



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

**April 2, 2008**

Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Jeff Jahnke (Vice Chair), Dan Kocher, Mitch Slomiak, John Nash, Doug Scott, Jim Schott

**Commissioners Absent:** Jeanne Durnford (Chair)

**Staff present:** Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Lisa Ekers, Engineering Services Manager

**Public present:** Debbie Mytels

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

### **B. BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. **Approval of March 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.
2. **Green@Home program proposal:** Debbie Mytels, Director of Programs for Acterra, a local non-profit organization, presented details about the Green@Home program, which is being considered for the City funding in FY2008-09. The program would assist 250 Menlo Park residents with energy conservation techniques that will help reduce both their bills and greenhouse gas emissions. Acterra leverages grant funds from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, product donations from PG&E and manufacturers, and volunteers to help make the program cost-effective. They plan to do a lot of visible publicity about the program to motivate participation and to educate the community in general about how to conserve energy. The cost to the City would be under \$32,700 and results will be presented in a report. The Commission unanimously approved a motion to express in a memo to Council their support for the Green@Home program to be conducted in Menlo Park next fiscal year.
3. **Street Tree Reforestation Project Update:** Dianne Dryer reported that Ruben Nino selected arborists Levison and Muffy for the \$70,000 contract to conduct a survey of about 2,500 street trees to ascertain their condition and prioritize some trees for removal and replacement. They hope to begin the work in May. Commissioners comments were positive about the choice of the contractor. There was concern that the funding would be carried over to next fiscal year in order to keep the project going and enough funding for reforestation through

fiscal year 2008-09. Commissioners expressed the need to develop a long term citywide reforestation plan, rather than using a piecemeal approach.

- 4. Arbor Day Planning:** Jeff Jahnke reported that the planting ceremony was held on April 17 at La Entrada School, with Councilmember Richard Cline and himself making short speeches. The class of students read poems and sang a song before they shoveled the dirt around the young coast live oak.

## **C. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Doug Scott commented that planting trees along the Highway 101 frontage road would not be suitable. Dianne Dryer reported that the Canopy proposal for street tree planting was not recommended in the proposed budget to Council by staff. John Nash reported that Council had addressed the Oak Knoll School development plan and asked staff to write a letter to the school asking that they preserve as many heritage sized trees as possible, as the Commission had suggested.