



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

Community Meeting Chambers, Los Altos City Hall
1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California

ESTABLISH QUORUM

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.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Environmental Commission Minutes
Approve minutes of the regular meeting of November 5, 2019
2. Herbicide Use in Los Altos City Parks
Discuss the synthetic herbicides and pesticides memo from the City Manager
3. Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority
Discuss the development of a new electrification ordinance for the 2019 Energy Code
4. Environmental Commission Work Plan
Discuss Commissioner updates on work plan items

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. City Staff Updates
Receive information and announcements from City staff

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

POTENTIAL 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 City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for the Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the Internet at https://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings?field_microsite_tid_1=2261.

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the 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 THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019 BEGINNING
AT 7:00 P.M. AT COMMUNITY MEETING CHAMBERS, LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, 1
NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair Weiden, Vice Chair Yuan, Commissioners Bray, Teksler, and Klein

ABSENT: Commissioner Martin and Halkola

STAFF: Staff Liaison Niday

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Environmental Commission Minutes

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of October 14, 2019

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Teksler, seconded by Commissioner Yuan, the Environmental Commission approved the minutes from the October 14, 2019 regular meeting as written.

The motion was approved (5-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Weiden, Yuan, Bray, Teksler, and Klein

NOES: None

ABSENT: Martin and Halkola

ABSTAIN: None

2. Herbicide Use in Los Altos City Parks

Discussed the next steps in investigating the use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in the City

Public Comment: None

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Bray, seconded by Commissioner Teksler, the Environmental Commission accepted the draft statement to City Council on herbicide use in Los Altos City parks as modified by Commission discussion.

The motion was approved (5-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Weiden, Yuan, Bray, Teksler, and Klein

NOES: None

ABSENT: Martin and Halkola

ABSTAIN: None

3. Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority

Discussed proposed electrification Reach Codes for 2019 Energy Code and reviewed the draft commission presentation to City Council

Public Comment: None

Action: None

4. Environmental Commission Work Plan

Discussed Commissioner updates on work plan items

Public Comment: None

Action: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. City Staff Updates

Received information and announcements from City staff

COMMISSION REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weiden adjourned the meeting at 8:12 P.M.



DATE: December 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #2

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Herbicide Use in Los Altos City Parks

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action, as appropriate, on the current use of herbicides in Los Altos City parks

BACKGROUND

At the regular meeting of August 14, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) approved a motion to recommend to City Council the banning of the use of synthetic herbicides and synthetic pesticides in Los Altos parks. The PARC forwarded the August 14, 2019 commission's agenda report on "Herbicide Use in Los Altos City Parks" along with the other documents to the Environmental Commission to explore the banning of synthetic herbicides and synthetic pesticides in the City of Los Altos. At the regular meeting of September 9, 2019, Manny Hernandez, Municipal Services Director, gave a presentation to the Environmental Commission on the herbicide use in the Los Altos City parks. The Commission agreed to continue to evaluate and investigate the effects of synthetic pesticides and herbicides before continuing discussion and considering a recommendation to the PARC.

Like many Bay Area agencies, herbicides are used to control or eliminate unwanted vegetation in public parks, open spaces and other city-owned outdoor spaces. The City of Los Altos does not use Roundup; however, the current herbicide being used to control weeds is Ranger Pro. Ranger Pro contains 41% Glyphosate (same active ingredient as Roundup). This product is a complete broad spectrum non-selective post-emergent professional herbicide, approved and in compliance. Ranger Pro is generic for Roundup and is equivalent and just as effective as the name brand. This generic roundup will kill most weeds and grasses. Ranger Pro moves through the plant from the point of foliage contact to and into the root system. It is then absorbed into the soil and breaks down naturally, and therefore will not spread through the ground and kill neighboring plants.

Within the Municipal Services Department, the Park Maintenance Division makes efforts to avoid usage of herbicide around the public or common areas. Pathway spraying is done as early as 5am to allow drying prior to the arrival of park users. There are no public pathways through median landscapes. In addition, staff uses a diluted mix of Ranger Pro, a dilution of 2% with water. Application happens once a year, to target the weed explosion in the spring. Ranger Pro is applied along park pathways, City owned medians, and hardscape as needed. On direction from the County, Glyphosate herbicide is not used on the Foothill medians as it is owned by the County. Weeds in those areas are knocked down throughout the year. Several other "organic" herbicides and time-consuming

techniques, such as torching and use of vinegar, have not proven successful. Neighboring agencies have experienced the same.

Over the last few years, the City of Los Altos has severely cut back on the usage of Glyphosate herbicides in parks and medians by limiting where they are used and when the public is least present. A move completely away from the use of Glyphosate products will have aesthetic implications in the parks and medians.

The City is currently mandated by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program through a Municipal Regional Permit to maintain an Integrated Pest Management Program that mandates minimal herbicide use. The City is currently in compliance. The current Integrated Pest Management Policy prohibits the use of pesticides for pest control.

Staff reached out to surrounding agencies and below is a summary of the information received from six neighboring agencies on their weed control practices.

Redwood City:

Redwood City uses pre-emergent treatment twice per year (Cool/Warm). The herbicides they have used since stopping the use of Glyphosates include:

- Scythe- not found to be effective in recycled water or high salinity soils areas, stopped use.
- Avenger Organic- not found to be effective at all.
- Fiestas Organic- used for a long time, not super effective but some staff like it for very specific uses so we keep it.
- Finale- Was effective, new main product, then they didn't re-register it for use in California. (Tons of So Cal cities switched to it also)

Atherton:

Atherton currently uses Roundup on non-turf areas. However, in the coming weeks Council will discuss discontinued use of it. If they approve and it is discontinued, Atherton proposes to use Mirimichi or Reward. When using Roundup, Atherton applied it 5 times a year (3 applications over 3 days) in the early morning and close off sections until dry. The City has not used herbicides on turf areas for a few years now. The City only has one 22-acre park so it may be easier for the City to control weeds. The focus is to keep the turf healthy. The City dethatches once a year, aerates twice a year and fertilizes every 3 months with a seasonal fertilizer. When the City gets Clover, it uses nitrogen. The City has well water and keeps the turf areas well irrigated.

Sunnyvale:

Sunnyvale has not banned the use of Roundup or Glyphosate derivatives. It is still legal use in California. CA DPR, CA EPA, and the US EPA still has listed it as a legal product to use. Sunnyvale has been looking into alternatives because Baylands Park is a 177-acre Santa Clara County park and the county banned the use of Glyphosate on all county owned facilities last fall.

The City is trying an alternative which is Glufosinate-ammonium, trade name of the product we use is Lifeline Herbicide. Its mode of action is like Glyphosate in the it is an enzyme blocker of an amino acid synthesis pathway. The amino acid synthesis blocked by Glyphosate is more effective than Glufosinate-ammonium enzyme action. Because of the stigma of the most recent litigation many

agencies are banning its use just to avoid any potential litigation that could arise. So far Glufosinate-ammonium has not been linked to any cancers.

Currently the City does not have any hard data on its use. The first use of Lifeline Herbicide has been at Baylands Park. The City has just started using it. Some City staff are experimenting with Lifeline Herbicide at other parks and open space facilities but for the most part most the staff still uses tried and true Roundup.

Foster City:

Foster City stopped using Roundup last year, but continued to use Ranger Pro. The City has since stopped using both products and has just started using Lifeline mixed with Magnify (surfactant). As a result, the City started applying this last week. Foster City has limited to spraying windows due to what seems to be never-ending winds. The City also uses Reward when necessary as well as some broadleaf chemicals such as Speedzone and Turflon. The City has also increased the usage of Surflan for pre-emergent control. It has had mixed results with this, especially in areas where the City has done a lot of mulching.

San Mateo County Parks:

San Mateo County currently uses a Glyphosate herbicide but are stopping use once the product on hand is used up, which will be by December 2019 when the staff recommendation expires. The County has been using Finalsan with Oroboost as a surfactant. We also have recommendations for Gallery and Dimension, the results are somewhat comparable to Roundup but decreases staff time by mechanically removing weeds as well as Workers Comp claims for repetitive motion injuries. Glyphosate is really the optimum treatment choice since it is selective in what it treats. The others mentioned are not selective and have a warning label compared to a danger label on Roundup.

Santa Clara:

The County of Santa Clara stopped using Glyphosate last year in public areas. They were spraying Reward and tested a propane burner until something caught on fire. Currently, there are not using any organics.

DISCUSSION

Under the Community Development Department, the City of Los Altos Environmental Commission “shall have those powers and duties entrusted to it by the council from time to time and shall submit an annual report to the council. The Environmental Commission studies and makes recommendations to Council on issues that affect the natural and built environment in the city and the region. Additional duties include special projects as directed by the Council.”

During the regular meeting of October 14, 2019, the Environmental Commission received public comments and discussed the Parks and Recreation Commission request to explore the banning of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in the City of Los Altos. The Environmental Commission voted unanimously (5 – 0) to recommend eliminating the use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in City Parks and to request Council and staff guidance on further Environmental Commission work on this topic.

Attachments:

- A. Herbicide Use - EC Memo - November 7, 2019
- B. Herbicide Use - City Manager’s Memo - November 7, 2019

December 9, 2019

To: Los Altos City Council
From: Los Altos Environmental Commission
Subject: Herbicides

During its October 14, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission received public comments and discussed the Parks and Recreation Commission request to explore the banning of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in the City of Los Altos. The Environmental Commission voted unanimously (5 – 0) to recommend eliminating the use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in City Parks and to request Council and staff guidance on further Environmental Commission work on this topic.

The Environmental Commission reviewed several publicly available research articles on synthetic herbicides and pesticides and found reasonable support that such products can be toxic to applicators as well as people, plants and animals that may come in contact with such products unintentionally. As a precautionary measure, the Environmental Commission believes limiting the use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in the City and eliminating their use in our parks is appropriate.

The Commission would need to conduct substantial research in order to recommend additional limitations of synthetic herbicides and pesticides, particularly ones that would limit the use by residents or business. Therefore, the Commission is seeking direction from Council as to whether this is an action the Council would potentially support given appropriate information and recommendations.

The Environmental Commission expressed a willingness and interest in continuing investigations of these chemicals in the City of Los Altos, including consideration of limiting or eliminating their

- Use in all public areas
- Use by residents and business
- Sale

However, the Commission is seeking Council and Staff guidance on whether to pursue this area of research for the following reasons:

- An investigation of the use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in the City of Los Altos is not part of the Environmental Commission's 2019-2020 Work Plan reviewed with the Council.
- Consideration of limiting product use is a policy issue that is best directed by Council.
- Use of herbicides and pesticides is, in part, controlled under the required City Integrated Pest Management Program.

Calandra Niday

From: Chris Jordan
Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019 3:08 PM
To: Don Weiden; City Council
Cc: Calandra Niday; Donna Legge; Manuel Hernandez
Subject: RE: Synthetic Herbicides and Pesticides

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Council –

The use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides by our MSC staff has long been a concern of ours. This year, staff discussed this concern with both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Environmental Commission. Both have recommended that the City prohibit the use of these by our staff.

We recognize that such a prohibition will have consequences – weed remediation will be more time-consuming and costly and will likely result in more visible weeds in our parks and landscaped areas. However, we agree with the two commissions that the consequences of using such synthetic chemicals outweighs the costs and burdens of prohibiting their use.

Therefore, we are implanting an administrative policy (that I will approve) prohibiting the use of these chemicals.

Chris

From: Don Weiden <DonWeiden@KennedyJenks.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2019 9:38 AM
To: City Council <council@losaltosca.gov>
Cc: Calandra Niday <cniday@losaltosca.gov>
Subject: Synthetic Herbicides and Pesticides

During its October 14, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission considered and discussed the Parks and Recreation Commission request to explore the banning of synthetic herbicides and pesticides in the City of Los Altos. The Environmental Commission voted unanimously (5 - 0) to present the attached statement to City Council and City Staff.

Don Weiden
 Chair, Los Altos Environmental Commission

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE - This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited, and we request that you destroy or permanently delete this message, and notify the sender.



DATE: December 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #3

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCEA) 2019 Building Electrification and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Reach Code Initiative

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss proposed electrification Reach Codes for 2019 Energy Code and make a recommendation to City Council

BACKGROUND

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), along with Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) and the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, are supporting their municipalities to adopt building codes that will result in safer and more comfortable buildings, increase their electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and reduce their carbon footprint.

In support of municipalities and counties in SVCE and PCE service territory, SVCE and PCE are providing extensive technical assistance plus a \$10,000 incentive to each city that brings reach codes to their councils.

Reach Code Adoption Process

Every three years, the State of California adopts new building standards that are organized in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, referred to as the California Building Standards Code. This regular update is referred to as a “code cycle.” The last code cycle was adopted in 2016 and was effective as of live on January 1, 2017. The next code cycle will be adopted in 2019 and will be effective January 1, 2020. Cities and counties can adopt reach codes that require items that are above and minimum state code requirements. However, these reach codes must be filed with the State.

In addition, the California Energy Commission (CEC) requires that a cost-effectiveness study be conducted and filed in the case of local amendments to the Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6). It is required that the City demonstrate to the CEC, using a cost-effectiveness study, that the amendments to the code are financially responsible and do not represent an unreasonable burden to the non-residential and residential applicants. A cost-effectiveness study is not required for amendments to the Green Building Code (Title 24, Part 11).

Statewide Cost-Effectiveness Study for Energy Code Reach Codes

Funded by the California investor-owned utilities, the California Statewide Codes and Standards Program (Statewide Program) led the development of a cost-effectiveness study for Energy Code reach codes that examined different performance-based approaches for new construction of specific

building types. There are two kinds of reach code approaches: performance-based ordinances and prescriptive ordinances. Performance-based ordinances mandate an increase in the overall energy efficiency required but leave flexibility for the builder on how to achieve this goal. In contrast, prescriptive ordinances mandate implementation of a specific measure (such as solar panels or cool roofs). The Statewide Program's analysis focused on performance-based ordinances but some conclusions about prescriptive measures can be made from the results.

Prescriptive Codes: Require one or more specific energy efficiency measures.

Performance Codes: Require a building to perform more efficiently based on accepted computer modeling and allow trade-offs between energy efficiency measures.

Why Establish Reach Codes?

The benefits of greenhouse gas (GHG) free electricity can best be realized by electrification of new and existing buildings and transportation vehicles. Electrifying buildings and vehicles transition them away from the use of natural gas and gasoline to clean energy provided by SVCE. By developing electrification reach codes, cities can save energy and reduce GHG emissions in Santa Clara and San Mateo County. All-electric buildings are safer and healthier to live in along with being cost effective, especially when adopted at the new construction stage. It is most efficient for cities to coordinate adoption of reach codes with the adoption of the new 2019 building code, taking effect January 1, 2020.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging requirements in California can generally be broken into three categories:

1. EV Charging Installed: all supply equipment is installed at a parking space, such that an EV can charge without additional equipment.
2. EV Ready: Parking space is provided with all power supply and associated outlet, such that a charging station can be plugged in and a vehicle can charge.
3. EV Capable: Conduit is installed to parking space, and building electrical system has ample capacity to serve future load. An electrician would be required to complete the circuit before charging is possible.

EV charging capacity and speed can be summarized as three categories:

1. Level 1: Capable of charging at 120V, 20A. This is equivalent to a standard home outlet.
2. Level 2: Capable of charging at 240V, 30-40A. This is the service capacity typically used for larger appliance loads in homes
3. Level 3 (DC Fast Charging): Capable of charging at 20-400kW. This is the type of charger used for Tesla Superchargers and DC Fast Chargers at some supermarkets.

The 2019 California Green Building Code Update (Title 24, Part 11) increases requirements for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new construction; including:

1. New one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses with attached private garages: must be Level 2 EV-capable
2. Multi-family dwellings: 10% of parking spaces must be Level 2 EV-capable
3. Non-residential: 6% of parking spaces must be Level 2 EV-capable

Building Appliance Electrification

For multiple reasons including health, safety economics and environmental benefits, there is considerable interest in mandating all-electric new construction, or “building electrification,” which means that the buildings would not have any fossil fuel services. All-electric buildings have electric appliances for space heating, water heating, clothes-drying, and cooking. The interest in building electrification stems from the fact that SVCE is providing 100% carbon-free electricity and eliminating the use of natural gas can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector. To date, the City does not often see all-electric buildings constructed. Mandating that all new construction be all-electric through the building reach code process has not been chosen as the appropriate path because of legal implications in proving cost-effectiveness of this approach to the CEC. The leading approach is to encourage electrification by giving builders the choice of two options:

1. achieving a higher energy efficiency level than the Energy Code using mixed fuels (natural gas and electricity); or
2. building an all-electric building at the minimum efficiency as required in the Energy Code. The Statewide Program’s study analyzed this approach.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Local residents are showing a significant interest in electric vehicles. For example, the number of registered plug-in vehicles in Santa Clara county increased by 31% in 2018. By comparison, registrations for vehicles powered by fossil fuels shrank in 2018. It is widely known that availability of EV charging infrastructure is a critical component to EV adoption. Meanwhile, it is significantly more expensive to install charging infrastructure as a retrofit than it is during new construction. As such, ensuring that newly constructed residential and non-residential parking has ample EV charging capability will reduce long-term costs of EV infrastructure installation, while helping to increase EV adoption and decrease transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. While California’s new minimum requirements are a step forward, it is unlikely that the requirements for multi-family dwellings and non-residential buildings are enough to keep pace with expected EV growth looking towards 2030. The Statewide Program’s team reviewed approaches to increase the amount of EV infrastructure in new construction buildings, while keeping construction costs as low as possible.

For more information on the Reach Code initiative, please visit:
<https://www.svcleanenergy.org/reach-codes/>

DISCUSSION

Staff attends monthly Member Agency Working Group (MAWG) meetings with SVCEA. The monthly updates can be found below.

SVCEA MAWG Updates (January 2019 – August 2019):

The MAWG did not meet in December 2018. City staff attended the SVCE County-wide Reach Code Working Group Launch on January 15, 2019 to learn more about the Reach Code project described above. Members of the City Manager’s Office and Community Development Department attended as well.

At the January 24, 2019 MAWG meeting, the group discussed the potential for SVCEA to form a joint funding mechanism with BAAQMD and other agencies to fund EV infrastructure. SVCEA staff is currently developing an RFP and scope of work to secure a consultant to explore the EVSE market

and identify barriers, forecast infrastructure needs, and establish a mechanism to pursue grant funding. SVCEA also updated the group on youth focused programs like the Bike to the Future event, which took place in April 2019 and the creation of a student ambassador program, focused on educating students and schools about ways to reduce GHG emissions.

On March 20, 2019, SVCEA hosted a workshop on the Reach Code project to the appropriate City Staff, the Building/Developer Community and interested stakeholders. The Reach Code project is currently underway, the consultant completed the cost effectiveness study, and the initial draft of the reach codes was released in March.

At the April 25, 2019 MAWG meeting, the group discussed the release of the new PG&E rates for 2019. Sunnyvale gave a presentation on their Climate Action Playbook. The group received an update from Aimee Bailey, Director of Decarbonization and Grid Innovation, on SVCE Innovation Onramp which went live April 3, 2019. The Heat Pump Technology Days: Water Heating Meeting was held on May 9, 2019 in San Francisco. SVCEA also informed the group that the results of the cost effectiveness study for the Reach Codes project are available. SVCE is looking for input from cities and stakeholders; May 15, 2019 is the deadline to provide input before the reach code language is drafted. In May 2019, SVCEA launched a showcase design grant focused on all-electric projects within the service territory; the new all-electric Los Altos Community Center may be eligible. Also, the group announced that PG&E has delivered gas data for the Climate Action Plan.

At the May 23, 2019 MAWG meeting, SVCE presented the heat pump water heater program, which launched in June 2019. This program is offering funding for 100 residential projects including incentives for new heat pump water heaters and new solar panels. The group received an update on the showcase of all-electric design awards, which also launched in June 2019. The awards are going to be available for all-electric buildings that are already built, rather than future projects. The goal is to showcase the participating projects in SVCE's resource center. SVCE also gave an update on the jurisdictions that have sent in a letter of intent for the reach codes – including Cupertino, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Campbell, Los Altos, and Sunnyvale. On May 29, 2019, the building model reach code language was shared and on June 6, 2019, the electric vehicle model reach code was discussed.

At the June 27, 2019 MAWG meeting, the group discussed the reach codes initiative with the building officials from various jurisdictions. The building officials from the City of Sunnyvale, City of Milpitas, and the City of Cupertino attended this meeting. As previously discussed, the overall goal of adopting a reach code is to increase the electrification of buildings and decrease buildings overall carbon emissions. Additional benefits of constructing a home that is all-electric is that they are the healthier, cleaner, safer, and more cost-effective option than building a home that has mixed-fuel (electricity and natural gas). Three pathways were presented at the meeting, including: pathway 1 (all-electric), pathway 2 (mixed fuel), and pathway 3 (mixed-fuel with no space and water heating). Pathway 3 would cut the carbon emissions by 80% and would still offer people the option to have comfort appliances (i.e. gas stove top and gas fire pit). In addition, the group received an update that the all-electric showcase awards are now live; applications will be accepted until July 26, 2019. SVCE will showcase the customers who have successfully constructed an all-electric home and will showcase the design elements to help support the reach code effort. The FutureFit Heat Pump Water Heater program launched on June 28, 2019 and about 115 people have already shown their interest. The Heat Pump Cost Effectiveness webinar was given on July 3, 2019.

At the July 25, 2019 MAWG meeting, Aimee Bailey introduced a new program focused on grid integration called the Virtual Power Plant (VPP) initiative. To better understand VPP functions and values, SVCE and Gridworks are releasing the [Silicon Valley Clean Energy Virtual Power Plant Options Analysis Discussion Draft](#) to generate thoughts, ideas, and feedback on possible solutions and the path to achieving those solutions in Silicon Valley. Other programs discussed at the MAWG meeting include the [Innovation Onramp Program](#), the [All-Electric Showcase Awards](#), and [FutureFit](#) – the heat pump water heater program. The Heat Pump Water Heater Buyers Guide can be found in Attachment A. It was announced that the City of Berkeley unanimously voted to ban natural gas for new low-rise residential buildings starting January 1, 2020. PG&E has offered to attend council meetings in support of building electrification. There is a Building Decarb Coalition webinar on August 29, 2019 called “Is a Gas Moratorium Right for You?” In addition, SVCE announced that there are existing tools on their website to help support the reach code effort, including the Model Staff Report Letter Template and informational flyers (found in Attachment B). Additional tools are currently under development, including a general slide deck for City staff use, building department checklists, a cost effectiveness informational chart, an electric vehicle cost effectiveness analysis, and an informational video. An update was given to the group that the 2018 GHG inventory is almost completed. Lastly, the Draft EV Infrastructure Joint Action Plan was discussed.

At the August 22, 2019 MAWG meeting, Don Eckert, the Director of Finance of SVCE, gave a presentation on the proposed 2019-2020 operating budget. A status update of the following programs was given: all-electric showcase awards, heat pumps, reach codes, and VPP. In addition, an announcement was made about the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP): SVCE formed a regional coalition with other Community Choice Aggregations and municipal utilities to try to interest the CEC in partnering on a CALeVIP program in our area. The CEC announced earlier this month that they have chosen SVCE for a CALeVIP launch in 2020, with a combined funding of \$60 million! As SVCE’s territory will have \$12 million dedicated to it (with half coming from the CEC and half from SVCE), this program will lead to substantially more charging infrastructure installed throughout SVCE territory.

At the September 26, 2019 meeting, the group introduced the new SVCE staff members and announced the new open positions. The group discussed a status update on the current SVCE programs. A presentation on the Climate Youth Ambassador Program was given which focuses on bringing environmental awareness to elementary, middle, and high school students. To date, the group has engaged in 11 community outreach events and have talked to over 600 kids. The group intends to expand the climate youth ambassador team so they can continue to spread awareness of the climate crisis.

At the October 24, 2019 meeting, an announcement was made regarding the Energy Atlas tool for local governments. The group discussed the SVCE program updates including: reach codes, FutureFit heat pump water heater program, EV priority zones for DC fast charging, VPP, EBCE resiliency RFP, and the customer resource center. In addition, Don Bray lead a discussion on local regulatory opportunities.

At the November 2019 meeting, SVCE announced that applications for the Education Fund are now open. The Education Fund would provide students with funding for a project or competition and should focus on education and outreach. Projects should incorporate eliminating carbon emissions to fight climate change and can range from art installations and student-led events to videos, journalism

projects, student competitions, robotics and more. The reach codes progress is updated on the SVCE website daily and can be found here: <https://www.svcleanenergy.org/reach-codes/>.

Attachments:

- A. Los Altos Community Benefits Summary
- B. 11/19 Council Meeting Reach Code Discussion Update
- C. SVCE Reach Code Update

2019 Community Benefits Summary

City of Los Altos and Silicon Valley Clean Energy

In 2016, the City of Los Altos and twelve other local communities formed Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) to provide our region with clean electricity at competitive rates, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

SVCE supplies electricity principally from wind, solar and hydro resources, and is helping communities switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity in buildings and transportation. Los Altos residents and businesses are receiving clean electricity, lowering emissions and saving money.

Los Altos Results - Clean, Safe, Affordable



12,200 households and businesses receiving clean electricity from carbon-free sources



\$952,000 in electricity savings for Los Altos customers



\$48,900 in cash payments to customers for generating surplus solar energy



100% of electricity used at municipal facilities sourced from renewable wind and solar



98% reduction in electric utility-related emissions (**17 million pounds** greenhouse gas emissions avoided by providing clean energy)

2019 Regional Achievements

- **19.8% reduction** in annual greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2015
- **\$28.7 million** in electricity savings for customers
- **270,000+** residential and commercial customers - a **96%** participation rate
- **537.9 million pounds** of greenhouse gas emissions avoided
- **310 megawatts** of new renewable energy projects under development
- **\$8 million** approved by SVCE Board for new electric vehicle charging stations



Silicon Valley Clean Energy in Los Altos

SVCE is working in your community to advance clean energy awareness, education and programs, including:

- Annual sponsor of Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival
- Monthly meetings with city staff
- Local building code updates
- Rebates for Heat Pump Water Heater installations
- All-Electric Showcase Awards
- Chamber of Commerce member and sponsor

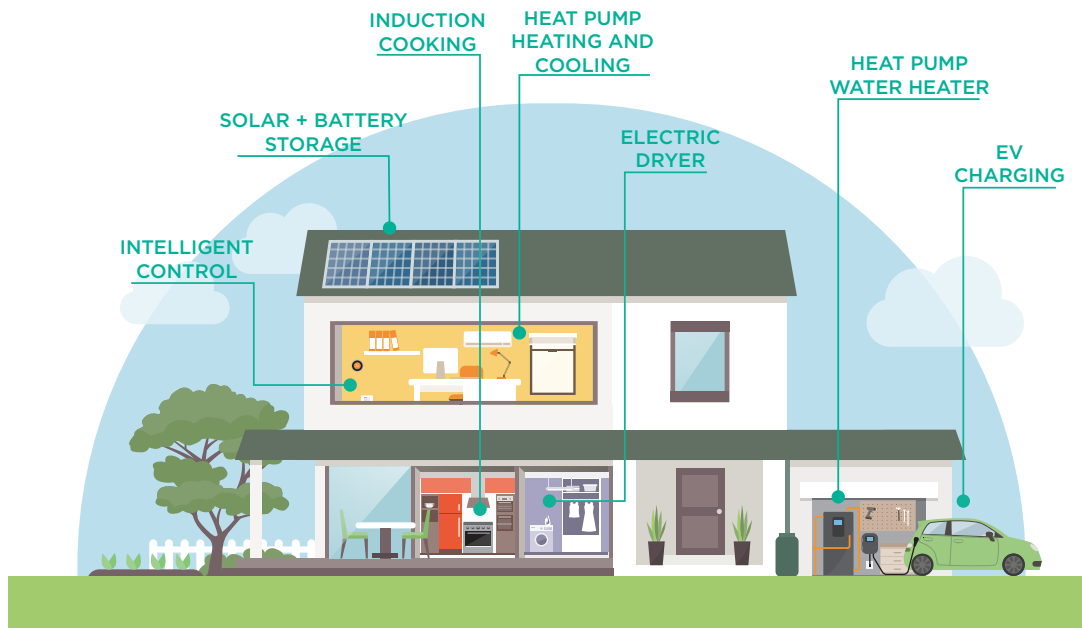


Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival


Looking Forward: The All-Electric 'FutureFit' Home

Our local communities are taking big steps to create a healthier environment and combat climate change. Transitioning from fossil fuels to clean electricity in our homes and transportation will dramatically reduce emissions and offers improved efficiency, safety and performance.


Learn more about the all-electric 'FutureFit' home at www.svcleanenergy.org/electrify.




For more information contact us at:

 Website:
SVCleanEnergy.org

 Email:
info@svcleanenergy.org

 Phone
(408) 721-5301

 Office:
333 W. El Camino Real, Suite 290
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

December 9, 2019













11/19 Council Meeting Reach Code Discussion Notes:

At the November 19th Council Meeting we presented the Commission's recommendation for Reach Building and EV Codes.

The Council provided general direction to Staff and Commission to pursue a building code for 100% electric buildings and to remove the allowance for natural gas cooking and comfort appliances in new buildings. They were concerned the proposed code needs to be clearer on what types of buildings it would apply to (e.g. all single-family & multi-family residential, commercial and office?). The council wanted more investigation on any exceptions that may need to apply for certain types of buildings (such as Menlo Park did for Life Sciences buildings) or if it would be an appeal-basis for exceptions. There was a lengthy discussion about whether to include any threshold of remodel in the reach code. If remodels were to be included there needs to be clarity on a threshold that would trigger the reach code and, if remodels were included, the Council was interested in allowing for natural gas use for cooking and comfort appliances. Overall, the Council leaned toward only applying the codes to new construction.

For the EV Reach Code, the City Council directed us to pursue increasing the single-family home requirement to include 2 level 2 EV-ready parking spaces (as opposed to 1 level 2 EV-ready and 1 EV-capable). The code also needs to clarify what happens with Multi-family EV requirements to clarify what happens with percentages that would result in partial spaces (e.g. what is 10% of 15 spaces?). There was also question about the disparity in the requirement of 1 level 2 EV-ready space per unit for building of less than 20 units but a lesser requirement for more than 20 units.

In general, there was a discussion about the need to do public outreach on the codes. In addition, there is a need to edit the proposed ordinance language for clarity and accuracy.


Member Agency	Status	Next Meeting	Date of Next Meeting	Code Language	Building Reach			EV Reach
					Encourage Gas Reduction (1 + 2 + 2A)	Limit Gas (1 + 2A)	Ban Gas (1 only)	Higher than CalGREEN
Mountain View		Approved		Begins on pg. 23			X	X
Morgan Hill		Approved		Begins on pg. 45			X	
Milpitas		Approved		Begins on pg. 1132	X			X
Monte Sereno		Approved		Begins on pg. 3	X ¹			X
Saratoga		2nd Reading	Dec. 4	Begins on pg. 33		X		X
Los Gatos		2nd Reading	Dec. 17				X	X
Los Altos		1st Reading	Jan. 23				X	
Cupertino		1st Reading	Dec. 17				X	X
Campbell		1st Reading	Jan. 21			X		
Los Altos Hills		Staff Proposal	Dec.4			X		
Santa Clara County		Staff Proposal			X			
Sunnyvale		Staff Proposal				X		
Gilroy	-	Declined						

¹Reach code proposes wiring all homes for electric appliances and battery storage

Key

Status

 Approved

 2nd Reading

 1st Reading

 Staff Proposal

 Council Briefing

Building Reach

- 1 - All-electric buildings
- 2 - Mixed fuel has higher requirements
- 2A - Mostly electric/electric heating only



DATE: December 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #4

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action, as appropriate, on the 2019/20 Environmental Commission Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council on May 7, 2019 to review the Commission's 2018/19 Accomplishments and Draft 2019/20 Target areas and discussed issues and projects for the upcoming year. Based on this discussion, the targets were finalized, and the 2019/20 Work Plan was developed. The Targets and Work Plan are intended to focus the Commission's agenda items and will serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2019/20 year.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Commission Targets and resulting Work Plan for 2019/20 are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Water Conservation and Stormwater Management
3. Solid Waste Diversion
4. Community Outreach and Education

The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and act appropriately.

Attachments:

- A. Single Use Plastics Subcommittee Memo
- B. 2019/20 Targets and Work Plan

December 9, 2019

To: Environmental Commission

From: Single Use Plastics Subcommittee
Halkola, Weiden, Yuan

Subject: Environmental Commission
2018/2019 Targets & Work Plan

Discussed the status of the Subcommittee investigation at the February 11, 2019 Environmental Commission Meeting. Committee agreed that the Subcommittee should continue investigating and reporting on ordinances and regulations under consideration. This is an update for the December 9, 2019 Environmental Commission Meeting

1. State of California
 - a. A single use plastics bill, SB 54 by Allen and Wiener was not voted on during the 2019 session and will return in 2020.
 - i. Current requirements include that manufacturers and retailers of single use plastic packaging or products in CA to reduce waste generation through combined source reduction and recycling by 30% on 1/1/2026, 40% on 1/1/2028 and 75% by 1/1/2030.
 - ii. Information on the Bill is located at http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB54
 - b. On October 30, 2019, an application for an Initiative was filed with the CA Attorney General. If the Initiative qualifies, it could appear on the November 2020 ballot. <https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/California-s-plastic-pollution-fight-may-be-14809106.php>
 - i. Requirements include that manufacturers and retailers of single use plastic packaging or products in CA to reduce waste generation through combined source reduction and recycling by 20% on 1/1/2023, 40% on 1/1/2025 and 80% by 1/1/2030
2. Santa Clara County
 - a. County of Santa Clara Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission (Los Altos is a voting member of this Commission) www.reducewaste.org
 - b. The County Waste Reduction Commission proposed the Ad Hoc Model Foodware Ordinance Committee (Most Cities in the County are participating)
 - c. A draft model ordinance has been circulated and will be reviewed by the committee at a meeting scheduled for 12/10/2019.
3. City of Los Altos
 - a. Andrea Trese is the Los Altos representative to the Ad Hoc Model Foodware Ordinance Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2019/20 Targets & Work Plan

December 9, 2019

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action Plan	Review and comment on Building and Electric Vehicle Reach Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee -Don Weiden, Laura Tekslar and Lei Yuan 	January 2020	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVCE presentation of Building Model Reach Code language on May 29, 2019; SVCE presentation of Electric Vehicle Model Reach Code language on June 6, 2019; SVCE presentation of Reach Codes to Commission on July 8, 2019; Commission made a motion to support staff development and ratification of a reach code; Subcommittee met on July 15, 2019; the subcommittee will come back with recommendations to City staff by the next EC meeting; the Commission discussed and selected reach code pathways on Oct. 14, 2019; the Commission reviewed the draft commission presentation to City Council on Nov. 5, 2019 The City Council directed the EC and City staff to pursue an all-electric reach code ordinance.
	Update of City's CAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainability Coordinator position was approved by the City Council for the Fiscal Year 2019-20 / 2020-21 Operating Budget on June 11, 2019; the job posting has been created (Oct. 2019) and interviews will take place Nov. 2019 The CAP is on hold until the new Sustainability Coordinator is on board
Water Conservation & Stormwater Management	Green Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist staff in development and review of Plan 	June 2019	Storm Water Regional Discharge Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff made a presentation of their final plan to the Environmental Commission on May 13, 2019 Approved by City Council on July 9, 2019

Solid Waste Diversion	Provide review comments on Solid Waste Disposal Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee Don Weiden, Laura Tekler and Chad Martin 	January 2020	Solid Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee met with staff and City Consultant on March 20, 2019 for a study session; City held a Community Meeting on May 15, 2019; staff met with subcommittee on Thursday, August 15; a Study Session was held with City Council on August 27; Commission approved a statement to City Council on Oct. 14, 2019; the contract was approved by Council on Oct. 22, 2019
	Investigate initiatives on limiting single use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to EC on June 10, 2019 The City of Los Altos is participating in the Ad Hoc Model Foodware Ordinance Committee Andrea Trese from the City's Engineering Division is the Los Altos representative The draft model ordinance should be distributed to the County Ad Hoc Committee members for discussion in Nov. 2019.
Community Outreach & Education	Develop program in collaboration with the Los Altos History Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Education Fund held by LACF David Klein 	June 2019	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with History Museum Apricot Stem Fair EnviroThon Challenge held at the Apricot STEM Fair on June 30, 2019 Winners and awards were selected at the EC meeting of July 8, 2019
	Update environmental measures on the City web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chad Martin 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City staff is currently looking into gaining access to the City's website
	Continue gas-powered leaf blower ban outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Tekler 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	
	Continue anti-idling outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Weiden 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 10, 2019 Report on Los Altos HS Survey Results
	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	

	Assist staff with various outreach and education efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan • Water Conservation • Storm Water Management • Solid Waste Diversion • Urban Forest / Trees • Downtown Vision 		Public outreach and education	
--	--	---	--	-------------------------------	--



DATE: December 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #5

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: City Staff Updates

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive staff update

BACKGROUND

Monthly staff updates will be discussed as listed below.

DISCUSSION

1. Environmental Commission attendance for upcoming Council meetings

Attachment:

- A. 2019 City Council Meeting Attendance Assignments



**1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: December 9, 2019
TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: TENTATIVE 2019 City Council Meeting Attendance Assignments

Please sign up to attend or view (online) three (3) Regular City Council meetings for 2019.

Tentative 2019 Schedule

2019 Regular City Council meeting dates:	Attendance by:
January 8, 2019	Don Weiden
January 22, 2019	Laura Teksler
February 12, 2019	Lei Yuan
February 26, 2019	Don Bray
March 12, 2019	Don Weiden
March 26, 2019	David Klein
April 9, 2019	Laura Teksler
April 23, 2019	Don Weiden
May 14, 2019	Don Weiden
May 28, 2019	Chad Martin
June 11, 2019	Don Bray
June 25, 2019	Heather Halkola
July 9, 2019	Lei Yuan
August 27, 2019	Laura Teksler
September 10, 2019	David Klein
September 24, 2019	Chad Martin
October 22, 2019	Don Weiden
November 12, 2019	Don Weiden
November 19, 2019	Laura Teksler and Lei Yuan
December 10, 2019	David Klein
January 14, 2020	
January 28, 2020	
February 11, 2020	

Regular City Council meetings 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 or view one of the City Council meetings to which you are assigned, please arrange for another Commissioner to attend in your place.