



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

**June 3, 2009**

Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Mitch Slomiak (Chair), Doug Scott, Kristin Kuntz-Dureseti, Dan Kocher, Butch Byers, Megan Gutelius

**Commissioners Absent:** Jeanne Durnford

**Staff Present:** Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

**Public present:** Alex Cannera

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dr. Cannera submitted written comments on the Climate Action Plan. He also spoke about atmospheric heat mitigation through use of reflective roofing and pavement, and planting of shade trees. He suggested putting incentives in our building regulations.

## **B. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- 1. Minutes for Meeting on May 6, 2009:** Approved unanimously.
- 2. Changes to Upcoming Meeting Dates:** No changes were made.
- 3. Street Tree Reforestation Report:** Commissioners requested that the report include common names of trees and that certain edits be done to make the two tables in Section 2.0 more clear. They voted to accept the Report with the changes discussed, stressing that they want the trees that are pruned in 2009 and 2010 to be re-rated to check the quality and effectiveness of the pruning. Other suggestions about future reforestation work included planting in places currently vacant, requiring property owners with street trees prioritized for removal to opt out of the program (rather than asking them to opt into it), and putting all street tree data in one database that should be kept up to date.
- 4. Climate Action Plan:** Mitch Slomiak summarized the May 19<sup>th</sup> Council discussion and approval of the Plan. He suggested that the Commission and other experts in the community research additional information related to the strategies, consistent methods for evaluating costs and benefits, reduction target goals, and priorities. Butch Byers reported on his research related to capturing more methane gas from the Marsh Road Landfill. He is trying to set up a meeting with Ruben Nino on site.

5. **El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Update:** – Doug Scott suggested that more trees be preserved and planted in the parking lots as a cooling measure. He also recommends that the trash and recycling bins be screened or enclosed. There will be a community input meeting for the project on June 18th. Full information about the project is on the City website.
6. **Commission Report to City Council** - Chairman Slomiak offered to prepare a draft letter to staff about the Reforestation Project and the Commission's suggestions and support for it.

### **C. Reports and Announcements**

**Bohannon Gateway Project** – Dan Kocher reported on a public meeting about the proposed hotel/office complex and that there are green building features included. Dianne Dryer stated that there will be a special meeting on this project for City commissioners on August 19 (organized by the Planning Division).

**Green Ribbon Citizens Committee** - Mitch Slomiak announced a GRCC meeting with a speaker on June 13<sup>th</sup>, open to all.

**Sustainable San Mateo County Indicators Reports** were distributed by Dianne Dryer.

**July 14 Council Meeting** –Council consideration of approval of issuance of bonds by the SBWMA to finance the Shoreway Recycling Facility improvements and Council consideration of approval of increase to street tree assessment.