



Environment & Climate Commission

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMISSION

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024
6:00 PM**

**North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue**

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley’s residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley’s incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Tregub, Igor | Mayor | Mayor |
| Ranney, Sarah | Kesarwani | District 1 |
| LaBonte, Alison | Taplin | District 2 |
| McGuire, Brianna | Bartlett | District 3 |
| Tahara, Daniel | <i>vacant</i> | District 4 |
| Allen, Shannon | Hahn | District 5 |
| Guliasi, Les | Wengraf | District 6 |
| vacant | Lunaparra | District 7 |
| vacant | Humbert | District 8 |
| Athanasiou, Mabel | Youth Commissioner | |
| Syed, Shanza | Youth Commissioner | |

2. **Public Comment:** Comments on subjects not included on the agenda (3-minute limit per individual)
3. **Approval of Minutes:** [Approval of Minutes from last meeting \(April 24, 2024\)](#)
4. **Agenda Check:** Commissioners may rearrange items on the agenda
5. **Update from Chair**
6. **Update from Staff** (Sarah Moore, Rebecca Milliken)
 - [East Bay Green Home Tour](#) seeks [volunteers](#) to serve as greeters and electrification ambassadors on Saturday, June 1, 1pm – 4pm

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

7. **Discussion Item:** Update on the May 7, 2024 Council item: [Re-adoption of the Berkeley Building Codes, including Local Amendments to the 2022 California Building Standards Code](#). City Council adopted first reading of the Ordinance and Resolution without provisions related to the proposed Zero NOx Emission Building amendment for new construction. Zero NOx provisions have been referred to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Policy Committee for review and a recommendation to Council. Discussion of Zero NOx and alternatives with the Environment and Climate Commission to inform the Policy Committee review (City of Berkeley staff)
8. **Discussion Item:** [Discuss joint City Council item with the Zero Waste Commission requesting support for Berkeley High reusable tableware program](#) (Sarah Ranney, Mabel Athanasiou, Shanza Syed)
9. **Discussion Item:** Cesar Chavez landfill greenhouse gas management. See [History and update on former Berkeley landfill environmental compliance](#).
10. **Action Item:** Elect new Chair to fill vacancy filled by former Commissioner Lunaparra. Elect new Vice Chair if applicable.
11. **Action Item:** Review Subcommittees for continuation. Chair to appoint subcommittee members and subcommittee chairs with the approval of the Commission.
12. **Reports from Commission Liaisons**
 - a. Planning Commission (Alison LaBonte)
 - b. Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (Shannon Allen)
 - c. Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission (vacant)
 - d. Zero Waste Commission (Sarah Ranney and Mabel Athanasiou)
 - e. Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (Les Guliasi)
 - f. Housing Advisory Commission (vacant)
 - g. Council Policy Subcommittees (Brianna McGuire)

13. Workplan Subcommittee Updates

- a. Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction (Tregub, Ranney, Tahara)
- b. Native Plants (Ranney, McGuire, Allen)
- c. Electrification Equity and Access (Tregub, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Guliasi)
- d. Water Conservation and Management (Ranney, Allen, Syed)

14. Potential Items for Future Agenda

INFORMATION ITEMS

15. Communications

16. Announcements from Commissioners

ADJOURNMENT

~~~~~  
*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Sarah Moore, 510-981-7494, [smoore@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:smoore@berkeleyca.gov).*

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.*

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Planning Department located at 1947 Center Street.*



**COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:**

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City Commission on Commissions was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City's website.
Sarah Moore, Commission Secretary



Environment & Climate Commission

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Tregub, Igor | Mayor | Mayor |
| Ranney, Sarah | Kesarwani | District 1 |
| LaBonte, Alison | Taplin | District 2 |
| McGuire, Brianna | Bartlett | District 3 |
| Tahara, Daniel | vacant | District 4 |
| Allen, Shannon | Hahn | District 5 |
| Guliasi, Les | Wengraf | District 6 |
| Lunaparra, Cecilia | vacant | District 7 |
| vacant | Humbert | District 8 |
| Athanasiou, Mabel | Youth Commissioner | |
| Syed, Shanza | Youth Commissioner | |

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm.

Commissioners Present: Ranney, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Allen, Guliasi, Lunaparra, Athanasiou, Syed

Commissioner Leave of Absence: Tregub

Commissioner Absent:

Staff: Sarah Moore, Rebecca Milliken, Kurt Hurley

2. Public Comments (Non Agenda Items):

4 member(s) of the Public

3 comment(s)

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion/second to approve the March 27, 2024 Minutes (Guliasi, Allen). The motion carried: 8-0-1-1; Ayes: Ranney, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Allen, Guliasi, Lunaparra, Athanasiou. Noes: None. Abstain: Syed. Absent: Tregub

4. Agenda Check

5. Update from Chair

6. Update from Staff

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

7. Presentation & Discussion: Proposed mid-cycle code amendments to the Berkeley Green Code (Kurt Hurley) [Public Comments: 3]
8. Reports from Commission Liaisons
 - Planning Commission (Alison LaBonte)
 - Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (Shannon Allen)
 - Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission (Cecilia Lunaparra)
 - Zero Waste Commission (Sarah Ranney and Mabel Athanasiou)
 - Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (Les Guliasi)
 - Housing Advisory Commission (vacant)
 - Council Policy Subcommittees (Brianna McGuire)
9. Workplan Subcommittee Updates
 - Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction (Tregub, Ranney, Tahara, Lunaparra)
 - Native Plants (Ranney, McGuire, Allen)
 - Electrification Equity and Access (Tregub, LaBonte, McGuire, Tahara, Guliasi)
 - Water Conservation and Management (Ranney, Allen, Syed)
10. Items for Future Agenda
 - Cesar Chavez landfill greenhouse gas management
 - Joint Zero Waste Commission letter to support reusables at Berkeley High School[Public Comments: 1]

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. Communications
12. Announcements from Commissioners

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second to adjourn at 7:31 pm (Lunaparra, McGuire)

Minutes Approved:

/S/ Sarah Moore, Berkeley Environment & Climate Commission Secretary



Zero Waste Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR
_____, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Zero Waste Commission/Environment and Climate Commission

Submitted by: Steven Sherman, Chairperson, Zero Waste Commission AND
_____, Chairperson, Environment and Climate Commission

Subject: Recommendation: Provide City Financial Support for Purchase and
Installation of a Commercial Dishwasher at Berkeley High School

INTRODUCTION

The Zero Waste Commission (ZWC) advises City Council on solid waste policy and goals, including refuse, composting, and recycling services, budgets, and other decisions relating to solid waste. The Environment and Climate Commission (ECC) advises the City Council regarding environmental sustainability and climate change.

Berkeley High School (BHS) seeks to reduce solid waste by using reusable cutlery and dishes in its cafeteria. To this end, BHS has applied for a grant from StopWaste (the Alameda County Waste Management Authority) to cover initial costs of switching to reusables, including costs to outsource washing responsibilities to an off-site, third-party vendor. Additional funding is needed in order to carry out a permanent switch to reusables, with an in-house washing system.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City supports solid waste reduction—the prevention of the need for off-site handling of discarded products, packaging, or materials—as a higher goal than recycling or composting. Fewer items to be collected for recycling, composting or landfilling translates into resource conservation, with benefits for the environment and the climate. BHS is developing a pilot program for reusable food containers, but needs additional funding to implement a sustainable, permanent program.

According to two students who recently presented their findings at a Zero Waste Commission meeting, the following quantitative information has been calculated or estimated:

- The cafeteria uses approximately 113,000 disposable plates and bowls every year, which creates over 6 tons of disposables landfilled annually.
- The cafeteria serves over 630 meals per day, to over 300 students.

- Eliminating disposable plates would save nearly \$1,000/year in landfill tipping fees.
- Greenhouse gas reduction associated with the use of reusable plates is estimated to exceed 3 tons in the first year (70% decrease) and more thereafter.

Off-site processing of reusables by a third-party vendor is fine for a temporary pilot program. A permanent program, however, warrants in-house washing capacity. The preliminary estimated cost of a commercial dishwasher is \$ _____. No cost estimates have been made, as yet, for its installation.

BACKGROUND

Sophie Horvath and Joshua Swift-Rawal, two Berkeley High juniors, have been working on this project since August 2023. The current plan is to implement recycled HDPE containers in the Berkeley High Cafeteria for one day a week use during the lunchtime schedule. This would begin in the 2024-2025 school year, provided that the StopWaste grant is awarded to cover the costs, since Berkeley High and BUSD have no funding available for this project. The next part of the plan would be to advocate for buying an industrial dishwasher for Berkeley High to meet their washing needs. This would allow BHS to transition to full-time, 5 day/week implementation of lunchtime reusables, significantly decreasing annual greenhouse gas emissions and landfill tipping fees.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Potential to reduce the use of single-use items while providing experiential learning and modeling of greater environmental sustainability in Berkeley High School's cafeteria.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Report to Council from BHS students and staff regarding program implementation details, timelines, and results.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

ADD

CONTACT PERSON

Julia Heath, Recycling Program Manager, Public Works, (510) 981-6357

AND

_____, _____, _____, (510) 981-_____