



**Staff Liaison**  
Stephen Prée | 510-559-7685  
spree@elcerrito.gov

This information can be interpreted for you free of charge. Visit City Hall at 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 or learn more at [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

Esta información se puede interpretar gratuitamente. Visite el Ayuntamiento en 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 o obtenga más información en [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

这些信息可免费为您解释。请访问位于 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 的市政厅，或访问 [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess) 了解更多信息

---

## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

**Monday, August 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

#### **7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR 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 June 9, 2026, UFC meeting. (3 minutes)

6. **PRESENTATION: FRIENDS OF THE HILLSIDE UPDATE ON WORK PROGRESS IN THE HNA-** *(15 minutes)* Hear an update from Friends of the Hillside's Isa Tran on progress made with invasive species management and fire fuel reduction volunteer work.
7. **UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HNA WILDFIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN-** *(15 minutes)* The UFC Staff Liaison will update the committee on City activities related to Plan implementation and answer questions.
8. **COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE -** *(3 minutes)* Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the EQC.
9. **COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION-** *(3 minutes)* Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the PRC.
10. **URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR, AND WORK PLAN-** *(45 minutes)* Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible actions that correspond with development of the Urban Forest Committee Work Plan and calendar of events.
  - A. Debrief- July 4, 2026, World One Festival Community Outreach
  - B. Arbor Week 2027 – Preliminary planning and library notification
  - C. UFC 2026 Work Plan Implementation Strategy
11. **ITEMS FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING THAT REQUIRE FURTHER ACTION** *(3 minutes)*
12. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-** hear committee member suggestions for future UFC meeting items *(3 minutes)*
  - Skyline Garden Presentation (joint meeting with EQC?)
  - UFC Work Plan Implementation Strategy

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, 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 the El Cerrito Recycling Center during normal business hours.



**Staff Liaison**  
Stephen Prée | 510.559.7685  
[spre@elcerrito.gov](mailto:spre@elcerrito.gov)

This information can be interpreted for you free of charge. Visit City Hall at 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 or learn more at [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

Esta información se puede interpretar gratuitamente. Visite el Ayuntamiento en 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 o obtenga más información en [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

这些信息可免费为您解释。请访问位于 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 的市政厅，或访问 [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess) 了解更多信息

---

## **DRAFT MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

**Monday, June 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

El Cerrito City Hall  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**7:00 CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Jimenéz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Randi Jimenéz; Vice-Chair Valerie Mih; Members Jennifer Kaczor, Robin Mitchell. Also present: Council Liaison Wiliam Ktsanas, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée. **Absent:** Robert Hrubes, Akhil Iyer (Youth Member).
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC –** There were none.
3. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE / CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA:** *Mitchell* informed the committee about a new book that is being published with the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society "[Flora of the East Bay California](#)". *Jimenez* reported that she called Costco to inform them of the prohibition on planting redwood trees in the City of El Cerrito.
4. **COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:** *Ktsanes* informed the committee of the continuation of the Library Task Force after defeat of Measure C, and of City Council's vote to reduce public street tree planting fees. *Prée* reported on contracted shaded fuel break and mowing work in the HNA.
5. **REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HILLSIDE-** Audrey Liese reported on the progress made by volunteers working in the HNA, said that ECFD is planning a controlled burn of the vegetation piles, and said she has found two grants that she wants to apply for. She is leaving for France for two months but

there will be work parties through the summer. A discussion followed regarding specific volunteer work that could be performed or is currently being performed. *Mih* asked how the EC Trail Trekkers could advance more thatching work and if volunteers could use vinegar on weeds. *Prée* said that all work on City property requires approval by the City and completed volunteer registration forms by participants.

6. **ACTION ITEMS-** Consider a motion to adopt the minutes of the May 11, 2025, Regular UFC meeting. **Moved/Second:** *Kaczor/Jimenéz* **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes with edits. **Ayes:** unanimous of those present.

7. **COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE –** *Mitchell* reported the EQC is reviewing their work plan and advancing the “Electrify my Block” program.

8. **COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION-** *Kaczor* reported that the PRC received a presentation on the SCC Quarry Hill grant demonstration project, CIPs, the Recreation department budget, and community funded projects from local pickleball and baseball community groups. She said that she emailed Chris Jones inquiring about how other cities work with civic groups for project funding.

9. **URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR, AND WORK PLAN:**

A. **Urban Forest Program Donations and Fundraising:** *Prée* reported on a May 12 meeting with Finance Director Crystal Reams and Public Works Director Yvetteh Ortiz to discuss establishing a UF donation program. Analysis of the use of previous donations indicate that the UF program spent \$5000 on tree planting in 2018. (Tree planting since 2018 was paid for from annual UF operating budgets.) The remaining balance in the donations fund (\$6036) can be carried over to 2026/27 to subsidize the cost of resident street tree planting and to initiate planting others, once a specific account is established. The City cannot accept more donations until a formal program has been developed, which will require significant staff which is not in the current department work plan. *Prée* said that because of the UFC’s efforts, fundraising will become part of the City’s work plan in the future but this task presently remains as a lower priority.

B. **Update from ad hoc subcommittee on Fire-wise restoration:** *Mitchell* proposed that a GIS tool be used to map specific areas for conservation treatments. It may require a volunteer who is experienced with GIS. *Mih* asked if the City would share the HNA work history.

C. **July 4, 2026, World One Festival, UFC Community Outreach:** *Jimenez* and *Mih* volunteered to staff the outreach booth.

10. **UFC 2025/26 ANNUAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION APPROVAL –** Formally approve the purchase of tools for the Friends of the Hillside. **Motion:** *Mitchell*, Authorize staff to purchase gloves and rakes specified by the Friends of the Hillside with the remaining UFC annual fund balance of \$846.83 **Second:** *Mih*.

**Ayes:** unanimous of those present.

**11. ITEMS FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING THAT REQUIRE FURTHER ACTION**

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Mitchell* to email Public Works Director re. fundraising program.

**12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- GIS mapping demonstration
- Skyline Gardens Presentation- Glen Schneider

**13. ADJOURNMENT – *Jiménez* adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.**

---

Randi Jimenez, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Urban Forest Committee meeting of June 8, 2026 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

---

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison