



DATE: March 10, 2014

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: 2013 Environmental Commission Accomplishments

RECOMMENDATION:

Review accomplishments and prepare report to Council

BACKGROUND

Annually the Environmental Commission prepares and reports accomplishments to Council

DISCUSSION

Environmental Commission will meet at a Joint Meeting with Council on April 29, 2014 to present its accomplishments.

Attachment: Environmental Commission Draft 2013/14 Accomplishments and Goals for 2014/2015

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
2013/14 Work Plan
(as of February 10, 2014)

Goal	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	Status
Community education and outreach	City website – Environmental information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify information gaps and update content (Reed, staff) 	Dependent on City timetable Est. July, 2014	Recommended and worked with staff to plan the movement of EC web content onto the City's Community Resources web page to make environmental information more integrated and accessible. This will also enable environmental information of all departments to be represented in this single location.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop web info on fostering local birds (Eyre) 	May 2013	Completed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise document recommending healthy and sustainable chemicals/products used inside and outside the home (Ardehali) 		In progress

	Public information forums to the community (quarterly or tri-annually)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proposal for initial event (Ardehali, Hedden, Keller) 	May 2013	Subcommittee developed plan for quarterly public forums. First one occurred Feb 22, 2014
	City performance Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify parameters and sources of information (Bray) 	TBD: Dependent on CAP timetable	Modeled design to display CAP data.
	Additional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Special Presentations</u> 	<u>On-going</u>	Scheduled several speakers during EC meetings to update EC and public on environmental trends (e.g. Mission Trails, Community Choice Aggregation, San Jose State recycling).
Climate Action Plan	Aid in developing, Public input to a Los Altos Climate Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine next steps after Council approves 2020 goal (Eyre, Bray, Hedden) 	Public input meetings in Aug. & Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee and commission consulted multiple times with staff on CAP drafts, providing input and suggestions. Held public meetings to gather feedback on CAP draft. Sept: Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the Council adopt the draft Climate Action

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				<p>Plan with a reduction goal greater than 15% and with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allow exceptions to the net-zero energy standard (2.2E) for properties with limited solar access; and ○ Include the use of a "dashboard" to share annual activity data (e.g., natural gas, electricity, water, waste, VMT) in association with staff annual reporting process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council adopted plan in December with the commission's recommendations.
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Watershed stewardship	Signage on bridges over local streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take photos of bridges over streams and recommend where creek signage should be placed (Eyre, Keller) Review plans for creek signage on new Fremont Ave bridge over Permanente Creek when design is finalized 	<p>Done</p> <p>Under design by Engineering Dept.</p>	Initiated research and site selection of creek signage throughout city. Staff accepted recommendations and have ordered signs.
	Stream water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive status of new SCVURPPP study data on water quality of local streams Incorporate stream quality data into Dashboard (Bray) Review Storm Drain Master Plan when released. Encourage staff to label storm drain inlets with signage that specifies the recipient stream 		<p>Data not available for local level</p> <p>Dashboard will focus on CAP measures.</p> <p>Storm Drain Master Plan in progress.</p> <p>Staff began installing creek-specific storm drain medallions.</p>
Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices	MTWS diversion rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to provide suggestions for next steps 	Pending report	Mission Trail presented diversion trends. This meeting was open and attended by the public.
Restrictions for use of selected environmentally-harmful products	Single use plastic bag ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate assisting on community outreach 	Done	Assisted staff on public outreach in preparation for 7/4/13 start of the ban
	Expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider recommendation based on staff presentation/input 	Waiting EIR from S.J.	Coordinated with staff and augmented its resources by reaching

				out and researching EPS use at 100+ Los Altos establishments.
Green business practices	Green purchasing and operational practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate applicability of Green Business Initiative program to Los Altos businesses 	Under discussion	Researched possible approaches for encouraging local business to pursue green business certification