



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – August 2021

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ECDC
PO Box 192
El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

1. Agenda for the Tuesday, August 24th Meeting

Link to Join the ECDC Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84303785299?pwd=bUFyY3VHVXFYTEZaR3YvSIN4dUpQQT09>

ZOOM Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Passcode: 111652

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,84303785299# or +14086380968,,84303785299#

Dial in by phone: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Agenda

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:35 pm – Approve Minutes from the June and July Meetings (**Action Item**)

6:39 pm – Officer Reports – Treasurer, Membership, Events, Newsletter, Website, Secretary

6:45 pm – DPCCC Report

6:50 pm – ECDC Diversity Committee Presentation

7:00 pm – Program: El Cerrito Plaza BART Development Presentation and Discussion with
Jamie Hiteshew of Holliday Development

7:50 pm – Good of the Order

8:00 pm – Adjourn

2. August Meeting Preview: El Cerrito Plaza BART Development Presentation and Discussion with Jamie Hiteshew of Holliday Development

At the June ECDC General Meeting, ECDC Board President Greg Lyman reported that the Executive Board would like to make supporting a good transit-oriented project at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station an ECDC focus. ECDC Programs Vice President Carolyn Wysinger reached out with an invitation to Holliday Development, one of the project's co-developers. Jamie Hiteshew, Holliday's Director of Development, accepted and agreed to provide a brief presentation at our August 24th ECDC General Meeting. This is an opportunity to for us help shape the project, ask questions, and learn how we, both as individuals and as a club, can move this important development forward.

- William Ktsanes

3. June 22nd ECDC Meeting Notes

6:20 pm – ECDC General Membership Meeting assembled and mingled

6:32 pm – President Greg Lyman called the meeting to Order

Minutes approved from the April and May meetings

April Minutes

Motion to approve by Champagne Brown, second by Carolyn Wysinger

Vote: 12 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention

May Minutes

Motion to approve by Champagne Brown, second by Betty Brown

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

Committee Reports

Treasurer: no report

Membership: we are up to 135 members

Events: Working on getting the developer working on the BART site.

Newsletter: No report

Website: No report

Secretary: No report

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

Champagne Brown noted that the DPCCC met last week. Highlights included

- Four delegates selected for the Executive Board
- Passed resolution in support of SB2
- Passed resolution in opposition of AB39
- ECDC was rechartered for two years
- Annual BBQ set for 11 am-5 pm on October 2nd at Pleasant Hill Community Park
- Nancy Skinner spoke on a number of bills
- Confirmation that the recall election is set for September

Special Program – Diversity Committee Presentations and Funding Recipients

President Greg Lyman introduced Chair Y’Anad Burrell, who described the process of presentation; each member then introduced a particular topic:

Irene Tait: Sogorea Te’ Land Trust

Buddy Akacic: Social justice in music, specifically related to George Floyd’s murder

Y’Anad Burrell: Equity in healthcare for children

Cheryl Sudduth: Redistricting across the racial justice sphere and racial justice related to prison labor

Based on the research and recommendations of the Diversity Committee, four local community organizations doing impactful racial justice work were presented as finalists for ECDC funding:

SelfeSTEM – <https://selfestem.org>

Urban Tilth – <https://www.urbantilth.org>

Building Blocks – <https://www.bbk-richmond.org>

Reimaging Public Safety Contra Costa – Website Under Construction

Motion by Champagne Brown to approve the allocation of \$750.00 to each of the groups, second by Y’Anad Burrell

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

Announcements

Irene Tait – Kensington Democratic Club was re-chartered; come join us

Vanessa Warheit – S1/HR1 Indivisible East Bay meeting on July 7

Champagne Brown – Suggested that the Executive Board discuss putting on the ECDC agenda a training about micro aggressions

Hari Lamba – Will be on KPFA discussing wildfires and drought

Cheryl Sudduth – Contra Costa Board of Supervisors has extended the moratorium on evictions through the end of September

8:24pm – Meeting adjourned

- Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch and William Ktsanes

4. July 27th ECDC Meeting Notes

6:20 pm – ECDC General Membership Meeting assembled and mingled

6:34 pm – President Greg Lyman called the meeting to Order

June Minutes

No action taken on approving Minutes from the June Meeting (Remains an Action Item)

Committee Reports

Treasurer: No report

Membership: No report

Events: No report

Newsletter: Errors found in newsletter related to information from DA Becton’s website; Champagne Brown sought clarification and will notify DA Becton

Website: No report

Secretary: No report

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County

Champagne Brown noted that the DPCCC met last week. Highlights included

- Congressman Mike Thompson speaking at their last meeting
- Updates on the Recall effort
- Annual BBQ set for 11 am-5 pm on October 2nd at Pleasant Hill Community Park
- Rosters of Clubs requested to award delegates to the Pre-Endorsement Conference

ECDC Diversity Committee: No report

Good of the Order

1. EC Fire Department/(CERT: Community Emergency Response Teams) is willing to come and speak to the membership.
2. Contact Vanessa if you'd like to get involved in reaching out to federal legislators regarding the voting rights act: vwarheit@gmail.com
3. Justice, Equity, Diversity Inclusivity training is available from CA Democratic Party (JEDI Training) <https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/event/399463>

Special Program – *Stop The Republican Recall!*

1. Vote “no” on the first question (recalling the governor)
2. As part of their “No Recall” strategy, the California State Democratic Party asks voters not choose a candidate to replace Governor Newsom on the second portion of the ballot; no acceptable Democrat identified by the Party

ECDC’s recall-related activities include

1. Canvassing (Walk and knock)
2. Distributing yard signs, buttons and voter registration forms
3. National Night Out – no direct politics
4. Janet Abelson volunteering to receive and distribute lawn signs
5. Greg Lyman and Janet Abelson volunteering to call members to see what they can do to help
6. Betty Brown, working with a neighbor, walking her neighborhood
7. Greg Lyman helping set up a farmer’s market table and pulling together information
8. Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch working on ECDC’s Facebook web page
9. Supporting a Labor Walk in our neighborhoods
10. Albert Saur handing out information in a retirement home

Helpful links: <https://www.womensmarchaction.com/stop-the-recall>
and https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/?tag_ids=34

7:58 pm – Meeting adjourned

- Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch and William Ktsanes

5. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*

Saturday, September 12th (10:15-11:45 am) – Corroboree at Sports Basement,

2727 Milvia Street in Berkeley; the East Bay Activist Alliance invites you to something they describe as a “corroboree” (a term derived from an indigenous, aboriginal Australian reference to sacred dances, religious rites, community-building and affirmation). You are invited to gather for “a brief but energizing corroboree” to foster our organizational connections, evaluate our strengths, and position ourselves for 2022 elections. Light snacks

will be served but bring your own beverages. As the Sports Basement meeting room is indoors and can get chilly, please wear your masks and dress accordingly. For more information contact Roberta Brooks at robertacbrooks@gmail.com; to RSPV go to https://actionnetwork.org/events/east-bay-activist-alliance-corroboree?source=direct_link & Tuesday, September 14th – “Vote No” recall election deadline; per sos.ca.gov (California Secretary of State’s website), it is also the last day to register to vote or change your address; same day registration is also possible

Tuesday, September 28th (4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm) – ECDC September General Meeting; remote via Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280246407>

Saturday, October 2nd (11 am-5 pm) – Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Annual Barbeque

Saturday October 10th or Tuesday October 26th (Tentative Dates) – October ECDC virtual dinner and presentation from California State Attorney General Rob Bonta; remote via Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280246407>; if on October 26th, it will be in conjunction with the October ECDC General Meeting

- William Ktsanes

6. Stop the Recall – *El Cerrito’s Help Is Needed!*

Voting for the recall election ends Tuesday September 14th. By now you have received your ballot. Hopefully you have already returned it. Please resist the urge to turn over the ballot and mark the side with many, many names.

Please vote “No” and return your ballot early.



The California State Democratic Party delivered all of five yard signs. ECDC’s Executive Board decided to invest \$500 towards printing additional signs. With many members also donating to this printing effort, we were able to get an additional 250 yard signs. Janet Abelson is coordinating the distribution. If you would like one, please call Janet at (510) 693-8115.

We also received about 1,000 door hangers. These are for anyone to walk their neighborhood and deliver. Ideally, you would use the handheld software available through the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County. They are using PDI’s online application to identify critical households. Call Greg Lyman if you want to try using this smart phone-based application. If not, then feel free to simply pick up the doorhangers from Janet and walk your neighborhood.

Thank you to all who donated and are volunteering to help Stop the Recall!



Special thanks to Jonee and Vanessa for tabling the El Cerrito Farmer Market! They registered voters and handed out campaign literature. I am sure they will be glad to give us an update at our General Meeting on Tuesday, August 24th.

- Greg Lyman

7. Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Annual Barbeque – October 2nd – Save the Date and Mark Your Calendar!

If public health and COVID-19 safety protocols allow, the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) will host a barbeque and gathering on October 2nd. It should be a great opportunity to strengthen our community as we connect and reconnect “in person” – *and lots of fun!*

Early bird tickets (\$40) to DPCCC's Annual Barbeque are available here through Labor Day (Monday, September 6th): <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dpccc2021bbq>

Date/Time: Saturday, October 2, 11 am - 5 pm
 Where: Pleasant Hill Park
 147 Gregory Lane
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Directions: [Google Map Link to Pleasant Hill Park](#)

Activities include: music,
 cornhole, food and drinks,
 bubbles, sidewalk chalk,
 jenga, photo wall, and more!



EARLY BIRD TIX

We're excited to socially
 gather once again!

DPCCC ANNUAL BBQ

Saturday October 2nd, 2021
 12 - 4p
 Pleasant Hill Community Park
 147 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill

Use #DPCCBBQ

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW:
actblue.com/donate/dpccc2021bbq

- William Ktsanes

8. Appeal to Support DA Diana Becton – June 7, 2022 Election

Our District Attorney Diana Becton has been working hard to bring change to the DA's office; and it has not been an easy road. With attacks from inside-the-house to being labeled as the Contra Costa County Republican Party's "Number One" target in 2022, DA Becton can use all of our support – including that of the El Cerrito Democratic Club.

Below are a few of District Attorney Diana Becton's accomplishments over the last three years:

2018

- *Implemented a partnership with The Vera Institute of Justice (VERA).* The partnership allows the DA's office to take a critical look at its own decision-making by joining actions aimed at ending racial and implicit bias in the justice system. This program focuses on using data to inform and implement progressive policies and decision making within the DA office.
- *Initiated a new policy for the DA Office's investigations into fatal incidents involving members of law enforcement.* At the conclusion of the criminal investigation, DA Becton will publicly release a report in all law enforcement involved fatal incidents, even if no charges are filed against an officer. The reports are posted on the DA Office's website, marking the first time reports are consistently released to the public even in the absence of charges.

2019

- *Awarded \$1 million to establish a county-wide juvenile diversion pre-filing program.* This diversion program is Contra Costa's first county-wide juvenile diversion program. DA Becton partnered with RYSE Youth Center and Impact Justice to initiate a restorative justice program that redirects youth from the juvenile criminal justice system, reduces the pipeline into the criminal justice system, lowers recidivism, and reduces disparities in the criminal justice system.
- *Joined Code For America's initiative to dismiss thousands of old marijuana convictions.* Roughly 2400 individuals received relief and longer have felony and/or misdemeanor marijuana convictions on their record.

2020

- *Formed a Reimagine Youth Justice Task Force* that is studying and making recommendations on the most effective ways to invest in youth through restorative, community-based solutions instead of youth prisons which very often worsened outcomes for children and their families.
- *Created a new process to improve DA Office investigations into officer-involved shootings.*
- *Held the first-ever training for the Investigative Unit on officer-involved shootings.*

We strongly urge you to support District Attorney Diana Becton's campaign for re-election by visiting <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/diana-becton-for-district-attorney-2022-1>

- Champagne Brown and William Ktsanes

9. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

Please remember to renew your Club membership – and many thanks to all who have renewed already! Dues are still just \$5 for students, \$20 for single members, and \$30 for two adults at same address.

You can renew online at: <https://ecdclub.org/join/> or mail a check to

ECDC Membership
PO Box 192
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Please make checks payable to “El Cerrito Democratic Club” and provide an email address for all individual members.

Memberships follow the calendar year, so your renewal now is good through December 31, 2021. If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui, ECDC's Vice President for Membership, at: membership.ecdc@gmail.com. Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui

10. Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws

Periodically the Club updates our Bylaws. The bylaws were changed in October 2018 to meet DPCCC requirements; revisions were proposed and adopted during the January 2021 ECDC meeting. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website: <https://ecdclub.org/>

STOP THE RECALL – ACTIVIST WORK

Do you know of other Stop the Recall activities?

Email info to Cecilia at volunteer@contracostadems.com or call 510-693-4259

PHONE BANKS

- Contra Costa Dems has joined a multi-county coalition for Zoom phone banks, starting August 7. Our initial phone banks are Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon & Wednesdays 6 - 8 pm ... *Mobilize links are under construction!*
 - We are looking for phone bank leaders (Zoom tech leads, breakout room trainers, or one-on-one support) ... contact Cecilia volunteer@contracostadems.com or call 510-693-4259
- In-person phone banks at Rossmoor on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, starting August 17
- Interested in setting up your own phone banks ... here are [CADEM Resources](#) to get you started
- *More phone banks will continue to be added*

TEXTS

- Send Stop the Recall texts with Democrats of Rossmoor ... email DemsofRossmoorTexters@gmail.com
- *More texting opportunities will continue to be added*

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP TOOLS

- Does your club or group want to launch a neighborhood leadership team?
- Contra Costa Dems will provide the tools and training to access Political Data Inc (PDI) ... develop your local grassroots organizing team, meet your neighbors, and make a difference
- Contact Cecilia at volunteer@contracostadems.com or call 510-693-4259 and we'll get you started

FARMERS' MARKETS

- Conversations matter! Talk to your neighbors at the local farmers' markets
 - Brentwood director3@contracostadems.com
 - Danville president@srvdems.org
 - Martinez <https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/event/398593/>
 - Moraga <https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/event/400396/>
 - Walnut Creek <https://www.mobilize.us/cadems/event/398358/>

OVERPASS BANNERS

- San Ramon Valley Democrats prepared two Vote NO Recall banners for highway overpasses ... connect with Brodie Hilp (btilford@pacbell.net) to help get out the word

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Share images and info on your social media links
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y7IXPfaqVHuM89oQhSgaloECh7NsQeqM?usp=sharing>