and have a follow up activity!
- A location close to public transportation!
- A location for historical display
- A meeting room for a small group of around 40
- A piano for concerts
- A place where kids can do homework.

- A program in which you could enjoy making crafts
- A room for quiet reading/teaching
- A serene atmosphere for study(research) work
- A space that acts as a community hub helps bring people together through storytelling, music, and love of learning
- A special western's novel section
- A tool lending library.
- Additional evening hours
- additional parking
- Adequate and close parking. A separate room for use by community groups to hold meetings.
- aesthetically pleasing/ more modern
- All the above are essentials
- All would be great!
- An adjacent cafe. A place big enough for community get-togethers. A garden.
- An area for students to get homework help without disturbing others- perhaps a conference room.
- An LGBT section of books and films to make the library friendly to all residents.
- Areas for tutoring after school
- Be sure to make handicap parking available!
- Better lighting
- Better lighting
- Bigger like Hercules
- Book club area
- Book clubs!
- Book reading by authors events
- Broad diversity of information
- Café
- Chairs in the reading areas need to be ergonomically designed. The existing "deep seating" chairs are comfy for children or sitting by a fire. However, they do not work at normal height tables for people with laptops or for those who want to write, especially for short people (5'1") like me.
- Close to public transportation
- Coffee shop/excellent espresso
- Coffee, talking area
- Comfortable section AKA- couches
- Comfortable sitting area to read
- Community gathering space and garden space!
- community meeting rooms, light and open spaces
- Community meeting space, more nature
- Community room that can be used even when library is closed
- Comprehensive collection
- Conference rooms for speakers
- Dog friendly space and dog friendly café or beverage/ food cart
- Don't forget books and reference librarian. I hope neither will ever be obsolete no matter how much technology we have. Space for presentations, public educational events, classes, etc. would also be great.
- English classes. ESL
- Enough parking especially for handicapped.
- Expanded book collection
- Expanded selection of books and audio books
- Family cultural/community events
- Focus on literacy, reading, and outreach to underserve populations
- Friendly approachable staff
- Gathering space with coffee shop food
- Good books
- Good to not have kids using computers to play games.
- Greater storage capacity
- Greatly enjoyed the EC library in the 1960's. Look forward seeing a 21st century library
- Guest space for tutoring.
- Hours that serve the entire community, i.e. 12-8, so working people can access the library.
- How much will it cost?
- I would like more windows and brighter lighting. More PARKING

- SPACES, which are non existing right now. More interesting talks, may be brown bag talks at noon or somewhat later so that the Senior Ct.'s lunch bunch could also enjoy these talks.
- I would love it if the library would stay in current location
 - In the order listed above.
 - Increase the size of the book collection that is available on site.
 - Keep as close to same location
 - Keep costs reasonable
 - Keep in same location
 - Keep in same location.
 - keep library in same location
 - Keep the fireplace.
 - Large print books
 - Larger !
 - Larger facility Larger collection Meeting rooms More open hours/days
 - Larger facility with more book space
 - Larger space and larger book collection
 - Larger, more books, meeting rooms, longer hours
 - Learning center not needed.
 - Lets keep it a library not a play space
 - Library open 7 days a week.
 - Location near elementary schools, like existing building.
 - Longer hours
 - Longer hours
 - Longer hours and larger collection
 - Longer hours to accommodate those who have obligations during the open hours.
 - Longer, more reason work hours
 - Lots of natural lights.
 - Meeting rooms for individuals and groups
 - Meeting space for community groups
 - Meeting space, perhaps a "makers" creative space. Tool lending library.
 - More book clubs for adults
 - Continued help with e books
 - More books
 - more books and room for more books meeting rooms for community groups easy parking, including drop-off zone
 - More books for 11-15 year olds
 - More books in teen section
 - More books on the current "Best Seller" list!
 - More books!
 - More books!
 - More books!
 - More books!
 - MORE BOOKS*** I'D LIKE TO SEE THE LIBRARY IN A LOCATION NEAR A BUS LINE THAT PEOPLE, INCLUDING SENIORS WHO DON'T DRIVE, CAN GET TO FAIRLY EASILY.
 - More books, open bright spaces
 - More books/ bigger space
 - More collection of books
 - More community meeting/room space
 - More computer stations
 - More DVD
 - More hours
 - More hours
 - More hours and days open
 - More open hours
 - More paring, community rooms, reading areas and more shelf space
 - More parking
 - More parking
 - More parking
 - More parking A more extensive audiobook collection
 - More parking space for free!
 - More parking, better ingress and egress in/out of the parking lot. A separate room for the children's area so that their noise/parents' noise does not disturb other patrons.
 - More quiet study places
 - More quiet work and sitting space. More books in this branch.
 - More room for books, public meeting rooms

- More shelf space, please. More books and materials on that shelf space.
- More shelves and more books. Bring back encyclopedias and other reference books.
- More space
- More space for books and more hours
- More space for programs
- Multilingual section of books
- Natural lighting
- Non-Fiction books and a user friendly card catalogue
- Old books need to be "weeded" out & new books brought
- Open on Sundays
- Outdoor play space
- Parking
- Parking
- Parking!
- Places/rooms to meet, for lectures etc.
- Please arrange more informational seminars.
- PLUS Multi-use for El Cerrito organizations to use the facilities for a fee.
- Poor old library. I can't prioritize as we need a new building but the vote never gets to 67 percent
- Private conference rooms
- Programs/staff of African American heritage to improve the attendance of these children + families
- Public Meeting Space
- Quiet areas for working
- Quite area to read
- Reflect the history of El Cerrito
- Same location
- Senior Center Combined
- Separate reading areas and restroom ramps.
- Set aside for speakers . A dedicated place for book donations
- Should be open 7 days a week.
- Small closed room areas for reading , studing
- Small meeting rooms/study rooms
- Smoke alarms, carbon monoxide sensors
- Snack Shop
- solar electric panels to keep utility costs down
- Sound proof
- Space for educational events. Study space for school age youth, for tutoring and discussion groups.
- Spacious reading area
- Special area to conduct meetings, conference etc.
- Stay in current location
- Teen area separate and more staff work space
- Teen area.
- The library is good as it is.
- the library needs to be safe for everybody
- Tool Library
- Tool library
- Tools/ more space would be great.
- Use fireplace more often
- Various size meeting rooms, free access for tutoring etc.
- wider variety of book selections
- You're totally missing the point. None of these are the reason to spend \$30+ million dollars on a new library. The reason is to have a larger library that can accommodate a larger collection and provide multi-use meeting and activity space for children, teens, seniors, and community groups.
- e book library
- The new book selection is very limited.
- Parking
- reservable study rooms for small groups
- Community rooms with modern sound and video systems and WiFi that can be used by community groups by reservation even when the library is closed.

Word Cloud of Summarized “Other” Responses:



Additional Comments/Questions:

- A different location, closer to the Community Ct.
- A nap room where I can plan things like hiking and other see the area. More use of fireplace.
- A space with comfortable seating for reading newspapers and magazines without harsh lighting.
- Ack! How can you choose between these options? Between these populations who need their needs met? I have a child and wish that there were better options for us at the library
- Actually too old to use library
- An extensive selection of films, music, recorded books would be great
- Are you thinking of moving it or improving in current location?
- As a freelancer who works from home, I'm always on the lookout for good spaces to work with Wi-Fi, chairs, and bathrooms
- Brighten the place up a bit. It's of the dreariest libraries that I've ever seen, and I've been visiting libraries since I was 5 years old, some 75 years ago. In so many ways that library is uninviting, starting with the ugly architecture on the outside and the chaos that appears on the inside. Also, no clues about where to go.
- Check out Berkeley's main library-children's section on its own floor. Either a floor or a separated part of the library for children- benefits them as well as rest of library patrons

- Comfortable seating would be nice
- Comfortable space for public to use
- Don't bother building a new library unless the city is committed to providing longer hours. How on earth is it the case the the recycling center is open 64 hours per week, and the library is open only 35 hours per week? Recycling is important, sure, but does El Cerrito not value learning and community enough to have the library open at least as many hours as the recycling center?
- Easily accessed by all ages by walking
- EC library is a very noisy library. Librarian doesn't seem to correct anyone. Cell phones go odd constantly and used to talk on them and no one says anything. I thought the library is supposed to be a quiet space, children come in at 3pm and claim all the seats and computers, where adults are left out of using them. An area should be assigned for children and adults. Some of the librarian are not the friendly , so please build a new one soon.
- El Cerrito is so wonderful so lets keep it around and make it great
- General meeting place could be very useful.
- Happy to see El Cerrito soliciting feedback from the community. I hope a comprehensive needs assessment is completed and plans for upgrading begin soon!
- Help finding and reserving books is helpful and appreciated. The library staff is friendly and that is appreciated
- Hope that El Cerrito will be able to have similar facility as Castro Valley has will all the above listed features
- How can I help?
- I actually feel like for such a small space, I am often able to find good books!
- I am already in your database since I received an e-mail today (1/14/16) that referred me to this survey.
- I am definitely grateful that we have a community library and access to books.
- I appreciate the library and helpful staff. Having a teen area is also extremely beneficial
- I don't think we need a new library. I think the current library should be open everyday. The raise should be raised for library workers.
- I have been a community volunteer at the library for since at least 2010 and am a Librarian elsewhere.
- I have spent quite a bit of time in libraries all over Contra Costa and Alameda county, including El Cerrito, for Covered California enrollment events. I have been so encouraged and impressed by how much libraries are used by such a wide range of the public. The tradition needs to be supported and maintained as mmuch as possible.
- I like the ease of borrowing from other libraries- both system + out. I look forward to this.
- I like the staff at the library
- I love the EC Library and a more modern one with more books would be awesome.
- I think a more " often" survey could lead to less biased results.
- I think part of the proposal for the library should include funding for the purchase of property. I believe the library should contain flexible meeting space that can be scaled to fit a variety of groups. I also think modern wiring and presentation options should be a priority.
- I think that all the above are important priorities for the El Cerrito Library
- I would like the idea of improving the present library. More space is needed for areas so people can learn from each other, tutoring, seniors, classes for everyone to

improve in life. When are you meeting? What do you need from active participants? Please let me know when you are planning to have a meeting?

- I would love to see a more cozy space for children and even tweens to cuddle up with a book as well as expanded holdings.
- I'd like to see more books, more magazines, and a pleasant reading area. I miss the reference books and encyclopedias that used to be in the library. I love to browse what's on the shelves. I'd like to see a library at least the size of the Albany library, which contains many more books than the EC library.
- If a library goes in, what happens to current building? New senior center?
- improved access for seniors/disabled includes upgraded parking and drop off zones. Currently, the paving in the library/senior-center/Fairmont-school driveway/parking area is very dangerous. It's a wonder that no one has fallen into one of the huge potholes or fallen on the middle ridge of the driveway. I recently emailed public works about this problem, which actually affects all age groups. Even without the upkeep problems, the hill upon which the current library sits is by itself a barrier to access.
- In my experience, designated computer learning spaces are deficient to maximize. Better to have wiring and more flexible spaces that can be used for multiple purposes.
- Increase space for public programs, community meetings, field trips, events, etc. Lets make this the epicenter of El Cerrito.
- It is very hard to find parking near the library. Once the new school goes in, it will be harder.
- IT learning center for seniors.
- It would be great if the library were open on Sundays and/or Wednesdays when it is currently closed.
- Keep it going!
- Kensington has an okay book club. I'd love to see "thriller" or other genres in a book club.
- Larger collection of fiction
- Larger Library
- Larger number of books: Stopped by last Saturday to find a travel book on Australia, New Zealand or Ireland. There wasn't anything.
- Larger space with more parking will be nice.
- Locate the new library with existing city building or with shopping centers(the plaza) Bart access would be great.
- Make it dog friendly! Children can practice reading to (therapy) dogs.
- More Chinese and Spanish books for children
- More Japanese/ Chinese books
- More money for books.
- NAACP is interested in diversity as well as inclusion
- On Saturdays, the place is hopping with kids. It is such a pleasure to see a vibrant though dated library. Good job to all, esp. Davia!
- Please give consideration to business trying to survive en EC
- Please provide healthy and ergonomically sound areas to work. The chairs now in the open study area are soft and deep. I'm 5'2", and the soft cushions do not provide enough height to work comfortably at the tables. My elbows are almost shoulder height when leaning on the table trying to use my laptop. This simply isn't workable. The current chairs could be donated to several kindergarten classes for story time. Thank you for paying attention to the physical health of El Cerrito residents.
- Prefer present location if possible

- Priorities above seem OK but we are worried about the cost. Not certain how much we'll have to pay.
- See Orinda Library model
- Senior story time.
- Space for events.
- Space for presentations (authors, performers), & films, book clubs & other interest groups hosted by the library. Adequate seating space for these events. Space for crafts, listening stations, carrels for laptop/tablet use. Comfortable seating for patrons. Used books/magazines display & sales area.
- Study rooms for groups with comfy chairs
- Thank you
- Thank you for working to make our community better
- Thanks for all you're doing!
- The library should provide access for all! Here's an idea: provide tablets for access to the library catalog, instead of dedicated desk space. Free up space for other used. Improved access should include demonstrations of assistive technology (AT) on the computers such as enlarged screens keyboards for low vision etc. I wonder if live remote translation is possible, if a machine translation has come far enough to be useful. These things can help people in many languages, including smaller minority languages. I like how Albany has their library located with many meeting rooms and multipurpose community spaces.
- The space is not pleasant to spend time in.
- There is a real need to improve EC library. I have been working as a bilingual reader and sometimes we must move all the furniture around to accommodate parents who come to the bilingual story time reading.
- There should be a library and affordable housing development at The Trade way site. Convenient, and continues El Cerritos commitment to new civic architecture. See successful examples at Hollywood neighborhood in Portland, Oregon and also Fruitvale Library Branch in Oakland.
- Very necessary . How about also including a new senior center?
- We are losing great staff because they can't live on part-time pay
- We don't need a library that only serves people within walking distance
- We hope you get your new library update.
- We love the free e-books you can check out online and read on an iPad or Kindle. Are son also loves the children's reference/non-fiction books.
- We need a beautiful new library.
- We need a computer lab, study rooms+ meeting rooms, separate room for kids, more room for collections, and more staff workspace
- We need a new library!
- We need more square footage!
- What locations are you considering for the new library? What will be the process for soliciting input on potential locations and building plans?
- Wiring for technology, provide free Wi-Fi need to be a priority for just keeping up to date with what people need. Space for Computers, a learning center and space for children's stories is the next priority. May want to include a signage below EC Library to say "Free Wifi" or something else that says there is technology in the library so it sound "current" and up to date.
- Wish there were more hours. Orinda is open 7 days a week.
- Would love to have a library with some sort of nearby play area. The kids area and story time at EC library are so great, but with no place for kids to play before and after. This would be a huge addition to our community.

- Would the city consider using part, or all, of Fairmont Park to obtain enough space for the larger building and the associated parking ?
- Wow, all of these seem pertinent to the El Cerrito Library and it's ability to thrive in the community. I do agree that the building itself needs to be structurally sound. Also, thank you for recognizing the needs of kids and the elderly & disabled. Please don't forget the teens, who need their own space.
- You might consider scheduling a presentation for El Cerrito 'Neighborhood Watch' groups at the library. How much will this cost our tax payers? Is this supported by the El Cerrito City Council? Its budget is struggling.
- Your hours are not the best, how are kids going to do homework before school? Also in your movies there are a lot of things that are not good for kids and teens.
- I love libraries and believe having a modern one is absolutely something we should prioritize. I would like to see access for everyone to the internet and an e-book catalog.
- The best gift I gave myself last year was opening an El Cerrito library card. They may not have much of a selection on hand but I can easily go on to the computer, search for a book, place a hold, and the book will arrive at El Cerrito in a short time. It's been wonderful! My three year old granddaughter is there all the time with her daycare for story time so she loves books!
- Is there any way that the city could get the old Safeway building donated to the city? The structure is there and would need lots of refurbishing but it could work. Could the city give Safeway some type of tax discount if they donated the building? Just thinking out loud. We need the El Cerrito library!
- Having used both Berkeley and Oakland branch libraries, I've been very disappointed in the book selection at EC.
- There are so many families in El Cerrito! In my neighborhood there are many children 0-5. We really deserve a beautiful, updated space for young children in El Cerrito. Ideally there would be toys and a dedicated playspace, updated bright new decor and child friendly shelving would make the library a destination for families.
- I love our little El Cerrito library! I really feel that the El Cerrito Library is a great example of doing a lot with very little. But it seems like it is time for El Cerrito library to have some well deserved improvements.
- I also want to acknowledge all the hardworking EC library staff. All the librarians are so friendly and helpful, making for a very welcoming atmosphere which I really appreciate. There are other libraries in the area (Alameda county) that I stopped going to because the librarians were mean to my children. Thank you for making the El Cerrito Library a great place to be!
- I have been a library volunteer for over 4 years. I enjoy the librarians and the community members. It is high time that the library was updated. Let's have some air conditioning while we are at it.
- It would be great to have a nicer children's area and more story times.
- As the City of El Cerrito continues to grow, space is definitely needed in conjunction with the other recommended solutions to improve the library experience.
- We have a great library staff who do a tremendous job in the facility we have, but the totally inadequate space and support services really hamper and limit the services and programs they can provide.
- We need, and deserve, a safe, modern library in El Cerrito.

Keep Informed?

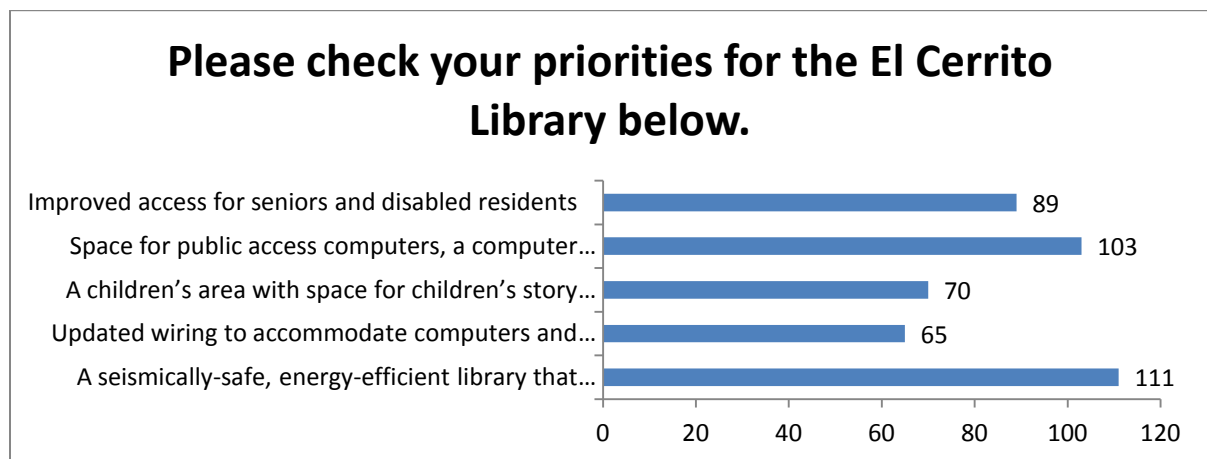
166 responded "Yes, Keep me informed" (39%)

Library Survey - Elementary Student Responses

137 Responses as of February 02, 2016

Q1: Please check your priorities for the El Cerrito Library below.

A seismically-safe, energy-efficient library that meets earthquake and fire codes	111	81%
Updated wiring to accommodate computers and technology	65	47%
A children's area with space for children's story times	70	51%
Space for public access computers, a computer learning center, and free Wi-Fi	103	75%
Improved access for seniors and disabled residents	89	65%

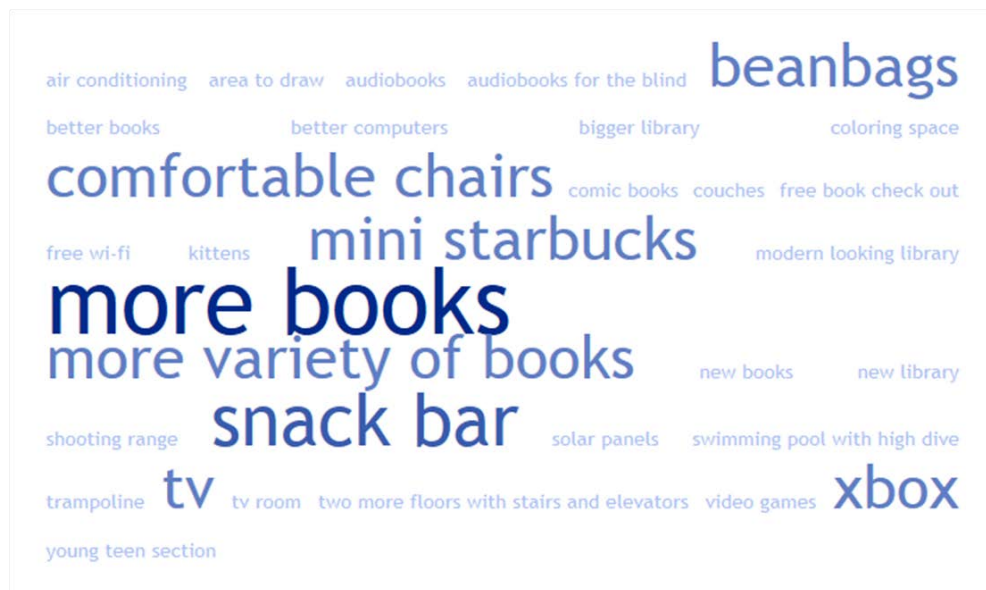


Other Priorities:

- A coloring space.
- A few couches to read on
- A snack bar
- A swimming pool with high dive, a shooting range and a trampoline
- A very big wide range of books
- A Xbox with controllers and TVs
- A young teen section
- Add a place where there are beanbags
- Air conditioning
- An area to draw
- Audio books for the blind
- Audiobook section
- Bean bags
- Better books
- Better computers
- Build a new library
- Comfortable chairs to sit and read
- Comfy chairs if possible
- Comic book sections
- Free book check out
- Free xbox1 and xbox360
- Good books for all ages.
- Mini Starbucks
- More books

- More books
- More books
- More copies of books
- More new books
- No passcode for the Wi-Fi
- Snacks
- Snacks, mini Starbucks
- Solar panels and a bigger library
- TV room and a room full of kittens
- TV with words not sounds
- Two more floors with stairs and elevators and modern looking library
- Video games

Word Cloud of “Other” Responses:



Additional Comments/Questions:

- Add a snack bar
- Anything that will help me learn
- Can the library have all the dork diaries?
- Can there be a book fair where you give a book to the library in order to get a book?
- Great library
- Have new and updated books
- How big will this library be?
- How big will this library be?
- I go to the library a lot , I love it.
- I like how you put art work because mines is up there
- I love air conditioning
- I really like graphic novels like Amulet so if possible, could you have more of those?
- I really love books and I like your programs and service. Thank you for that
- I really want more Babysitters Club graphic novel series. I can never find any of the books except the first one.
- I think libraries should have tables and chairs to read. They could have a place for writing books too.
- I think that the things above will help the library improve.
- I think there should be warriors books in the new library.

- I think there should be water fountains
- I think we need a clear section like a child section for 6-10 section and have each section easy to find and easy to use. When I go to the library, I like it to be a cool quiet place
- I think you should make people happy!
- I want more diary of a wimpy kid books and amulet, also rick riordan books
- I would want a big library not very tight small. A place not just for checking out books but also a place where people can hang out in
- It could be more accessible from the new location for Koramatsu
- More books for children. Thank you!
- More chapter books and more chairs
- Please make space for lots of books.
- Please upgrade books
- The Library doesn't have to be huge.
- The library is a safe and quiet place area. I like it
- The library is good as it is. You don't need to make a change
- Where is the library going to be?
- Where would this new library be located at?
- Why do you think there should be another library? Have couches and better furniture.
- Will the library have paper and crayons to draw?
- Would there be a special area for disabled kids and adults? Where would this new library be?
- You guys are an amazing library