



DATE: February 10, 2020

AGENDA ITEM #2

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Emiko Ancheta, 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. 2019/20 Targets and Work Plan
- B. Single Use Plastics Memo to Council
- C. Communities Evaluating Reach Codes
- D. SVCE Frequently Asked Questions

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2019/20 Targets & Work Plan

February 10, 2020

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 Tekler and Lei Yuan 	January 2020	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On November 19, 2019, the City Council directed the EC and City staff to pursue an All-Electric Reach Code Ordinance. On January 30, 2020, the subcommittee and City Staff met to discuss the next steps. The Reach Code outreach workshop is targeted for March/April 2020.
	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 Sustainability Coordinator was hired on Jan. 13, 2020. Staff is currently discussing the budget and next steps with the City management team.
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 the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan to the Environmental Commission on May 13, 2019. This was 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 Teksler and Chad Martin 	January 2020	Solid Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mission Trails Waste System (MTWS) Contract was approved by City Council on Oct. 22, 2019. The MTWS Contract extension will be finalized in Feb. 2020. Staff is working with R3 Consultants and MTWS on finalizing the revisions from the track changes received January 14, 2020.
	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"> Andrea Trese (Assistant Civil Engineer) and Emiko Ancheta (Sustainability Coordinator) are the Los Altos representatives for the Ad Hoc Model Foodware Ordinance Committee. The draft model ordinance was distributed to the County Ad Hoc Committee members for discussion in Nov. 2019; currently, revisions are being made. The EC submitted a status report to City Council and Staff on December 16, 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. EC will coordinate w/ History Museum for next year's event.
	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"> The City has hired a new Public Information's Officer, Sonia Lee. Emiko and Sonia will work together on updating the City's website, including the Environmental Resources Dashboard.
	Continue gas-powered leaf blower (GPLB) ban outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Teksler 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Ziff will give an update on her team's efforts to educate about the GPLB at the March or April 2020 EC meeting.
	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"> On June 10, 2019, the Los Altos HS Survey Results were presented. The EC has been supporting the efforts of Greentown Los Altos.

	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach Code workshop is scheduled for March/April 2020.
	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	

From: Don Weiden <DonWeiden@KennedyJenks.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2019 9:53 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Calandra Niday; Andrea Trese
Subject: Single Use Plastics

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The following Environmental Commission report on single use plastics is provided in response to the Council's October 22, 2019 Potential Future Agenda Items discussion on this topic.

Over the past several months, the Environmental Commission's activities on Single Use Plastics Reduction has included

- Monitoring state-wide legislation and developments
- Monitoring neighboring community legislation and activities
- Participating in the County Waste Reduction Commission's Ad Hoc Model Ordinance Committee

The 2019 CA State Legislature closed without a vote on SB 54 Solid Waste: Packaging and Products that was proposed to address many issues related to single use plastics. State Senator Jerry Hill believes this bill will be brought forward for discussion and a vote early in the 2020 Legislature session. In addition, an application for a State Ballot Initiative on single use plastics has been filed with the CA Attorney General. The Initiative contains restrictions in addition to those proposed in SB 54 and, if it qualifies, would appear on the November 2020 CA Election Ballot.

Berkeley, Palo Alto and San Francisco have implemented some of the most comprehensive local ordinances. Most Cities in Santa Clara County as well as the County are participating in the County Waste Reduction Commission's Ad Hoc Model Ordinance Committee.

Los Altos Associate Civil Engineer, Andrea Trese, and Environmental Commissioner, Don Weiden, have been participating in the County Waste Reduction Commission's Ad Hoc Model Ordinance Committee meetings. The Committee is led by Lori Topley of the City of Mountain View. The Committee last met on December 10, 2019 to review and discuss the first draft of a model ordinance. A second draft of the model ordinance is now being developed for further review and discussion.













Following finalization of the County Waste Reduction Commission's Ad Hoc Model Ordinance Committee's Model Ordinance, we anticipate actions and activities for Los Altos City Staff and the Environmental Commission will include the following (each dependent upon agreement to continue from the preceding activities)

- The new City Sustainability Coordinator establishes the work priority of this issue
- Review of the Model Ordinance by City Staff and the Environmental Commission
- Draft concepts for a Los Altos Ordinance based on the Model Ordinance
- Outreach to impacted business and public leaders
- Draft a Los Altos Ordinance
- Present Ordinance for City Council consideration

Don Weiden

Environmental Commission Chair

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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		Approved		Begins on pg. 33		X		X
Los Gatos		Approved		Begins on pg. 93			X	X
Cupertino		Approved		Ordinance			X	X
Los Altos Hills		2nd Reading		Draft Ordinance		X		X
Campbell		2nd Reading		Begins on pg. 41		X		
Los Altos		1st Reading					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

SVCE Frequently Asked Questions

Does PG&E have enough transmission capacity for the expected increase in electricity demand?

This answer has two parts – in general and then specific to a project location.

Generally speaking, yes, PG&E has enough transmission capacity. New construction accounts for a very small fraction of overall electricity usage and occurs gradually, enabling PG&E time to accommodate.

At the site level, all projects are reviewed for impact on the local transformers and lines. This will continue. PG&E has been a participant in the reach code effort since the beginning and sent letters of support to all cities considering a reach code.

Does SVCE have enough generation capacity for the expected increase in electricity demand?

SVCE regularly reviews customer load compared to our energy contracts. We began funding the development of new renewable resources starting in 2017 and continue to do so for this very reason.

What might be the positive or negative impact on a residential electricity bill for an all-electric home?

Using the same construction budget, all-electric homes provide similar or lower utility bills than comparable homes using gas.

What type of energy is on the grid?

SVCE is responsible for the electricity purchases for its territory. All sources are carbon-free. Load growth will also be met with carbon-free sources.

Other buyers in the energy market purchase coal or natural gas to meet their regional needs. As renewables have increased, fossil fuel usage has decreased. Over the last 10 years, natural gas is down from 45% to 35% today. Coal is down from 18% to just 3%. Renewables have increased from 11% to 31% over that same period. All load serving entities have a choice in what they buy.

https://ww2.energy.ca.gov/almanac/electricity_data/total_system_power.html.

Doesn't renewable energy cost more?

This certainly was true a decade ago. However, the cost of new generation coming from carbon-free sources is competitive to and often less costly than new natural gas power plants.

Isn't gas still used when the sun goes down?

More correctly, something other than solar must be used when the sun goes down. This can be met by hydro, wind, natural gas peakers, and now by large scale battery storage often recharged by solar as SVCE has done.

Oakland to swap jet fueled peaker plant for urban battery

SV Clean Energy Signs major contracts for California's largest solar-plus-storage projects

Is gas more resilient?

PG&E is also required to shut down gas service during fires and/or earthquakes. Gas service was shutoff for tens of thousands during Camp and Kincaid Fires, some for over 10 days.

For new buildings with gas appliances, having gas service does not improve resiliency as new gas appliances require electricity for ignition and motors to function. This includes tankless water heaters, furnaces, gas dryers, gas ranges (especially with digital controls). Resilience is best handled with battery storage, propane (long storage life) generators or both.

Aren't fuel cells twice as efficient as natural gas power plants?

True but somewhat misleading. If all electricity were produced in this fashion, emissions within PG&E territory would actually rise compared to their current power mix, not reduce. Even PG&E purchases most of their electricity (about 85%) from sources currently cleaner than this method. Compared to what SVCE purchases, the increased GHG from using natural gas this way would be dramatically worse, as all SVCE sources are cleaner. Any use of this technology in PG&E territory would rapidly move emissions in the wrong direction.

Do gas appliances affect my health?

Burning gas releases multiple harmful byproducts, including carbon monoxide and formaldehyde. "Additionally, cooking emissions, especially from gas stoves, have been associated with increased respiratory disease. Young children, people with

asthma, and people with heart or lung disease are especially vulnerable to the toxic effects of combustion pollutants.” – [California Air Resources Board](#)

Visit [SiliconValleyReachCodes.org](https://www.siliconvalleyreachcodes.org) to learn more.