

Environmental Quality Commission



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 5/21/2025
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

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

B. Roll Call

Present: Angiel, Hedley, Hernandez, Chair McKenna, Meyer
Absent: Hill, Kissel
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

C. Public Comment

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of Menlo Spark and the City's partnership and introduced new Menlo Spark staff member Jocelyn Galvan.
- Julia Zeitlin spoke in support of multi-city, inter-agency heat mapping data collection, tree planting efforts and the Heat Summit through the Cool Cities Coalition.

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the April 16, 2025, Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hedley/ Hernandez), to approve the April 16, 2025, Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes with an update to agenda item F1, passed 5-0-2 (Hill and Kissel absent).

D2. Welcome new commissioner Nicole Angiel

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Commissioner Angiel made brief remarks to introduce herself.

D3. Select the Chair and Vice Chair

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

ACTION: Motion and second (Hedley/ Hernandez), to select Commissioner McKenna as the Chair of the Environmental Quality Commission, passed 5-0-2 (Hill and Kissel absent).

ACTION: Motion and second (Angiel/ McKenna), to select Commissioner Meyer as Vice Chair of the Environmental Quality Commission, passed 5-0-2 (Hill and Kissel absent).

D4. Discuss Climate Action Plan progress report for strategies four, five and six (Attachment)

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Sustainability Manager Londer and Management Analyst II Ori Paz gave the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on Caltrain funding grant, shuttle ridership and utilization, shoppers' program Middle Avenue undercrossing, calm streets and Burgess Pool heater electrification.

- Kris Hollan spoke in support of Climate Action Plan (CAP) No. 6 and providing opportunities for community engagement.
- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of getting more information about the possibility of a microgrid and the potential to sell the Burgess pool gas heating equipment when it is replaced to offset costs under CAP No. 5 and horizontal levies under CAP No. 6.
- Julia Zeitlin spoke in support of sharing the information from the Cool Cities study to help identify priority locations for tree plantings and other heat mitigation CAP No. 6 actions.

The Commission discussed including the following recommendations on the CAP progress report:

- CAP strategy No. 4: Requested input to the subcommittee
- CAP strategies No. 5: Provide additional information about waste reductions
- CAP strategies No. 6: Connect the urban forest management plan

D5. Provide recommendation on potential options for local building code amendments (Attachment)

Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz gave the presentation.

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of building codes due to lost time with delays, Assembly Bill (AB) 306 legislation and meeting climate action plan goals.
- Peter Edmonds spoke in support of precautions related to power outages and battery backups and warning occupants of potential power outages.

The Commission discussed the flex path options point system, green building ordinance, energy performance code for new construction, time of sale requirements, air conditioning to heat pump for existing buildings, importance of opposing AB 306, focusing on building emission savings ordinance next year, prioritizing building code updates this year and considering end of flow ordinance or adopting zero emissions ordinance.

ACTION: Motion and second (Chair McKenna/ Hedley), recommending that the City pursue in priority order:

- Submitting a letter by June 10 to the California State Legislature formally opposing AB 306,
- An air conditioner to heat pump ordinance whenever an air conditioner is being installed,
- A flex path ordinance for major remodels of existing buildings,
- An energy performance ordinance for new construction,
- An enhanced pre-wiring ordinance,
- Building performance standards and building energy savings ordinance after adopting amendments to the 2025 code,
passed 5-0-2 (Hill and Kissel absent).

D6. Discuss Environmental Quality Commission report out to City Council and the 2025-2026 work plan and form a subcommittee to develop the work plan (Attachment)

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer gave the presentation.

ACTION: Motion and second (Hernandez/ Angiel), to select Chair McKenna complete the annual presentation to City Council and to form a 2025-2026 work plan development ad hoc subcommittee with Chair McKenna, Commissioner Angiel and Commissioner Hernandez, passed 5-0-2 (Hill and Kissel absent).

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on zero emission landscape equipment activities including the June 4 gas leaf blower detail with the police department and development of yard signs, the June 12 Commission training and appreciation event, the June 14 community Juneteenth event and announced the next EQC meeting will be on June 18.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz reported out on efforts related to facility electrification and collaboration on electric vehicle (EV) charging resource hub.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on the Home Upgrade Program progress and outreach efforts.

Commissioner Hedley reported out on an upcoming 350 Silicon Valley event and exploring deployment of reusable party packs.

Commissioner Hernandez reported out on the success of the Love Our Earth festival at the Belle Haven Community Campus.

Chair McKenna reported out on a refilling station vendor exploring coming to the City of Menlo Park.

F. Informational Items

F1. 2024-25 Environmental Quality Commission work plan (Attachment)

G. Adjournment

Chair McKenna adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz

Minutes approved at the June 18, 2025 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.