



Staff Liaison
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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

Monday May 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall
City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:00 p.m. CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Randi Jiménez, Vice-Chair Valerie Mih; Members: Akhil Iyer, Robert Hrubes, Jennifer Kaczor, Robin Mitchell.
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC and INTRODUCTION BY INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE ADVISORY BOARD**
Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first, remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.
- 3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE / CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA/ (10 minutes)**
- 4. CITY COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS - (10 Minutes)**
City Council Liaison Ktsanes and / or City Staff may report on Council policies, priorities, and significant actions taken by the City Council, and / or matters of general interest to the Urban Forest Committee (UFC).
- 5. ACTION ITEMS-** Consider a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 13, 2025, UFC meeting. *(5 minutes)*
- 6. REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HILLSIDE-** *(5 minutes)* Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items.
- 7. COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE - (5 minutes)** Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the EQC.

8. COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION-
(5 minutes) Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the PRC.

9. URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR, AND WORK PLAN:
Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible actions that correspond with development of the Urban Forest Committee Work Plan and calendar of events. (60 minutes)

- A. Earth Day April 25, 2026 - Debrief
- B. UFC Work Plan Accomplishments – Due to City Council in June
- C. Firewise Restoration- Hear a report from the ad-hoc subcommittee
- D. UFC 26/27 Annual Budget Allocation- Discuss remaining balance options

10. ITEMS FROM TONIGHT’S MEETING THAT REQUIRE FURTHER ACTION
(5 minutes)

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS- hear committee member suggestions for future UFC meeting items (3 minutes)

- UFC Work Plan Accomplishments- finalize submittal
- UFC Annual Budget Allocation
- UFC Work Plan Implementation Strategy
- Urban Forest Program Donations and Fundraising
- City Tree Planting Fees
- Review the Arbor Day Foundation’s “Tree Board Handbook”
- Arbor Week 2027 Library Event (September)

12. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, 510-559-7685. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at El Cerrito Recycling Center during normal business hours.



URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

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Public Works

URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

Chair Randi Jiménez; Vice-Chair Valerie Mih;

Members Akhil Iyer, Robert Hrubes, Jennifer Kaczor, Valerie Mih, Robin Mitchell

MISSION STATEMENT: Resolution No. 2007-96:

The Urban Forest Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council, other commissions, and the citizens of the City with regard to the growth, maintenance, and location of trees within the City:

- To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to implement and promote the City's Master Street Tree Plan and Urban Forest Management Plan and coordinate with Public Works Department staff regarding management and maintenance efforts;
- To promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for urban forestry efforts, foster volunteer opportunities for tree planting and irrigation along the city's streets and in residential front yards, and educate El Cerrito residents regarding selecting, planting and maintaining trees; and
- Promote and foster public awareness and education about potential hazards of trees near underground and above ground utilities and the appropriate tree species for avoiding such hazards.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The Tree Committee (later renamed to Urban Forest Committee) was established by Council Resolution 2007-96. The Committee's first five members (Ralph Boniello, Sheauchi Cheng, Janet Hittle, Steve Price and Mike Srago) were appointed to terms starting 9/11/12 through 1/1/2016. Since that time, additional members have included Karen Christian, Shannon Lee-Rutherford, Cathy Bleier, Michael Charlton, Akhil Iyer, Randi Jiménez, Yan Linhart, Robert Hrubes, Mary Torrussio, Robin Mitchell, Jennifer Kaczor, Catherine (Cassie) Hughes, and Melissa Feudi.

Updated annually by July 1 and provided to City Council on Consent

Goal/Objective	Activites Supporting Goal	Status
Maintain El Cerrito's Tree City USA status	UFC meetings and Arbor Week activities contribute towards maintaining Tree City designation	Complete for FY 2026
Increase awareness and support of the El Cerrito urban forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planned and participated in Arbor week activities, including a library program, park tree planting in collaboration with the EC Garden Club, UFC meeting, and Friends of the Hillside work party - Staffed UFC table at July 4th festival - Staffed UFC table at Community Center Earth Day event 	Complete for FY 2026
Collaborate and coordinate with other City of El Cerrito committees, boards and commissions, as well as other cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with the Environmental Quality Committee - Collaborate with the Park and Recreation Commission 	Complete for FY 2026
Increase revenue streams and make recommendations for how funds should be used to advance Urban Forest priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to advocate for reopening of City tree fund - Allocated annual UFC budget - Identify and communicate relevant grant opportunities - Received presentation from Rotary Berkeley on planned West Contra Costa County street trees project 	Ongoing

Accomplishments adopted on Month DD, YYYY by the following vote:

Moved/Second: Member Last/Last
Ayes: Members Last, Last, Last, Last
Noes: Member Last **Absent:** Member Last
Youth Member Last: [Aye/No]