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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

Monday, September 14, 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 August 10, 2026, UFC meeting. (3 minutes)

6. **FRIENDS OF THE HILLSIDE UPDATE - (10 minutes)** Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items.
7. **UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HNA WILDFIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN- (10 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 - (5 minutes)** Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding collaborating with the EQC.
9. **COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION- (5 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. Update from ad-hoc subcommittee on fire wise restoration in the HNA
 - B. Arbor Week 2027 and Outreach Planning
 - C. UFC 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.



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DRAFT MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

Monday, August 10, 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, Robin Mitchell, Akhil Iyer (Youth Member). Also present: Council Liaison Wiliam Ktsanas, Staff Liaison Stephen Prée. **Absent:** Robert Hrubes, Jennifer Kaczor.
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC –** Sandra Sprague reported on the award and execution of a California Fire Foundation grant to El Cerrito Fire Safe for vegetation clearance along the neighborhood evacuation routes on Rifle Range, and Vista Roads.
3. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE / CHANGES TO THE MEETING AGENDA:** *Jiménez* informed the Committee that August is [USDA's Tree Check Month](#), which recommends that people check for Asian long-horned beetle. She also reported that Black Fig Fly is a substantial pest in El Cerrito.
4. **COUNCIL / STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:** *Ktsanes* reported the City has adopted five new City Council districts and he explained the dynamic of those rotating elections. He informed the committee of the 2026 City Council election choices and the upcoming candidate forums. *Prée* reported on the completed shaded fuel break mowing work in the HNA, grant applications, and a recent tree limb failure.

5. **ACTION ITEMS-** Consider a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 9, 2026, Regular UFC meeting. Moved with edits: *Mitchell*; /Second: *Jiménez*. Action: Passed a motion to adopt the minutes with edits. Ayes: unanimous of those present.
6. **REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HILLSIDE-** *Isa Tran* gave a presentation with slides that substantiated the volunteer group's broom removal accomplishments on Motorcycle Hill at Snowdon Ave., and she answered questions from the Committee.
7. **UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HNA WILDFIRE RESILIENCE AND FOREST CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN-** *Staff Liaison Prée* gave a presentation of three recent fire fuel reduction grant applications and progress on implementation with graphic descriptions and maps. He also answered questions.
8. **COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE –** *Mitchell* reported the EQC is planning to support and participate in the California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 19 at Creekside Park.
9. **COLLABORATION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION-** There was no report as *Kaczor* was not present.
10. **URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR, AND WORK PLAN:**
 - A. **Debrief- July 4, 2026, World One Festival Community Outreach:** *Jiménez* noted that she received several street tree complaints, but people liked the handout materials. *Mih* recommended that improvements are needed with the current resident urban forest program survey and displays.
 - B. **Arbor Week 2027 – Preliminary planning and library notification:** *Jiménez* will contact library staff to reserve time for a program March 7-14. Ongoing agenda item.
 - C. **UFC 2026 Work Plan Implementation Strategy:** Open discussion regarding general work plan goals. *Mitchell* recommended that an ad-hoc subcommittee form and submit articles for the Green Happenings newsletter: (Goal A. 1. c.).
11. **ITEMS FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING THAT REQUIRE FURTHER ACTION**
ADJOURNMENT:
 - *Mitchell* to email Master Gardener's re. their lumber needs.
 - *Jiménez* to contact library staff re. Arbor Week programming.
 - *Prée* to send survey and emails to *Mih*

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Update from ad-hoc subcommittee on fire wise restoration in the HNA
- Skyline Gardens Presentation- Glen Schneider
- GIS mapping demonstration
- Non-functional turf irrigation state legislation (AB 1572)

13. ADJOURNMENT – *Jiménez* adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Randi Jiménez, 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 August 10, 2026 as approved by the Urban Forest Committee.

Stephen Prée, Staff Liaison