

Environmental Quality Commission



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10/16/2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Hedley, Kissel, Meyer, Vice Chair McKenna, Pelegri-Llopart, Chair Schmidt
Absent: Hill
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

C. Public Comment

None.

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the September 18, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hedley/ Pelegri-Llopart), to approve the September 18, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes with an edit to item D2., passed 6-0-1(Hill absent).

D2. Presentation from Sustainable San Mateo County (Presentation)

Chair Schmidt introduced the item.

Sustainable San Mateo County Executive Director Sarah Hubbard and Communications and Outreach Lead Mollie Carter made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on the electric vehicle (EV) to plug ratio data.

The Commission discussed the dashboard and provided feedback on the data sources, data usability, methodology, frequency of data updating, dashboard interface and opportunities for collaboration.

D3. Review and discuss heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines (Presentation)

Chair Schmidt introduced the item.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on the release date for the draft guidelines, effect of the

guidelines on tree value, and the desired aim for the updates to the administrative guidelines.

- Scott Marshall spoke in support of time-of-sale heritage tree reporting requirements.
- Kathy Wipfler spoke in support of arborist report requirements with building permit applications.

The Commission discussed the overview of the proposed changes to the heritage tree ordinance administrative guidelines, existing data and resources and next steps; and provided feedback to staff about additional changes to include in the administrative guidelines.

D4. Receive and file the 2024-2025 Environmental Quality Commission work plan (Attachment)

Chair Schmidt introduced the item.

The Commission received clarification on the final work plan document.

ACTION: Motion and second (Kissel/ McKenna), to receive and file the 2024-2025 Environmental Quality Commission work plan, with a slight edit to correct a typographic error, passed 6-0-1 (Hill absent).

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Management Analyst II Ori Paz reported out on the status of City facility water heater electrification and grant application coordination.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on upcoming events including the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) public comment period ending climate adaptation plan on Oct. 17, compost giveaway at Bedwell Bayfront Park on Oct. 18, Flyway trail opening at Bedwell Bayfront Park on Oct. 19, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) workshop on the new water heater and furnace point-of-sale rules for community members on Oct. 22, California Air Resource Board (CARB) listening session on Oct.23, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) webinar on energization timelines on Nov. 9 and a Household Hazardous Waste disposal event on Nov. 9.

Commissioner Hedley reported out on an upcoming electrification home tour on Oct. 19 and personal home electrification updates.

Chair Schmidt reported out on Canopy's work in Belle Haven including asphalt replacement work mentioned in the Almanac, the school district's climate action progress and Junior League pancake breakfast with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District on Oct. 19.

Commissioner Pelegri-Llopart spoke on the upcoming election date and importance of voting.

F. Adjournment

Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz

Minutes approved at the November 20, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting