



DATE: November 5, 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. Solid Waste Disposal Contract Subcommittee Statement
- B. 2019/20 Targets and Work Plan

November 5, 2019

To: Los Altos City Council and City Staff
From: Los Altos Environmental Commission
Subject: Mission Trails Waste System Contract

During its October 14, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission considered and discussed a subcommittee report that provided sustainability perspectives to City Staff during their preparation and negotiation of a draft Mission Trails Waste System (MTWS) Contract extension. The Environmental Commission voted unanimously (5 – 0) to present the following statement to City Council and City Staff on the MTWS contract extension.

We believe an overwhelming majority of the residents of Los Altos are committed to and value the recycling program currently provided by Mission Trails Waste Systems. Los Altos residents' care and value for recycling are demonstrated by the City's impressive 77% waste diversion rate, the second highest diversion rate as compared to other local jurisdictions. In addition, the results of the 2019 customer survey conducted by the City's consultant, R3 Consulting Group, show that 60% of respondents cited quality and range of services as most important to them while 20% rated cost as most important.

Based on this information, as well as the importance of minimizing our City's environmental impact through the best waste handling practices, the Commission strongly recommends that the current service of separate Garbage, Compost and Recycling collection be retained without reduction in frequency or process for the next 10 to 15 years. We urge the City to not lower the minimum diversion requirement of 65% proposed for the contract extension. We believe County, State and Federal laws will be enacted over the next few years that will improve diversion rates by requiring compostable and recyclable packaging materials, reducing food and product packaging, and limiting single use plastic items.

We recommend that the City increase participation with MTWS on education and outreach efforts. Behaviors that have been or are being learned need to be reinforced. The education and outreach efforts will ensure our community and MTWS customers ready for the time when the value of compost and recycled materials increases.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
2019/20 Targets & Work Plan
November 5, 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 Teksler 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 Environmental Commission on July 8, 2019; EC 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 will vote on a recommendation of the reach code pathways on October 14, 2019
	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) This 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; the contract is on the agenda (tentatively) for October 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
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	
	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	