

Mayor
Gabe Quinto
Mayor Pro Tem
Rebecca Saltzman



Councilmembers
William Ktsanes
Lisa Motoyama
Carolyn Wysinger

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MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING (9:00 AM)
Hana Gardens - 10870 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito

Join Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88669243269?pwd=WlFhYd2QnzllpjKy8vT4rijEKZ7taF.1>
Meeting ID: 886 6924 3269 **Passcode:** 811316 **Dial in:** 1-408-638-0968

Please note that due to the temporary meeting location, this meeting will not be broadcast or livestreamed online.

Public Comments:

1. In-person, by submitting a request to speak to the City Clerk.
2. Via Zoom, using the "[Raise Hand](#)" feature to request to speak.
3. By phone, dialing *9 to "raise your hand", and *6 to unmute.
4. Online, using the "[Submit Comments](#)" feature on the [meeting event](#).
5. Via email to cityclerk@elcerrito.gov indicating **Public Comments – Agenda Item #.**

Written comments received by **2:00 PM Wednesday, February 18, 2026** will be provided to the City Council and posted online in advance of the meeting. Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the City Council and posted after the meeting.

Accommodations: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 510-215-4305. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodations. Closed Captions are available via zoom.

Conduct: This meeting is held pursuant to City Council [Rules of Order and Procedure](#).

9:00 AM ROLL CALL - CONVENE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Quinto called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Present: Mayor Quinto, Mayor Pro Tem Saltzman, Councilmember Ktsanes, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Wysinger **Absent:** None

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF A MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. TELECONFERENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS

3. POLICY MATTERS

A. Receive a Report and Call an Election for the Citizen Initiative Petition titled "The El Cerrito Library Initiative"

Action Proposed: Receive and file a report prepared pursuant to Election Code Section 9212 on the Citizen Initiative Petition titled "The El Cerrito Library Initiative" and adopt a Resolution to place the proposed measure on the ballot.

Contact: Karen Pinkos, City Manager; Holly M. Charl  y, City Clerk, City Management

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding eligibility for construction costs already incurred, prohibited uses of funding, state programs for senior exemptions, options for use towards operating costs, other authorized uses, ownership if library constructed at the Plaza Bart site, pending initiative by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, effect on project if agreements are in place and BART goes bankrupt, and process to amend exemptions by Council if proposed initiative is passed.

Public Comments: Written comments submitted prior to and during the meeting are posted online as supplemental materials and incorporated into the official meeting record.

Greg Lyman - spoke in support of the initiative and placement on the June ballot.

Michael Fischer - commented in support of the initiative, positive financial impacts of placement on the June ballot.

Paul Fadelli - spoke in support and proposed Plaza station location.

Betty Buginas - expressed concerns regarding city government and elected officials and intended approach.

Tom Panas - spoke in support of the initiative and a June election date.

Justin Chang - spoke in support of a November election and an additional community task force.

James Porter - spoke regarding divisiveness of residents and distrust of elected officials, and support of a November election.

Bill Barish - spoke in support of a November election, concern about funds collected if a library is not built.

Michael McDougell - questioning expenses related to the initiative, and support of a November election.

Wally Nawinski - commented in opposition to the initiative and remarked on pending initiatives put forward by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Georgina Edwards - spoke regarding the commitment of the City Council and staff, and support of a June election.

Barbara Chan - commented in opposition to the initiative and support of a November election.

Betsy Bashor - commented on construction cost estimates and eligible uses under the initiative.

Mark Friedman - spoke in support of a new library and a June election. Iliana Go - spoke in support of a new library.

Michelle Fadelli - commented on cost impacts of a June versus November election.

Gina Brussatori - commented regarding prior large projects and opposition to the proposal and associated costs.

Waynette Duty - expressed concerns regarding expected costs, impact on seniors, and spoke in support of a November election.

Ira Sharenow - spoke in support of a November election, opposition to the proposed options for a new library, and concerns on cost estimates

Rebecca Milliken - spoke in support of a June election and support of a new library.

Pearson Miller - spoke regarding lack of trust with city officials and city financials, and support of a November election.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Saltzman/Councilmember Motoyama
Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2026-12, calling a June 2, 2026 special election. **Ayes:** Mayor Quinto, Mayor Pro Tem Saltzman, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Wysinger **Noes:** Councilmember Ktsanes

4. ADJOURN SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The special meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM

Signed by:

Rebecca Saltzman

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Rebecca Saltzman, Mayor Pro Tem

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council meeting of February 19, 2026 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.

Signed by:

HCharlety

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Holly M. Charlety, MMC, City Clerk