

Environmental Quality Commission



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Date: 4/15/2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 879 3070 9093 and
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Members of the public can listen to the meeting and participate using the following methods.

How to participate in the meeting

- Access the meeting, in-person, at the Downtown Conference Room
- Access the meeting real-time online at:
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) –Meeting ID 879 3070 9093
- Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:
(669) 900-6833
Meeting ID 879 3070 9093
Press *9 to raise hand to speak

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A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call

C. Public Hearing

Under “Public Comment,” the public may address the Commission on any subject not listed on the agenda. Each speaker may address the Commission once under Public Comment for a limit of three minutes. The Commission cannot act on items not listed on the agenda and, therefore, the Commission cannot respond to non-agenda issues brought up under Public Comment other than to provide general information.

D. Regular Business

D1. Recognize outgoing Commissioners

D2. Approve the March 18, 2026, Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes ([Attachment](#))

D3. Update on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ([Attachment](#))

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

F. Informational Items

- F1. 2025-26 Environmental Quality Commission work plan ([Attachment](#))

G. Adjournment

At every Regular Meeting of the Commission, in addition to the Public Comment period where the public shall have the right to address the Commission on any matters of public interest not listed on the agenda, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during the Commission's consideration of the item.

At every Special Meeting of the Commission, members of the public have the right to directly address the Commission on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the Chair, either before or during consideration of the item.

If you challenge any of the items listed on this agenda in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 3/18/2026
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 McKenna called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Angiel, Hedley, Hernandez, Hill, Kissel, McKenna, Meyer
Absent: None
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

C. Public Comment

None

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the February 26, 2026, Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Hedley/ Kissel), to approve the February 26, 2026 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

D2. Presentation from community engagement ad hoc subcommittee (Attachment)

Chair McKenna and Commissioners Kissel and Meyer made a presentation (Attachment).

The Commission received clarification on the proposed objectives of the Community Climate Ambassador Team (CCAT).

- Jocelyn Anaya Galvan spoke in support of community stakeholder engagement, loss-avoidance framing for messaging and Menlo Spark's continued commitment to supporting community engagement efforts.

The Commission discussed options for the initial steps and responsibilities for the establishment of the CCAT, including organizing kickoff meetings, identifying stakeholder groups, outreach, partnering with local organizations, potential challenges based on past engagement efforts and potential for a new subcommittee to develop a recommendation for City Council.

D3. Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) ordinance implementation update (Attachment)

Sustainability Manager Londer made the presentation (Attachment).

The Commission discussed the third phase of the ZELE voucher and options for early engagement and development of a voucher for lawn mowers.

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer reported out on the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) permit simplification effort for heat pump water heaters, community funding program applications due March 5, BayREN workshop March 18, City Council priority setting workshop March 21, Efficiency And Sustainable Energy (EASE) Home Program, advisory body recruitment, Love our Earth Festival April 25, recognition by Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) and Sustainable San Mateo County for amendments to the building code.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz reported out on the PCE GovPV solar.

Commissioner Kissel reported on the La Entrada survey closing March 31.

F. Informational items

F1. 2025-26 Environmental Quality Commission work plan (Attachment)

G. Adjournment

Chair McKenna adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Management Analyst II Ori Paz

2026 San Mateo County

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Together Forward





Why Mitigate?

- **Mitigation** is any sustainable action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disaster events and their effects.
- **Breaks the cycle** of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.
- **Long-term solutions** that reduce the impact of future disasters.



San Mateo County 2026 Hazards List



- Earthquake
- Drought
- Landslide
- Severe Weather
- Wildfire
- Tsunami
- Sea Level Rise
- Dam Failure



PREVIOUS MITIGATION PROJECTS



Chrysler Pump Station

- Elevated two feet above the FEMA 100-year base flood
- Three new larger pumps
- Ability to discharge a 100-year flood rain event



Emergency Well & Storage

- 1500 gallons per minute
- Includes disinfection equipment





Outreach & Engagement

- Which natural hazards have you experienced in your community?
- Which natural hazards do you believe pose the greatest risks to your community? How concerned are you about these hazards affecting your home and business?
- What mitigation ideas do you believe should be a top priority for your community? (e.g. Drainage and flood control; Wildfire reductions; Road and bridge updates; Seismic retrofitting;)
- What mitigation ideas can the community action better support vulnerable populations?



IN COOPERATION
WITH CAL FIRE



Thank you



701 Laurel St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025



650.330.6681



[Menlopark.gov/prepared](https://menlopark.gov/prepared)



Environmental Quality Commission work plan

City Manager's Office
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park CA 94025
Approved



Work plan goals

1. Provide feedback to staff and advise the City Council on 2025-2030 scope of work implementation for Climate Action Plan (CAP) strategies No. 1 through No. 6
2. Ensure that our most vulnerable communities have a voice in policies and programs to protect their communities from environmental impacts.
3. Leverage best practices to advise/recommend on the preservation of heritage trees, city trees and expansion of the urban canopy; and make determinations on appeals of heritage tree removal permits.
4. Support sustainability initiatives, as needs arise, which may include city-led events, habitat protection, healthy ecology, environmental health protection, healthy air, surface water runoff quality, water conservation and waste reduction.
5. Maintain an annual commission calendar to provide transparency and allow adequate time to prepare agenda items related to the commission's work plan; update and post for public review monthly.
6. Encourage and facilitate robust public comment and participation at Commission meetings.
7. Foster a public meeting environment that is inclusive of all members of the diverse Menlo Park community.
8. Support the filling of openings on the Commission and the effective onboarding of new Commissioners.
9. Participate an ad hoc subcommittee of the Complete Streets Commission comprised of both Complete Streets and Environmental Quality Commissioners to evaluate metrics to measure progress on and set specific long term and annual goals. The subcommittee shall consist of no more than three EQC commissioners and no more than three CSC commissioners so as not to violate the Brown Act.

Work plan history

| Action | Date | Notes |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Work plan recommended to EQC | August 20, 2025 | Commission approved |
| Work plan recommended to City Council | September 30, 2025 | City Council approved |

Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) agenda topics fiscal year 2025-26

Agenda schedule may change based on City Council, Chair and Vice Chair and staff requests/direction

| Month | Topics | Author/Presenter | EQC role |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| July 2025 | Presentation from annual work plan ad hoc subcommittee | Annual work plan ad hoc subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| | Review and discuss recommendations to reduce vehicle miles traveled | Transportation ad hoc subcommittee | Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission |
| August 2025 | Approve EQC 2025-2026 work plan | Annual work plan ad hoc subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| | Annual Climate Action Plan progress report | Sustainability staff | Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission |
| September 2025 | Existing building electrification outreach and update on Home Upgrade Services Program | Sustainability staff | Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission |
| | Presentation from Matching Rebates ad hoc subcommittee | Ad Hoc Subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| October 2025 | Discuss permit fee waiver program | Sustainability staff | Action by Commission |
| | Review and discuss approach for the Love Our Earth festival | Sustainability staff | Action by Commission |
| | Receive and file work plan and form ad hoc subcommittees | Sustainability staff | Action by Commission |
| November 2025 | Cancelled | | |
| December 2025 | Update on installation of solar at city facilities | Sustainability staff | Informational/no action |
| | Emissions Reductions Impact Study ad hoc subcommittee report out | Ad Hoc Subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| January 2026 | Deny the appeal and uphold staff's decision to approve the permit application to remove thirteen heritage trees at 68 Willow Rd | Sustainability staff | Action by Commission |
| | Community Engagement ad hoc subcommittee report out | Ad Hoc Subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| February 2026 | Discuss City efforts related to Senate Bill 1383 to reduce organic waste | ReThink Waste and County Sustainability Department staff | Informational/no action |

| | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|
| | Electric vehicle charging rate study | Sustainability staff | Provide feedback to staff |
| | Food Systems ad hoc subcommittee report out | Ad Hoc Subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| March 2026 | Community Engagement ad hoc subcommittee report out | Ad Hoc Subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| | Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) ordinance implementation update | Sustainability staff | Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission |
| April 2026 | Update on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan | Emergency Preparedness Coordinator | Informational/no action |
| May 2026 | BESO & BPS ad hoc subcommittee report out | Ad Hoc Subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| | Select Chair and Vice Chair | Chair | Action by Commission |
| June 2026 | Discuss Urban Forest Management Plan, early tree planting action progress and Annual City Arborist Report | City arborist and public works staff | Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission |
| | Discuss upcoming fiscal year commission agenda calendar (June-August) | Sustainability staff/Chair and Vice Chair | Action by Commission |
| | Sustainable Cities Project ad hoc subcommittee report out | Ad Hoc Subcommittee | Action by Commission |
| July 2026 | Update on Home Upgrade Services program | Sustainability staff | Provide feedback to staff/possible action by Commission |

Regular items

- Climate Action Plan progress report
- Annual selection of Chair and Vice Chair (May)
- Annual City Arborist Report (June)
- Set fiscal year commission agenda calendar (June-August)
- Chair report to the City Council (July/August)
- Annual update of existing building electrification outreach and education
- Zero Emissions Landscaping Equipment (ZELE) Policy progress (requires two years of reporting to the commission directed by the city council starting in 2025)
- Annual update on the permit fee waiver program

Potential topics to add to calendar

- Priorities included in the City Council work plan for fiscal year 2025-26 (Attachment A)
- Heat resiliency
- Community solar and microgrid
- Online electrification education hub

Ad hoc subcommittees (in alphabetical order)

Community Engagement ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research potential engagement with a comprehensive set of stakeholders and explore potential of a community taskforce with purpose of aligning City/communitywide efforts to achieve CAP goals
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in January 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Kissel, Chair McKenna, Vice Chair Meyer

BESO and BPS ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research adoption of Building Emissions Savings Ordinance (similar to Berkeley) and how the City can collaborate with state and regional partners to study, adopt, implement, and enforce a Building Performance Standard
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in May 2026)
- Commissioners: Chair McKenna, Commissioner Hill, Commissioner Angiel

Emissions Reductions Impact Study ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Review bi-annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory and identify opportunities for sharing data with a community facing dashboard
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in February 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Kissel, Commissioner Hill

Food Systems ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research ways to engage community and provide more services to community members with goal of promoting more plant-based eating, greater access to high quality and affordable foods, and reduction of food waste
- Duration: 3 months (tentative report out in March 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Hernandez, Commissioner Angiel, Commissioner Hedley

Matching Rebates ad hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Research viability and impact of City matching electrification rebates currently offered by Peninsula Clean Energy in order to assist with transition to electric devices, particularly water heater rebates in light of pending Air District rules scheduled to go into effect in 2027
- Duration: 1 month (tentative report out in September 2025)
- Commissioners: Chair McKenna, Commissioner Hernandez

Sustainable Cities Project Ad Hoc subcommittee

- Scope: Work with students as a part of Stanford's Sustainable Cities course to develop an online dashboard of greenhouse gas emissions and other data to improve community visibility into climate action plan progress, enable deeper analysis of emissions reductions, and communicate actions that community members can take to support reaching zero carbon.
- Duration: 6 months (tentative report out in June 2026)
- Commissioners: Commissioner Kissel, Vice Chair Meyer

Vehicle Miles Traveled Metric ad hoc subcommittee (joint with Complete Streets Commission)

- Scope: Form an ad hoc subcommittee of the Complete Streets Commission comprised of both Complete Streets and Environmental Quality Commissioners to evaluate metrics to measure Climate Action Plan progress on

Strategy No. 4 to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 25% or an amount recommended by the Complete Streets Commission and set specific long term and annual goals. The subcommittee shall consist of no more than three EQC commissioners and no more than three CSC commissioners so as not to violate the Brown Act. The subcommittee is tasked to work for a period of up to one year and dissolve upon submitting a report to the CSC.

- Duration: 1 year (tentative report out TBD)
- Commissioners: Vice Chair Meyer, Chair McKenna, Commissioner Hedley

Attachments

- A. Hyperlink – City Council fiscal year 2025-26 work plan, July 8, 2025, Staff Report #25-108-CC:
menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2025-meetings/20250708/i2-20250708-cc-cc-fy2025-26-work-plan.pdf