



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 12, 2023

To: Honorable Members of the City Council  
From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín  
Subject: Excused Absence for Councilmember Kate Harrison

RECOMMENDATION

Excuse Councilmember Kate Harrison from the September 19, 2023 Council meeting as a result of attending to official business of the City.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the City Charter, Article V, § 19, the City Council must approve an absence by a Councilmember from a meeting in order for that absence to be considered excused. Specifically, it states:

*If the Mayor or any member of the Council is absent from one or more regular meetings of the Council during any calendar month, unless excused by the Council in order to attend to official business of the City, or unless excused by the Council as a result of their own illness or the illness or death of a “close family member” as defined in the City’s bereavement policy from attending no more than two regular meetings in any calendar year, they shall be paid for each regular meeting attended during such months in an amount equal to the monthly remuneration divided by the number of regular meetings held during such month.*

Councilmember Harrison is unable to attend the September 19, 2023 Council meeting due to her presentation at the Zero Carbon Retreat near Arcata, California, which is taking place on September 19-20, 2023. Councilmember Harrison is one of the speakers at this event, where she will present on the actions the Council and City of Berkeley has taken towards electrification and related energy and environmental policies, namely the City’s groundbreaking Just Transition Residential Electrification Pilot Program.

Current and past speakers have included members of Congress, members of the California Energy Commission, representatives of Community Choice Aggregators and utilities, municipal governments, and zero carbon building professionals.

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Redwood Energy's 15th Zero Carbon Retreat		
	Tuesday 9/19	Wednesday 9/20
9:30	Sean Armstrong - Redwood Energy	Kate Harrison - Berkeley City Councilmember
10:00	Claire Halbrook - Director at Gridworks	Will Vicent & Muhammad Faisal - California Energy Commission
	BREAK	BREAK
11:00	David Kaneda - IDeAsC	Emily Higbee, Dylan Anderson, & Jessie Lee - Redwood Energy
11:30	Misti Bruceri - Principal of Misti Bruceri and Associates	Mckenna Dunbar - Sierra Club
	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:30	Nick Jiles - Rocky Mountain Institute	Greg Pfothenauer - Artemisia Energy & Justin Kjeldsen - Franklin Energy
2:00	Jenny Low - Build it Green	Weldon Kennedy - Channing St. Copper Co.
2:30	Gibran Washington - Manager of Eco-D	Rachelle Boucher - Building Decarbonization Coalition
	BREAK	BREAK
3:30	Roxana Rojas - Rising Sun	Mark Hall - <a href="http://Revalue.io">Revalue.io</a>
4:00	Maria Diaz/Jonathan Sander - Redwood Energy	Christine Tam - Utilities Department at the City of Palo Alto
4:30	Quency Phillips - Founder & Executive Director of Lighthouse Silicon Valley	Shawn Oram - Ecotope

Representatives from the City of Berkeley have been routinely invited to present and regularly attend each year.

The conference is well attended and remains a key opportunity for disseminating Berkeley's innovative climate policies to other jurisdictions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Not applicable

CONTACT PERSON

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