

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

7:00 P.M. - REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Council Chambers, Los Altos City Hall
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Staff Liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. Please be advised that, by law, the Commission is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period. According to State Law (also known as "the Brown Act") items must first be noticed on the agenda before any discussion or action.

1. Commission Minutes
Approval of minutes – Regular Meeting of January 9, 2012.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Mission Trails Waste Systems (MTWS)
Presentation by MTWS staff on:
 - a. Annual Metrics and Diversion Report
Report from MTWS staff.
 - b. Discussion on recycling and composting of plastic bag and expanded polystyrene substitutes.
3. Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review
Review and discussion of 2011-2012 Work Plan presented to City Council at the Joint Meeting on April 5, 2011.
 - a. Summary of achievements for 2011 Work Plan for presentation to Council at Joint Meeting on April 3, 2012.
 - b. Continue discussion of draft for 2012 Environmental Commission Work Plan to be discussed with Council at joint meeting on April 3, 2012.

4. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene
Report by EPS Subcommittee on council action on January 10, 2012 regarding staff report to prepare a Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan based upon the contents discussed herein and submit to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board.
5. Climate Action Plan
 - a. Activity progress report by Environmental Commission Task Force.
 - b. Status update on new State grant application for CAP – related activities.
6. Environmental Commission Website Revisions
Activity progress report by Commissioner DeMichiel and staff.
7. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
Discussion led by Commissioner Eyre.
8. Earth Day Public Outreach and Education
Discussion if Environmental Commissioners will staff an information table at the event on April 21, 2012, noon to 4pm.
9. City of Los Altos 60th Anniversary Celebration
Report by Commissioner Anderson on Planning Committee meeting progress.
10. City of Los Altos Water Usage Data from CalWater
Discussion of form and justification for usage of water data.
11. Announcements and Items for Information
 - a. Environmental Commissioner Representative to February 14, 2011 Council Meeting is Commissioner Reed.
 - b. Environmental Commission vacancy – information.
 - c. Redwood Grove Update- Daniel McCormick's Watershed sculpture at History Museum with the Shaped by Water exhibit.
 - d. LindaArtNews- Making art when there is no rain article

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Human Resources Department 72 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2607.

Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the Internet at <http://losaltosca.gov/committees-commissions/environmental/meetings.html>

On occasion the Environmental Commission may consider agenda items out of order.

All public records relating to an open session item on this agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, and that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body, will be available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk's Office, City of Los Altos, located at One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to the legislative body. Any draft contracts, ordinances and resolutions posted on the Internet site or distributed in advance of the Environmental Commission meeting may not be the final documents approved by the Commission. Contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720 for the final document.

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Environmental Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For other questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012 AT
7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD,
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Bray, Anderson, Keller, Reed, Eyre
ABSENT: DeMichiel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

1. Commission Minutes
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER REED to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2011. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene
Presentation of materials summarizing meeting with Engineer Services Manager, Jim Gustafson by subcommittee followed by discussion. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON to 1. Support staff recommendation in the Baseline Trash Load and Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan. 2. With respect to EPS specifically: a. EC recommends January 1, 2013 as the date of implementation of the EPS ban. This date is consistent with the RWRC recommendations for implementation of an EPS ban. b. EC recommends that the EPS ban require replacement products that are compostable or recyclable consistent with Mission trail Waste System landfill diversion program. This is also consistent with the RWRC recommendations. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Subcommittee will be presenting motion at the City Council meeting on January 10, 2012 on behalf of the Environmental Commission with their comments.
3. Climate Action Plan (CAP)
Report by Commissioner Bray about meeting with Community Development staff on next steps for commencing the CAP study and grant application.
 - a. Activity progress report was presented by the Environmental Commission Task Force.
 - b. Status update was provided on new State grant application for CAP-related activities.
4. Environmental Commission Website Revisions
Staff reported on website user hits on new website. From December to January 191 hits to new website. Hits to be reported on an ongoing schedule at Environmental Commission meetings.

5. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
Report by Commissioner Eyre on his meeting with Engineer Services Manager, Jim Gustafson followed by discussion.
6. City of Los Altos 60th Anniversary Celebration
Report by Commissioner Anderson on planning committee progress and activities.
7. Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review
Summary by Commissioner Bray of 2011-2012 accomplishments.
Discussion and update of 2011-2012 Work Plan presented to City Council at the Joint Meeting on April 5, 2011. Commissioners will begin summary of 2011 Work Plan achievements and drafting of the 2012-2012 Environmental Commission Work Plan to be presented to Council at the joint meeting on April 3, 2012.
8. Items for Information
 - c. Environmental Commissioner Representative to January 10, 2011 City Council Meeting. Is Commissioner Keller. Commissioners Reed and Eyre also attended.
 - d. Chair Bray confirmed quarterly chair meeting with Mayor Carpenter. First meeting scheduled for February 13, 2012.
 - e. 2012 Environmental Commission Assignment Schedule for Regular City Council Meetings – staff provided remaining dates of 2012 Council meetings and sign-up sheet.
 - f. Environmental Commission vacancy – Staff reported no applications have been received for vacant position. Due date January 27, 2012, interviews February 7, 2012 and appointments February 14, 2012.
 - g. Storm drain protection signage- Staff showed final product of storm drain protection signage.
 - h. Staff displayed materials provided by Energy Upgrade California for citizens to educate them on reduction of energy use.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bray adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and staff liaison

Mission Trail Notes for Los Altos EC Meeting February 13, 2012

Q: What are the current commercial recycling and organics rates?

A: Overall, our diversion rate for 2011 is 71.44%. Because material collected from commercial carts is mixed with material from residential carts, it is not possible to calculate diversion rates by customer category.

Additional points:

- During the last 4 months of 2010, our diversion rate was 70.86%.
- Our diversion target for 2012 is 69% and is 78% for 2013.

**Q: How is Mission Trail working with businesses to increase commercial diversion?
How can the EC support our efforts?**

A: At roll out, we visited all sites and provided green/blue containers and technical assistance. Newsletters are sent quarterly. Posters have been widely distributed and are still available. Site visits now done as needed/requested. EC, GreenTown and residents can help by giving businesses positive reinforcement: thank businesses for participating, ask businesses to do more if evident that they can.

Q: Can we showcase the efforts of Peet's and other compliant commercial customers?

A: Mission Trail has been. Each commercial newsletter has featured the efforts of at least one local business (Peet's, Andronico's, Chef Chu's, DeMartini's, Draeger's.) As space permits, we can try to highlight them in the residential newsletter as well.

Q: How many multi-family complexes are there with 5+ units and how are they doing with regards to recycling/composting? Are they in compliance with AB341? Does something need to be done to encourage them?

A: Most are on board. The few that have refused to participate will need to be contacted and made aware of the new law.

Q: Can we include PLA/ bio plastics in the organics stream?

A: Agreement with Newby is for food scraps, food-soiled paper, wax-coated paper/cardboard, and yard trimmings. Newby currently considers bio plastics / PLA a contaminant. They have made an exception for certified bio bags used for food scrap collection.

Additional points:

- Newby needs to keep their OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) certification for compliance with USDA organic standards. That means they try to pull out bio plastics since they may or may not be truly organic (too hard to tell).
- The World Centric PLA cups that GreenTown asked about take 180 days to breakdown in a commercial composting environment. Newby' process is 85 days on average.
- Do we want to send Newby materials we know will likely end up in their residual pile?
- Pressures from mandatory commercial recycling (AB341) may force new practices and PLA acceptance. In the meantime, best to encourage use of paper alternatives or, better yet, durable reusables.
- Newby has offered to give a tour. Need potential dates/times.

Q: Ban EPS takeout containers?

A: Mission Trail will support what the City decides. In response to the letter sent by the Chemistry Council, would like to say that we do have the infrastructure to recycle/compost. And that we are ultimately pushing for widespread use of durable reusables, not single-use disposables of ANY kind.

**CITY OF LOS ALTOS ANNUAL TONNAGE / DIVERSION REPORT
1ST - 4TH QUARTER 2011**

TONNAGE BY PROCESSOR DESTINATION - MONTHLY

Sum of Tons	Quarter Month												Grand Total
	1st Qtr			2nd Qtr			3rd Qtr			4th Qtr			
Destination	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011	Jul 2011	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Grand Total
GUADALUPE													13.28
GW	1066.44	71.77	35.24	41.97	42.80	37.75	48.67	11.46	1.82				1358.46
MRS	586.44	494.07	575.34	519.97	565.90	573.48	550.23	578.74	562.87	505.58	585.14	591.96	6689.72
Newby	775.24	744.64	847.28	770.20	835.66	894.55	1886.51	2111.87	2028.37	1996.84	2149.32	2145.58	17186.06
ZANKER	71.26	796.95	1017.73	1163.43	1145.70	1085.93	2.92	4.38	22.82	41.62	44.94	60.41	5458.09
Grand Total	2499.38	2107.43	2475.59	2495.57	2590.06	2591.71	2488.33	2720.27	2615.88	2544.04	2779.40	2797.95	30705.61

TONNAGE BY PROCESS - MONTHLY

Sum of Tons	Quarter Month												Grand Total
	1st Qtr			2nd Qtr			3rd Qtr			4th Qtr			
Process	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011	Jul 2011	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Grand Total
Recycled	636.78	597.47	693.14	594.92	677.10	719.87	683.14	768.70	717.80	647.62	717.82	709.79	8164.16
Composted	1137.70	868.72	1056.74	1205.40	1170.96	1123.68	1090.36	1158.29	1158.83	1183.71	1302.26	1316.67	13773.32
Disposed	724.90	641.24	725.71	695.25	742.00	748.16	714.83	793.28	739.25	712.71	759.32	771.48	8768.13
Grand Total	2499.38	2107.43	2475.59	2495.57	2590.06	2591.71	2488.33	2720.27	2615.88	2544.04	2779.40	2797.95	30705.61

Total Diversion 71.00% 69.57% 70.69% 72.14% 71.35% 71.13% 71.27% 70.84% 71.74% 71.99% 72.68% 72.43% 71.44%

**CITY OF LOS ALTOS ANNUAL TONNAGE / DIVERSION REPORT
1ST - 4TH QUARTER 2011**

TONNAGE PROCESS BY COLLECTION DEPARTMENT

Dept	Res
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Note that the "Res" numbers are mostly for single-family residential but include tonnage from commercial & multi-family carts as well. The "Com" numbers reflect what was collected in "dumpster" style (FEL/ front end loader) bins not carts.

Sum of Tons	Quarter Month												Grand Total
	1st Qtr			2nd Qtr			3rd Qtr			4th Qtr			
	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011	Jul 2011	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	
Process	533.12	452.38	525.81	485.77	527.51	535.53	508.04	543.30	524.99	462.77	540.47	547.58	6187.27
Recycled	1031.64	779.38	960.49	1122.66	1079.37	1040.58	1002.79	1073.29	1062.90	1095.53	1173.78	1166.71	12589.12
Composted	369.12	319.01	375.59	343.29	364.14	384.58	357.73	394.77	382.83	345.45	385.75	387.36	4409.62
Disposed	1933.88	1550.77	1861.89	1951.72	1971.02	1960.69	1868.56	2011.36	1970.72	1903.75	2100.00	2101.65	23186.01
Grand Total													
Total Diversion	80.91%	79.43%	79.83%	82.41%	81.53%	80.39%	80.86%	80.37%	80.57%	81.85%	81.63%	81.57%	80.98%
Dept													81.68%

Dept	Com
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Sum of Tons	Quarter Month												Grand Total
	1st Qtr			2nd Qtr			3rd Qtr			4th Qtr			
	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011	Jul 2011	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	
Process	53.32	40.09	48.33	34.20	36.41	37.95	35.49	35.36	37.88	41.74	44.67	44.38	489.82
Recycled	302.03	280.39	304.36	289.45	307.71	310.28	305.57	336.85	317.89	314.28	323.72	330.91	3723.44
Composted	355.35	320.48	352.69	323.65	344.12	348.23	341.06	372.21	355.77	356.02	368.39	375.29	4213.26
Disposed													
Grand Total													
Total Diversion	15.00%	12.51%	13.70%	10.57%	10.58%	10.90%	10.41%	9.50%	10.65%	11.72%	12.13%	11.83%	11.63%
Dept													11.89%

Dept	R/O
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Sum of Tons	Quarter Month												Grand Total
	1st Qtr			2nd Qtr			3rd Qtr			4th Qtr			
	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Jun 2011	Jul 2011	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	
Process	50.34	105.00	119.00	74.95	113.18	146.39	139.61	190.04	154.93	143.11	132.68	117.84	1487.07
Recycled	106.06	89.34	96.25	82.74	91.59	83.10	87.57	85.00	95.93	88.18	128.48	149.96	1184.20
Composted	53.75	41.84	45.76	62.51	70.15	53.30	51.53	61.66	38.53	52.98	49.85	53.21	635.07
Disposed													
Grand Total	210.15	236.18	261.01	220.20	274.92	282.79	278.71	336.70	289.39	284.27	311.01	321.01	3306.34
Total Diversion	74.42%	82.28%	82.47%	71.61%	74.48%	81.15%	81.51%	81.69%	86.69%	81.36%	83.97%	83.42%	80.79%
Dept													82.97%

Los Altos Environmental Commission - Update January 10, 2012

Approved Projects 2011-2012

Goals Approved by City Council Oct 19, 2010	Goals
b. Projects 2011-2012	-- Progress Updates
1	Continue to provide approved community education and outreach activities to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos. (Steve Anderson, Linda DeMichiel)
a. Deliver updated web site that is visually pleasing, navigates well, has relevant, current content, and ties into city look and feel. (Owner: Linda)	Jan 2012: Complete. New site is now up and operational. Dedicated 'quick link' is now set up to access the Environment website directly from the city's homepage. Initial traffic report showed 190+ hits in December, more than 10X increase from prior to upgrades. Staff will continue to provide periodic reports on traffic to site, and a general website discussion item will be put on EC meeting agenda periodically to review content and news on main landing page.
b. Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g Packard Building, Solar) (Owner: Steve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will engage here when there are specific opportunities related to city programs or policies. One opportunity will be for interim review and input to upcoming Climate Action Plan development. - Nov 2011: Successfully co-sponsored with Cal Water a forum on Water Efficient Landscaping. They provided speaker, refreshments, staffing, publicity. We provide venue and publicity.
c. Investigate new education and outreach activities re watershed awareness and protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joe discussed potential for marking on all city storm drains – stream specific, along the lines of what is going on storm drains downtown. Michael and J to follow up with staff on potential for incorporation of this as recommendation in the upcoming 'Storm Water Master Plan' being prepared by city staff. Done – report by Michael. - Discussed elevating the general topic of 'Watershed Stewardship' to one of the primary goals for the 2012/13 workplan, to include other potential topics such as creek signage. - Presentation materials developed by Joe to be linked to Environmental Website Jan 2012; also, develop approach and plan for related activities for potential incorporation into EC workplan.

<p>2</p> <p>Explore enhancements to further improve waste management in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Steve Anderson, Joe Eyre)</p>	<p>a. Monitor MTWS diversion rate for regularly scheduled pickups and event waste management. Look for ways to meet and exceed contracted diversion rate. (Owner: Don)</p> <p>b. Make results available to community, along w/ education on how they can help improve outcomes. (Owner: Steve)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 2012: MTWS to present update on current diversion statistics, with a special focus on programs for improving commercial uptake of recycling and composting. Also, discuss guidelines around what's recyclable and compostable, vs. garbage; important for education, and clarification in terms of lining up EPS alternatives, etc. with what MTWS diversion program can handle. How do we reduce unidentifiable or unprocessable foodware, packaging etc? Email sent to MTWS - July 2011 – MTWS gave update on diversion rates. Residential ahead of target, commercial lagging. Efforts to work with individual vendors necessary. - May 2011 – article published in LATC re diversion rates and customer satisfaction. - March 2011: Article drafted from MTWS information from February - Feb 2011: Update from MTWS, showing diversion rate of 73.3% in December, 70.9% YTD since beginning of contract. Customer satisfaction stats very positive as well. <p>Based on Feb 2012 MTWS statistics and degree of need, evaluate other opportunities for waste management downtown. Work with MTWS to identify specific projects. Explore working with LAVA and the Chamber to help educate downtown businesses on how they can increase diversion rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 2011 – Some new receptacle rims now installed; others in-transit, to be installed over next few weeks. - August 2011 – EC and staff review preliminary design, recommended specific updates to “Recyclables, Organics, Garbage OK, Contents sorted offsite” label around lid of receptacles. - Mar 2011: Commission is disappointed to learn that the new streetscape plans do not include receptacles for composting and recycling for downtown shoppers.
<p>3</p> <p>Provide modeling and analysis of ways to reduce environmental impact in the community. (Subcommittee: Don Bray, John Reed, Patty Rosewater)</p> <p>a. Use CAPPa tool to model the impact of various behaviors (i.e. change to florescent bulbs, use energy star appliances...).</p> <p>b. Pick a limited number to pursue; with Council approval, develop education/outreach activities.</p>	<p>Provide modeling and analysis of ways to reduce environmental impact in the community. (Subcommittee: Don Bray, John Reed, Patty Rosewater)</p> <p>ITEM CLOSED. Moving directly to Climate Action Plan (#4 below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apr 2011: Each EC member to gather information on how other cities have addressed this problem. - Mar 2011: Top 20 opportunities from CAPPa modeled identified, however definition of those opportunities very broad. Need to continue to drill down to get to a meaningful discussion on program possibilities. 	

4	<p>Work with Planning Services Manager to develop Sustainability element to Los Altos General Plan. (Joe Eyre, Don Bray, TBD)</p>	<p>a. The 2011 CIP includes funds for this project in July 2011. The EC will serve in an advisory and review role. (Owners: Joe, Don)</p> <p>b. Review draft Grant Application developed by City Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 2011: Development of Climate Action Plan approved by City Council, and PMC selected as consultant. Joe and Don met with city staff re next steps, and getting started with the project New opportunity has emerged to apply for state grant to support CAP-related activities, and program start-up activities will be extended into the spring/summer. - October 2011: Proposals for assistance with development of Climate Action Plan submitted by three prospective consultants, and reviewed by City Staff and EC subcommittee. Decision on consulting firm to be finalized by City Staff and City Council. - Joe, Don, Steve to review, and potentially provide input, to city's grant application for CAP program funding under the State's Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentive Programs, due February 15th.
5.	<p>Implement approved education program regarding re-useable bags in Los Altos. (Steve Anderson)</p> <p>a. Continue to partner with Chamber of Commerce in visits with CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens to inquire about their re-useable bag programs. (Owner: Steve)</p> <p>b. Publicize results of reusable bag survey as appropriate. (Owner: Steve)</p>	<p>Environmental Commission will look at investigating potential recommendations, timing, and approach for a single use plastic bag ban, as a possible work plan item for 2012/2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - August 2011: California Supreme Court sided with Manhattan Beach, said EIR was not required for its ban on plastic bags. - July 2011: Contacted Safeway for an update re implementation of bag ban in San Jose, law scheduled for implementation in Jan 2012. They said it took ~5 years of work to get that in place, they don't take a position either pro/con for legislation but did say that banning ALL single-use bags is much better than banning only plastic (as SFO did), because there is no incentive to reduce single use bags and all are environmentally undesirable. Recommended we take a "wait and see" approach to see how SJ does before considering anything. - Jan 2011: EC Member and ED of Los Altos Chamber of Commerce visit Drug stores in Los Altos to inquire about re-useable bags program. Report published on web site; article in LATC. 	
6.	<p>Continue to work to foster water conservation in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichiel, Chris Keller)</p> <p>a. Continue to work with Cal Water to develop Los Altos specific baseline. (Owner: Chris)</p>	<p>Joe to follow up with Cal Water re data, which was to be made available by end of Q3 2011; latest update is that we will receive an official data request form in January 2012.</p> <p>TBD Cal water data + 4 months: Article re water usage in LATC.</p> <p>TBD Cal Water data + 2 months: Updated baseline with most current information published on web site.</p> <p>TBD based on Cal water data: Baseline of trends over 5 years established, and incorporated into dashboard (see Goal #3).</p>	

	<p>b. Incorporate water resource plans into broader "Climate Action Plan/Sustainability Element" above. (Owner: Linda)</p>	<p>TBD: Program presented to Council as part of Climate Action Plan (to include measures and initiatives related to water). TBD Cal Water data + 4 months: One program selected and documented to propose to staff and Council for water conservation. This issue will grow in urgency and priority if 2011-12 winter remains dry.</p>
7.	<p>Other Council goals as directed.</p> <p>a. Investigate state requirements and funding opportunities for creek-clean up. (Owner: j)</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c. Review recommendations by Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County (RWRC) for related to disposal and management of Expanded Polystyrene (Owner: Chris & Steve)</p>	<p>– By Mar 2011: Report from staff that annual creek cleanup is required by state in order to fulfill permits for storm drainage into creek.</p>
		<p>General Comment from Council: If any programs require funding, case must be presented in time for annual budget cycle.</p> <p>– EC subcommittee studying EPS met with Los Altos city engineer and staff to discuss perspectives on potential issues such as EPS ban enforceability, inspection, budgets, burden to merchants, etc; it turned out that banning EPS is part of a new Water Board requirement, related to trash load reduction in storm water outflows. City staff has prepared detailed recommendations, including an EPS ban, to meet the Water Board requirements of 40% load reduction by 2014. After a thorough discussion the EC voted to support staff's 'Baseline Trash Load and Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan' as written, with two additional recommendations. Firstly, the EPS ban be made effective 1/1/13, consistent with the original RWRC recommendation, and secondly, that the EPS ban requires that replacement products are compostable or recyclable, consistent with the MTWS diversion program (also per the original RWRC recommendation).</p> <p>– December EC discussion focused on agreement with general spirit/direction of RWRC proposal, but concern about complexity of recommendations (e.g. policy vs. ordinance, prohibiting use in parks, EPS specific ban vs. broader focus on synching up with what MTWS diversion program can and can't handle). Subcommittee will present initial findings and recommended next steps to the EC</p> <p>– By December 2011, EC subcommittee will review RWRC recommendations, and examples of steps taken by other local municipalities. MTWS and GreenTown's Co-op have provided additional content and perspective based on their experience. Questions include likely cost to businesses, what businesses have already adopted; experience of 40+ local cities that have already implemented a ban; policing costs/approach; possible involvement of citizens in policing efforts? (Owner: Chris)</p>

Michael Horta

From: Doug Schmitz
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:41 AM
To: J Logan
Subject: FW: Polystyrene Food service Packaging
Attachments: CRA-ACC Joint Letter.pdf

From: Kenny, Ryan [mailto:Ryan_Kenny@americanchemistry.com]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 3:52 PM
To: City Council; Administration
Subject: Re: Polystyrene Food service Packaging

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Altos City Council,

You may have heard both San Jose and Santa Clara declined to adopt expanded polystyrene food service (EPS) bans last week. The San Jose City Council declined to adopt a citywide ordinance banning EPS at restaurants, while Santa Clara declined to ban EPS at city-sponsored events and facilities.

Attached is a letter from the California Restaurant Association and the American Chemistry Council offering reasons why an EPS ban is detrimental, many of which were acknowledged and referenced by city council members in both San Jose and Santa Clara in their decision not to move forward.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kenny
Manager, State Affairs
American Chemistry Council

1121 L Street, Suite 609
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone (916) 448-2581
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January 30, 2012

The Honorable Val Carpenter
Mayor, City of Los Altos
One North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

RE: FOOD SERVICE PACKAGING

Dear Mayor Carpenter:

Recently you may have received a communication from the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission (RWRC) recommending adoption of local ordinances prohibiting restaurants and other food vendors from using expanded polystyrene (EPS) take-out food containers.

We recommend you consider the actions both the cities of San Jose (citywide) and Santa Clara (city facilities and sponsored events) took last week by not pursuing a ban on EPS take-out containers. We instead suggest establishing a "recycling" and "composting" requirement for ALL foodservice materials to meet because it would have a much greater impact on both litter reduction and improving recycling than a ban on a specific material. Also, it would minimize both the environmental and economic impacts of a ban.

Should you decide to consider adoption of such an ordinance, we respectfully ask that you consider the following reasons not to pursue a ban, but rather a more positive solution:

- If local jurisdictions are serious about achieving zero waste, which was a motivating factor for the RWRC's recommendation, then any regulations governing "to go" containers should focus on **ALL** takeout food packaging, regardless of material type, not just polystyrene. **As drafted, the recommendation will simply be a shift from one type of litter to another and will not achieve zero waste.**
- The RWRC has never provided any empirical evidence an EPS ban would result in litter control and reduce clean-up costs for local governments. They also have not explained how current economies of scale while cleaning up other litter items do not absorb the marginal costs of food service EPS clean-ups.
- The RWRC decided polystyrene food service should be banned because "EPS is a major pollutant in creeks and waterways..." yet no information was provided on the potential impacts of alternate products, how a switch from one material type to another would provide a net reduction in litter, how much of the alternate products would also enter waterways via storm drains, and what percentage of EPS litter in the waterways is food service material.
- The RWRC was quick wanting to join other California jurisdictions banning EPS, however not one has demonstrated their ordinance is working (e.g. verifiable reductions in litter/disposal, no corresponding increase in substitute litter, the impact on the environment, etc.) Without such an assessment, the RWRC is not contributing any new knowledge or addressing why the recommendation should be adopted.
- Regardless of whether a food service business uses a polystyrene product, a plastic coated paper product or a compostable product, the corresponding infrastructure to collect, recycle or compost this material must be in place. Questions remain as to those Santa Clara County cities that have the infrastructure necessary to compost food waste, and of the environmental impacts of alternate products and the ability of local collection systems to process and dispose of these products. These are not mutually exclusive.

- The RWRC said polystyrene "does not degrade," yet has not shown a willingness to acknowledge or study the lack of degradability of alternate products. For example, compostable products do not degrade in the natural environment.
- With food prices on the rise and new government mandates (e.g. menu labeling, health care, increases in local and state government fees, new unemployment insurance surcharge, etc.), restaurants do not need yet another mandate that will raise their operations costs.
- The RWRC claims it is anticipated that as demand for alternative products increases (thus the supply of customers), the prices will decrease. Several price comparison reviews have shown this is **NOT** occurring. And increased supply does not necessarily mean prices will drop because the high manufacturing costs of many alternate products, and because most are shipped from overseas, act as a price floor well above the cost of polystyrene food service. (See attached chart comparing prices of polystyrene food service to alternate products using data from restaurant wholesaler *Restaurant Depot*.)
- An EPS ban would force restaurants to purchase alternative products that may not perform as well. Polystyrene products are durable and well-insulated and thus hold up well to various types of food to help prevent accidental leaks and spills, important factors in maintaining customer satisfaction and integrity of the product.
- The recommendation will only repeat the experience made by the City of San Francisco when they passed an ordinance to ban polystyrene food service ware. A recently completed litter audit revealed the City's ban of polystyrene food service had not reduced litter and instead found that a 36% reduction in polystyrene litter was **offset by an increase of the same percentage of coated paperboard on an item by item basis**. It is also important to note that neither coated paperboard nor any compostable foodservice "biodegrade" if littered.
- The staff report states polystyrene "is a single-use product with a short life span." Alternate packaging also has an environmental footprint. Peer reviewed life cycle studies, as recently as 2011, demonstrate the low overall environmental footprint of polystyrene foam foodservice versus alternate products, such as paper-based coated paperboard and PLA-coated bio-based paperboard foodservice. Link to the full study is: http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_acc/sec_news_article.asp?CID=206&DID=11794
- The RWRC claimed "There is no substantial local recycling of polystyrene food service ware." This was the sentiment prior to 2007, yet Los Angeles is one of more than 40 cities in California that collects polystyrene packaging in its curbside recycling program. You can see this list at <http://www.dart.biz/recycleCA>.

Recommended approach for a solution versus a ban

To help ensure that the recommendation does not result in any "unintended environmental consequences," we propose an amendment, if your city is interested in pursuing a policy, which would simply delete the specific prohibition on the use of polystyrene foam food service packaging and simply establish a "recycling" and "composting" requirement for all material types to meet. This approach would avoid arbitrarily creating "winners" and "losers" in the marketplace and instead incentivize manufacturers to aggressively work with the city, restaurants, waste haulers, recyclers, and others to establish the infrastructure to meet either the "recyclable" or "compostable" criteria.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.

Sincerely,



Amalia Chamorro
California Restaurant Association
Director, Local Government Affairs



Ryan Kenny
American Chemistry Council
Manager, State Affairs

cc: Members, City of Los Altos City Council
City Clerk

Clamshells = 8"

Material/Size	Mfgs	RD Shelf	Case Pack	Price Each	With Lid		MULTIPLIER VS FOAM
Polystyrene Foam							
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 12.69	150	\$ 0.085			
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 12.80	150	\$ 0.085			
8" 3 Compartment	B	\$ 14.34	200	\$ 0.072			
ALUMINUM							
9" Single compartment	C	\$ 47.64	500	\$ 0.095			
Clear PS lid	C	\$ 25.89	500	\$ 0.052	\$ 0.147		173%
Foil paperboard lid	C	\$ 23.12	500	\$ 0.046	\$ 0.142		166%
Molded Fiber/Bagasse							
8" Single Compartment	D	\$ 28.39	200	\$ 0.142			167%
8" 3 Compartment	D	\$ 28.39	200	\$ 0.142			167%
OPS							
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 33.50	200	\$ 0.168			197%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 33.50	200	\$ 0.168			197%
Polypropylene							
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 34.00	200	\$ 0.170			200%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 34.00	200	\$ 0.170			200%
BioPack (100% recycled Paper)							
Medium size	E	\$ 38.05	200	\$ 0.190			224%
Large Size	E	\$ 48.34	200	\$ 0.242			284%
PLA (compostable)							
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 65.00	200	\$ 0.325			382%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 65.00	200	\$ 0.325			382%
NEWSPRING - injection molded polypropylene							
8" Single Compartment	A	\$ 78.79	150	\$ 0.525			618%
8" 3 Compartment	A	\$ 60.03	150	\$ 0.400			471%

CUPS 12/16/20 OZ

Hot Cups							
Material/Size	Mfg	RD Shelf	Case Pack	Price Each			MULTIPLIER VS FOAM
Polystyrene Foam							
12oz	F	\$ 20.10	1000	\$ 0.020			
16oz	F	\$ 14.11	500	\$ 0.028			
20oz	F	\$ 17.24	500	\$ 0.034			
Lids - PS White	F	\$ 15.45	1000	\$ 0.015			
Lids - PS Translucent	F	\$ 13.01	1000	\$ 0.013			
Translucent Polystyrene							
12oz	G	\$ 29.07	1000	\$ 0.029			145%
16oz	G	\$ 40.62	1000	\$ 0.041			144%
20oz	G	\$ 59.83	1000	\$ 0.060			174%
Lids - PS Translucent	G	\$ 26.12	1000	\$ 0.026			169%
Lids - PS Translucent	G	\$ 28.75	1000	\$ 0.029			186%
Coated Paper Hot Cups							
12oz	B	\$ 28.08	600	\$ 0.047			233%
16oz	B	\$ 34.21	600	\$ 0.057			202%
20oz	B	\$ 34.65	500	\$ 0.069			201%
Coated Paper Hot Cups							
12oz	H	\$ 28.84	600	\$ 0.048			239%
16oz	H	\$ 36.85	600	\$ 0.061			218%
20oz	H	\$ 39.47	500	\$ 0.079			229%
Lids - PS White	H	\$ 33.08	1200	\$ 0.028			178%

Cold Cups

Mfg RD Shelf Case Pack Price Each

MULTIPLIER
VS FOAM**Polystyrene Foam
Material/Size**

12oz	F	\$ 20.10	1000	\$ 0.020			
16oz	F	\$ 14.11	500	\$ 0.028			
20oz	F	\$ 17.24	500	\$ 0.034			
Lids - PS White	F	\$ 15.45	1000	\$ 0.015			
Lids - PS Translucent	F	\$ 13.01	1000	\$ 0.013			

Coated Paper Cold Cups

12oz	H	\$ 27.24	600	\$ 0.045			226%
16oz	H	\$ 34.94	600	\$ 0.058			206%
20oz	H						
Lids - PS Translucent	H						

APET Cups

12oz	G	\$ 27.50	500	\$ 0.055			274%
16oz	G	\$ 30.99	500	\$ 0.062			220%
20oz	G	\$ 39.95	500	\$ 0.080			232%
Lids Flat 12/20	G	\$ 29.40	1000	\$ 0.029			190%
Lids Flat 16/24	G	\$ 30.51	1000	\$ 0.031			197%

PLA Cold Cups (Compostable)

12oz	G	\$ 69.18	1000	\$ 0.069			344%
16oz	G	\$ 74.10	1000	\$ 0.074			263%
20oz	G	\$ 92.08	1000	\$ 0.092			267%
Lids Flat 12/20	G	\$ 31.75	1000	\$ 0.032			206%

HIPS Party Cups

16oz	I	\$ 52.71	1200	\$ 0.044			156%
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Michael Horta

From: Houston, Jolie [Jolie.Houston@berliner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:18 PM
To: J Logan
Cc: Doug Schmitz
Subject: FW: Los Altos Plastic Bag Legislation

From: Megan Satterlee [mailto:MSatterlee@losaltosca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:15 PM
To: Doug Schmitz; Houston, Jolie
Subject: FW: Los Altos Plastic Bag Legislation

From: Phil Rozenski [Phil.Rozenski@hilexpoly.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 11:21 AM
To: Megan Satterlee
Subject: Los Altos Plastic Bag Legislation

Councilmember Satterlee,

As an employee of [Hilex Poly](#), an industry leading manufacturer and recycler of plastic bag and film products, I have been following the recent bag conversation in Los Altos. As discussions continue on this issue, I wanted to share some information about the real impacts of bag legislation and an alternative – recycling – that achieves the goal of reducing litter while protecting the 10,000+ Americans employed by the plastic bag manufacturing and recycling industry, many of whom are Californians.

Experience shows bag legislation cripples green job growth while producing no benefits for the environment or consumers. My concern is that a proposal to ban bags in Los Altos will not take into account that plastic bags are 100 percent recyclable, can contain recycled content (true closed-loop recycling) and can be reused for many household purposes as nine out of 10 Americans already do. Eliminating free plastic grocery bags forces consumers to search for alternatives such as paper or cloth bags. Both options weigh more and take more energy to produce, contributing to greater emissions, not less.

Put simply, a yes vote on banning plastic bags in Los Altos will:

- Decrease jobs in California
- Increase dependence on foreign oil
- Increase global greenhouse gas emissions
- Decrease recycling of plastic bags, sacks and wraps
- Have minimal impact on the amount of plastic entering the waste stream

Additionally, I wanted to let you know that in October, several California residents and Hilex Poly filed a lawsuit against the County of Los Angeles in response to the County's decision to ban the use of plastic carry out bags and impose an unconstitutional tax on paper carry out bags provided by retail stores. Los Angeles County's bag

'charge' on consumers violates Proposition 26, which clearly requires local taxes be approved by a two-thirds vote. The ten-cent tax imposed on bags was never approved by voters much less by a two-thirds vote. Proposition 26 was implemented to counter situations exactly like this one where taxes are labeled by the local government as 'fees' in order to circumvent the electoral process. You can [review the complaint](#) online.

Hilex Poly is committed to recycling and consumer choice and hopes that Los Altos considers these a top priority as well. We are dedicated to working with policymakers like yourself and other stakeholders to promote comprehensive recycling solutions.

I hope this information was helpful in describing why recycling is a better option and bag bans are, simply put, bad public policy. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the facts about plastic bags and the impacts of plastic bag legislation, please let me know; I am available to discuss this further with you at any time.

v/r

Philip R. Rozenski
Director of Marketing and Sustainability
618 402-4244
phil.rozenski@hilexpoly.com

Learn the facts about plastic bags at www.bagtheban.com

Hilex Poly Co., LLC
1780 Belt Way Drive
St. Louis, MO 63114

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Michael Horta

From: J Logan
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 5:46 PM
To: Michael Horta
Cc: Jim Gustafson
Subject: FW: Next steps for raising watershed awareness in Los Altos
Attachments: SD-4.pdf

Add this email and attachment as agenda material. Agenda item is watershed. jL

From: Jim Gustafson
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:35 AM
To: 'Joe Eyre'
Cc: J Logan; Michael Horta; Larry Lind; Adam Porter
Subject: RE: Next steps for raising watershed awareness in Los Altos

Hi Joe,

The City has a standard for labeling the storm drain inlets, which I have attached. A modified label was developed through an art contest sponsored by, I believe, the Parks Commission, and those modified labels are being placed at downtown locations right now. I suppose designing a third label is a project the Env Commission might pursue, but not something staff is tasked to work on any further at this time.

Larry has your comment about outreach being included in the Stormwater Plan. I'm sure it will have something in this regard. Also, we are required to do outreach as part of our Annual Work Plan. The City will soon be re-activating the quarterly Communiqué that will be mailed to all residents. This will give us an opportunity to get the word out.

On the item about creek labeling, I support permanent creek identification engraved in some way on the bridges. Signs on posts are often a maintenance and graffiti problem and many consider them a form of visual pollution. So there would need to be a broad consensus about what signage for such a project would look like before staff can move forward. If the Environmental Commission weighed the pros and cons and recommended something to Council, and Council agreed, then staff would develop a project and cost estimate. We will soon be completing the design of the Fremont Ave Bridge, and so now is a good time to have a substantial and permanent creek marker incorporated into that project and it would not require a separate project to address that location. I have copied Adam Porter, the project engineer on the Fremont Bridge to see if he has any additional thoughts on the creek identification marking that may already be in the project.

Appreciate your interest, and I hope this is useful.
Jim

From: Joe Eyre [mailto:joe.eyre@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:43 AM
To: J Logan
Cc: Jim Gustafson; Michael Horta
Subject: Re: Next steps for raising watershed awareness in Los Altos

Hi J,

2/9/2012

Great, I'm glad to hear my suggestions have been reviewed. Will you report back on the status of these at this Monday's EC meeting?

Thanks,
Joe

Email: joe.eyre@gmail.com
Mobile: (408) 857-8609

On Tue, Feb 7, 2012 at 11:12 PM, J Logan <jlogan@losaltosca.gov> wrote:

Hi Joe,
As I understand, your comments have been reviewed for consideration. jL

From: Joe Eyre [joe.eyre@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 2:02 PM

To: Jim Gustafson
Cc: J Logan
Subject: Next steps for raising watershed awareness in Los Altos

Hi Jim and J,
I wanted to follow up on my email below. Could you let me know on the questions below?
Thanks,
Joe

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joe Eyre <joe.eyre@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 30, 2012 at 4:22 PM
Subject: Next steps for raising watershed awareness in Los Altos
To: Jim Gustafson <JGustafson@losaltosca.gov>
Cc: J Logan <jlogan@losaltosca.gov>

Hi Jim,
First, I wanted to thank you for your time when we met on January 6th and discussed ways to raise watershed awareness in Los Altos. I found the information you provided about water issues to be very informative. I feel this is a very important topic, especially coming into what's looking like a drought year.

I wanted to follow-up on next steps on that topic.

- As you suggested, I asked J to ask Larry to include two items in his Stormwater Master Plan:

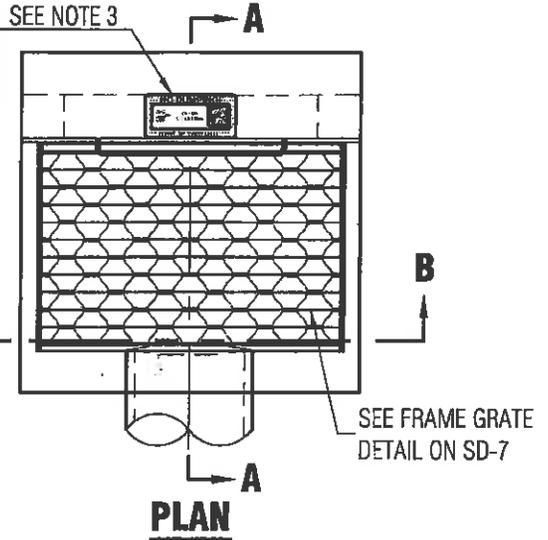
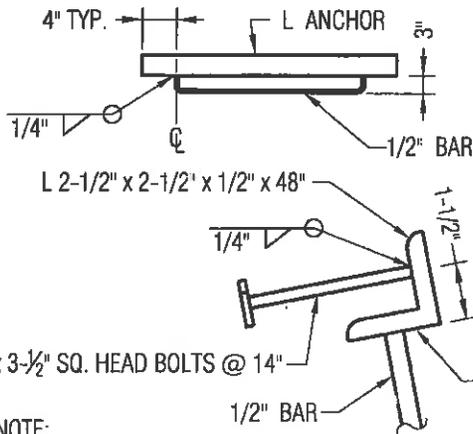
- 1) That labels/signs are placed on the stormdrain inlets advising people that they are for rainwater only (exact labeling to be determined)
- 2) The plan includes some outreach to residents and vendors about stormwater and regulations around it.

Secondly, we discussed the possibility of adding signs to bridges that span creeks informing people of the creek. I am not clear on what would be the next steps to pursue that. How could I roll this forward to the point of making a recommendation on an approach for signs and getting a decision on the matter?

Hi J,
On page 13 of the attached presentation I have a number of other recommendations in addition to labeling storm:drains and bridges. Who would I work with on looking into these? Would I start with you or someone else?

Thank you
Joe

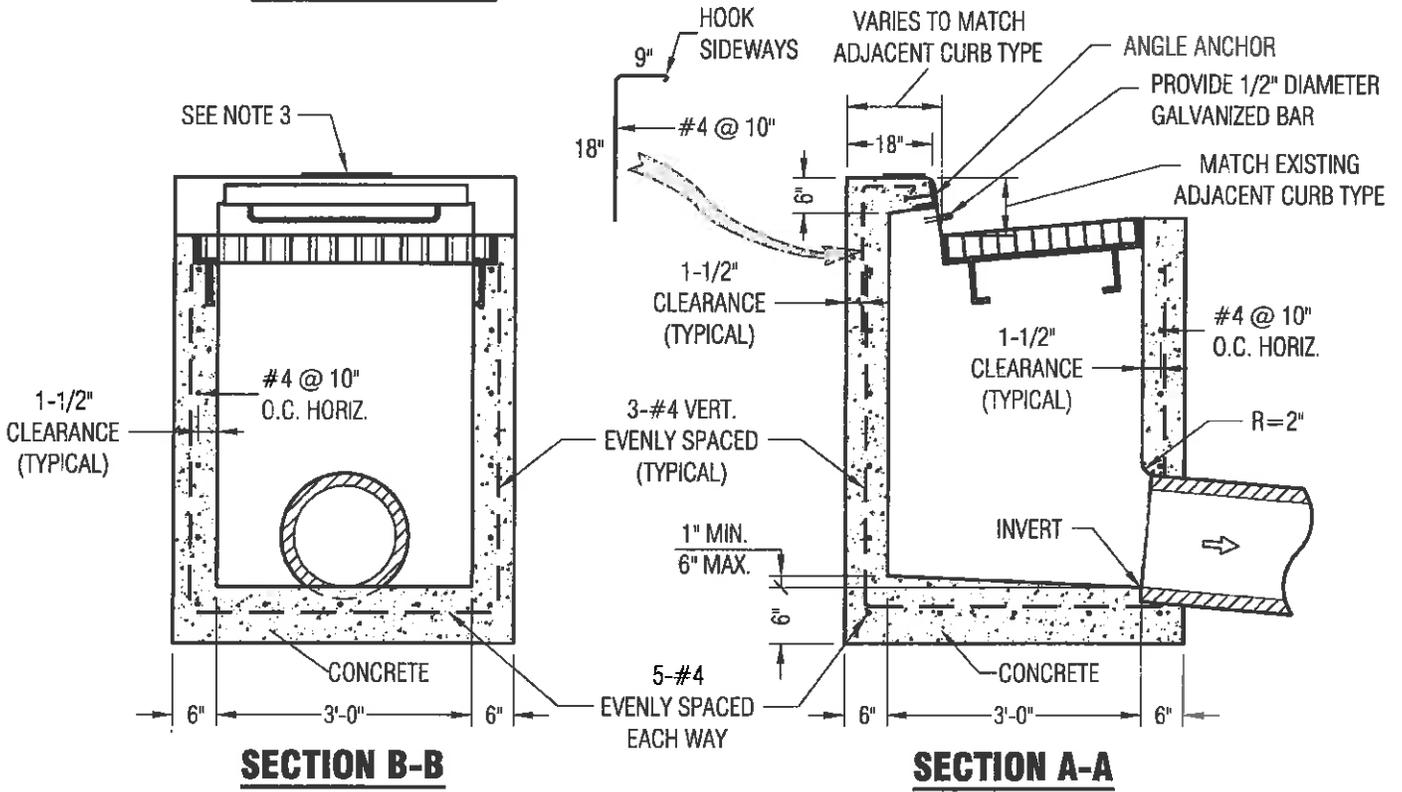
Email: joe.eyre@gmail.com
Mobile: (408) 857-8609



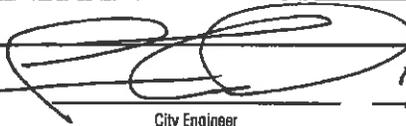
(4) 1/2" x 3-1/2" SQ. HEAD BOLTS @ 14"
 1/2" BAR
 METAL ASSEMBLY SHALL BE GALVANIZED

NOTE:
 WHERE INLET IS LOCATED WITHIN A RETURN, ANGLE ANCHOR SHALL BE CURVED TO MATCH FACE OF CURB RADIUS.

ANGLE ANCHOR



- NOTES:**
1. CONFORM TO GUTTER OR ROADWAY SECTION FOR GUTTER DEPRESSION SEE SD-5
 2. SEE CONSTRUCTION NOTES ON SD-6
 3. INSTALL APPROPRIATE "CREEK" PLACARD

Approved:  1/4/10
Date
 City Engineer



REVISION	
Description	Date

ENGINEERING DIVISION	
CURB INLET	SD-4



Ham# 11a

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 2011

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager, Staff Liaison to Environmental Commission

SUBJECT: City Council Meeting Attendance Assignments – 2012 Schedule

Please sign up to attend Regular meetings of the City Council for 2012:

Regular Council Meeting Date:	Attendance by:
January 10, 2012	Chris Keller
January 24, 2012	Don Bray
February 14, 2012	John Reed
February 28, 2012	Joe Eyre
March 13, 2012	Chris Keller
March 27, 2012	John Reed
April 10, 2012	John Reed
April 24, 2012	Joe Eyre
May 8, 2012	Don Bray
May 22, 2012	Steve Anderson
June 12, 2012	
June 26, 2012	Steve Anderson
July 24, 2012	
August 28, 2012	Steve Anderson
September 11, 2012	Joe Eyre
September 25, 2012	Don Bray
October 9, 2012	Linda DeMichiel
October 23, 2012	
November 13, 2012	Linda DeMichiel
December 11, 2012	Linda DeMichiel
→ (One regular meeting scheduled in July, August November and December.)	

→ These meetings deviate from the regular 2nd and 4th Tuesday meeting schedule.

Joint meeting with Environmental Commission and City Council is April 3, 2012.

- ❖ Regular Council meeting are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. If you are unable to attend one of the City Council meeting to which you are assigned, please make arrangements for another commissioner to attend in your place. Also, please notify J. Logan at 947-2610, of the changes so the City Council agendas will accurately name the Environmental Commission representative.

Michael Horta

From: Junko Bryant [junkob@acterra.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 9:18 AM
To: Junko Bryant
Subject: Redwood Grove Update - 1/10/12

Dear Redwood Grove friends,

We are starting 2012 with the installation of artist Daniel McCormick's watershed sculpture this weekend! The project will use brush and live cuttings to create a bank stabilization structure that will grow into a thicket of willow and other shrubs. We will have volunteers working all three days of the long weekend, and finishing touches will be added through the rest of the month and into February. This project is in partnership with the Los Altos History Museum exhibit, *Shaped by Water (go see it!)*, and funded through a grant to Acterra from the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Updates on our other efforts in the park:

1. Creek restoration – Dogwood cuttings (you may have noticed sticks all around the creek) and other native riparian plants have been installed along the creek where invasive Algerian Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry were cleared. Although the dry weather is tough on new plants, with some irrigation they are getting a chance to put down roots before high creek flows come along! After the rains slow down (if they ever start), we will do another round of planting along the creek.
2. Entry driveway landscaping – The City is now installing irrigation along the entry driveway. Once this work is done, we will be bringing volunteers in to clear ivy and replant the driveway with native plants. Please contact me if you would like more details about the planting plan.
3. Shoup Park gateway -- We have installed dozens of new plants along the connection to Shoup Park. These are all native shrubs such as Elderberry, Toyon, Coffeeberry, Silk Tassel, and California Rose that will eventually add screening and habitat value to the area. Meanwhile, a carpet of native Miner's Lettuce has grown under the buckeye tree by the Shoup Park fence. Miner's lettuce is so named because miners during the Gold Rush ate it (for Vitamin C to prevent scurvy).
4. Caretaker House Garden – GreenTown Los Altos and Living Classroom have pitched in to design and build stormwater detention elements that will slow runoff and infiltrate rainwater into the ground. They also contributed funding (or arranged donation) for all the materials and additional plants, including the beautiful new rain barrels that will capture roof runoff for use in watering the garden. Final touches will go in over the next few weeks.

Upcoming volunteer dates:

January 14-16, Watershed Sculpture Installation
 January 28
 February 4 & 18
 March 10 & 31

Please check our website for the latest information and to register: www.acterra.org/stewardship

Thanks!

-Junko

Junko Bryant
 Acterra Stewardship Program
 3921 East Bayshore Road
 Palo Alto, CA 94303-4303
junkob@acterra.org
www.acterra.org
 650-962-9876 ext. 347

From: J Logan [j_logan1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:48 PM
To: Michael Horta
Subject: Fw: [LindaArtNews] Making art when there is no rain
 Hi Michael, please put this article in the EC materials folder and add to Info agenda item.
 Thanks jL

--- On Sun, 1/29/12, Linda Gass <linda@lindagass.com> wrote:

From: Linda Gass <linda@lindagass.com>
 Subject: [LindaArtNews] Making art when there is no rain
 To: "j" <j_logan1@yahoo.com>
 Date: Sunday, January 29, 2012, 10:37 PM

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Restoring Creeks through Public Art



Artist [Daniel McCormick](#) is creating one of his restoration-art sculptures on a bank of Adobe Creek at the Redwood Grove in Los Altos with the help of community volunteers. This innovative project is a program of the [Shaped by Water](#) exhibition (curated by moi) at the Los Altos History Museum in partnership with local environmental organization, [Acterra](#). Daniel and his partner Mary O'Brien weave live willow and other native plants to create a natural "armor" for eroded creek banks. Community members helped build the foundation of the sculpture January 14-16 (documented in this [short video](#) by my Cubberley Studios colleague Lessa Bouchard and in [these photographs](#)). Lack of rainfall really worked in our favor! Aesthetic surface weaving will take place during the month of

Extra! Extra!



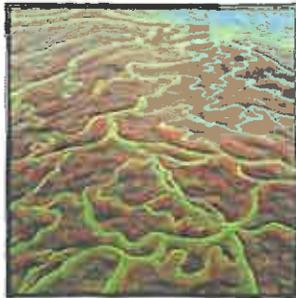
Profile in January Chronicle Magazine

It's a real treat when a gifted writer can transform your words into something enjoyable to read and Chronicle writer, Sam Whiting, did just that in a [profile about me](#) for the January Chronicle Magazine. Each quarter he profiles an artist whose work he can relate to the season: I got winter. I love playing in the snow and now it's the end of January and I'm still waiting for enough snow to snowshoe. It's making me nervous

February and you are invited to observe the progress by stopping by the [Redwood Grove](#) during daylight hours. Better yet, make it an afternoon outing on any Thursday - Sunday (noon - 4 pm) and see the [Shaped by Water](#) exhibit at the [Los Altos History Museum](#) as well!

Collecting California closes this Sunday February 5th

San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, San Jose, CA



Only one week left to see *Collecting California*! My artwork *On the Edge II* is included in this exhibit of textiles by contemporary California artists drawn from the museum's permanent collection. And while you are there, check out [Invisible Lineage](#). Hours and directions [here](#).

about our water supply later this year...



Delta Waters Exhibit

Stay tuned...my newest artwork about the San Joaquin River will debut in [Delta Waters](#), curated by Patricia Watts, at the LH Horton Gallery, Stockton, CA March 1- 30, 2012. Opening Reception March 1, 5 - 7 pm.

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Linda Gass
www.lindagass.com

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