

Environmental Quality Commission



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 2/19/2025
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 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Public Comment

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of the carbon dioxide removal documentary Legion 44, volts podcast, a graduate student seminar at Stanford and on concerns related to Assembly Bill (AB) 306.
- Desta Raines spoke in support of their application to the Environmental Quality Commission.

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the January 15, 2025 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hedley/ Kissel), to approve the January 15, 2025 Environmental Quality Commission minutes, passed 4-0-1-1 (Hill abstaining, Meyer absent).

D2. Update on communitywide electrification grant and provide feedback on expending the second half of funds (Attachment)

Vice Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer made the presentation.

The Commission received clarification on allocated funding for the Home Upgrade program, area median income limits, program requirements, spenddown requirements, downward trend of interest in program, project scoping, anticipated greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, allowable expenditures for grant funds, communication challenges and consequences of not spending funds by June 2026.

- Jeff Schmidt spoke in support of prioritizing and seeking direction from City Council on how to spend the communitywide electrification grant funds.
- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of spending communitywide electrification grant funds quickly and prioritizing low-income residents over municipal buildings.

- Nicole Angiel spoke in support of new project ideas, potential GHG reductions, serving low-income population and electrifying municipal buildings.

The Commission discussed ranking potential project ideas and prioritized a matching rebate program for heat pump water heater (HPWH) and heat pump heating and cooling systems first, increasing income eligibility from 80% average median income (AMI) to 120% AMI second, electrifying the Belle Haven Child Development Center third, providing resiliency kits to renters fourth and electrifying the Burgess Pool last.

D3. Review outreach approach for adopting amendments to the building code (Attachment)

Vice Chair McKenna introduced the item.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz made a presentation.

The Commission received clarification on building code priorities, themes and questions for the outreach survey, past outreach strategies and outreach target audience.

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of using outreach strategies for Bayfront Commercial District policy.
- Jeff Schmidt spoke in support of adding building code amendments to the City Council priority list.

The Commission discussed using the survey format for the City Council priority setting input survey, hosting two in-person workshops with interpretation in Spanish, testing the survey for misunderstandings, strategy for positively messaging the benefits of building code regulations, educating the general public and contractors, sharing incentives for going all-electric, offering meals, childcare and stipends at workshops, distributing the survey after events and workshops and adding education to the survey.

D4. Disband Impact of Plastics on the Environment and Distributed Energy Resources ad hoc subcommittees

Vice Chair McKenna introduced the item.

ACTION: Motion and second (McKenna/ Hill) to disband Impact of Plastics on the Environment and Distributed Energy Resources ad hoc subcommittees, passed 5-0-1 (Meyer absent).

D5. Consider selecting additional commissioners to Environmental Quality Commission ad hoc subcommittees

Vice Chair McKenna introduced the item.

The Commission discussed selecting additional commissioners at the March 19 meeting.

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Commissioner Hill reported out on SF Climate Week at the end of April.

Commissioner Pelegri-Llopart reported out on a future Stanford Energy System Innovations (SESI) visit and a distributed energy resources blog post.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on the Belle Haven Community Campus receiving an honorable mention for Sustainable San Mateo County for electric design April 3, the Home Upgrade program update to City Council April 25, the addition of 100 new street trees planted by the tree team and a San Mateo County master composting course.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz reported out on City Hall installation of three new HPWHs through PG&E grant funds, provided updates on Burgess Pool showers HPWH installation, electric vehicle (EV) charging project consultant support, electrification of Belle Haven Child Development Center and an upcoming presentation on the Tesla Pilot program at the California Police Chief Association tech summit.

F. Informational Items

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

G. Adjournment

Vice Chair McKenna adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

Minutes approved at the March 19, 2025 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.