



**MONDAY, JULY 9, 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 June 11, 2012.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Welcome and Introduction of new Environmental Commissioner Gary Hedden
3. Climate Action Plan  
Activity progress report by staff and from the Environmental Commission Task Force.
  - a. Residential and Commercial Survey – update on progress and postings.
4. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Single-Use Bags
  - a. Status update on Environmental Impact Report for EPS and Single-Use Bags.
  - b. First public hearing for San Mateo County to receive verbal comments on the plastic bag ban environmental impact report (EIR) will be at the San Mateo County Planning Commission meeting on July 11, 9am, location at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA.
5. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
  - a. Fremont Bridge Creek signage.

6. Environmental Commission Website
  - a. Staff report on monthly hits to website.
  - b. Discussion of information and resources to add to website.
7. Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review  
Review and discussion of June action items in 2012-2013 Work Plan approved by Council at the Joint Meeting on April 3, 2012.
8. City of Los Altos 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Planning Committee meeting progress.
9. Announcements and Items for Information
  - a. Environmental Commissioner Representative at July 24, 2012 Council meeting – Commissioner Hedden. Comments on June 12 and June 26, 2012 Council Meeting.
  - b. Rosita Park Award – for water drainage and water protection
  - c. *Sustainovation* event – Comments from Commissioner Hedden who attended.

#### 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, JUNE 11, 2012 AT  
7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD,  
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Bray, Eyre, Keller, Reed, Ardehali

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 May 14, 2012. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Climate Action Plan  
Staff report and memo presented by Zach Dahl, Senior Planner, giving progress report and discussion on the Climate Action Plan process, goals and anticipated public outreach plan by Environmental Commission.
2. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Single-Use Bags
  - a. Staff gave update on Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan followed by discussion.
  - b. Staff gave update on Environmental Impact Report plan for EPS and Single-Use Bags.
    - i. First public hearing, to receive verbal comments, will be at the San Mateo County Planning Commission meeting on July 11, 9am, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA.
3. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
  - a. Staff gave update followed by discussion of Fremont Bridge Creek signage.
4. Environmental Commission Website
  - a. Staff report 170 monthly hits from May 7, 2012 to present to website.
  - b. Discussion of information and resources to add to website will be presented at next meeting.

5. Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review  
Review and discussion of June action items to be completed in the 2012-2013 Work Plan approved by Council at the Joint Meeting on April 3, 2012.
6. City of Los Altos 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
No report. Discussion of how to participate now that Steve Anderson is no longer on the Environmental Commission.
7. Announcements and Items for Information
  - a. Recognition and thanks to former Commissioner Steve Anderson for his years of service.
  - b. Comments – Annual Commission training will be held on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Environmental Commissioner Representative at May 22 Council meeting – comments on meeting and June 12, 2012 Council Meeting – Staff will attend.
  - d. Commissioner Eyre gave comments on Creek Clean-up with Greentown Los Altos event on May 19, 2012.
  - e. Council will appoint Environmental Commissioner to fill vacancy at the June 12, 2012 City Council meeting.

#### COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

August Commission meeting – "Recommendations for protecting birds and enhancing their habitat in Los Altos" presented by Shani Kleinhaus, Ph.D. Environmental Advocate with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and is Fish and Game commissioner for Santa Clara County.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bray adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

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J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

**Michael Horta**

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**From:** Jon Maginot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 4:33 PM  
**To:** J Logan  
**Subject:** FW: Transportation Survey  
**Attachments:** Los Altos Resident Housing Survey.pdf; Los Altos Resident Travel Patterns Survey.pdf

Will you take a look at this and forward as appropriate?

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**From:** Chris Hlavka [mailto:chris\_hlavka@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 19, 2012 4:04 PM  
**To:** Jon Maginot  
**Subject:** Transportation Survey

Please forward to the Environmental Commission members:

Your surveys will help publicize your efforts on a climate action, so I'll be happy to forward them. However transportation survey may not provide more information that you can get elsewhere, in particular because it will not be statistically representative. The new Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP), available on the Los Altos home web page contains information on bicycle usage, and also some on car usage, e.g. CO2 production from cars. I can't tell you where to get California car make/type data, but it has to be available somewhere - maybe DMV? Probably statewide data is good enough for most purposes unless you really want to know how much higher than average the percentage of BMW's and the like are in Los Altos, or how many fewer trucks. Probably most California families with school-age children have SUV's.

It's an indication of how car-centric our society is when you ask about "vehicle" ownership when it appears you really mean car or truck ownership. **Wikipedia definition:**  
"vehicle (from [Latin](#): *vehiculum*<sup>[1]</sup>) is a [mobile machine](#) that is designed or used to transport people or cargo. Most often vehicles are manufactured, such as [bicycles](#), [cars](#), [motorcycles](#), [trains](#), [ships](#), [boats](#) and [aircraft](#) [2]"

Hope this helps - Chris Hlavka, member, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (however the opinions are all my own)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Kathy Small <KSmall@losaltosca.gov>  
**To:** Bill Crook <Billcrook@aol.com>; "Bill Crook (LsAltosCrook@aol.com)" <LsAltosCrook@aol.com>; "billshepp@gmail.com" <billshepp@gmail.com>; "Chris Hlavka" <chris\_hlavka@yahoo.com>; Jim Fenton <fenton@bluepopcorn.net>; "karl.w.danz@gmail.com" <karl.w.danz@gmail.com>; "Suzanne Ambiel (s@ambiel.org)" <s@ambiel.org>; "Wesley Brinsfield (wbrinsfield@gmail.com)" <wbrinsfield@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 18, 2012 3:22 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Climate Action Plan Surveys

*Kathy Small*  
ASSISTANT ENGINEER  
City of Los Altos  
One North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, California 94022-3087  
650-947-2628  
fax 650-947-2732

7/3/2012

[www.losaltosca.gov](http://www.losaltosca.gov)

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**From:** Zach Dahl

**Sent:** Monday, June 18, 2012 1:02 PM

**To:** Russell Morreale ; Kathy Small; Beverly Tucker ; Greg Milano ; Candace Bates ; Peggy Ford; Jon Maginot

**Subject:** FW: Climate Action Plan Surveys

Hello Staff Liaisons,

Can you please forward this email to your respective commissioners?

As outlined below, we are in the process of developing a Climate Action Plan for the City and need input from Los Altos residents. Please send this information out to your networks, friends and other Los Altos residents who would be interested in contributing to the development of our Climate Action Plan and encourage them to participate.

Thank you!

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### Los Altos Climate Action Plan Resident Surveys

We need your input! The City is in the process of developing a Climate Action Plan and we are surveying Los Altos residents to better understand household energy usage and modes of travel within the City. Please consider completing one or both of the surveys described below. The more residents that participate, the better our information will be and that will result in more effective policies that are specific to the needs and habits of Los Altos residents. Both surveys are available here: <http://www.losaltosenvironment.org/>. The surveys are also attached as PDF files.

#### Residential Energy and Water Use Survey

This survey will help guide us in looking at new and existing policies related to green building, energy conservation, etc.

#### Resident Travel Patterns Survey

This survey will help us to better understand our resident's travel patterns, modes of transportation used and guide policy discussions related to development of the City's Climate Action Plan.

If you have questions about the surveys or would like to learn more about Los Altos Climate Action Plan process, please contact Senior Planner Zachary Dahl with the Community Development Department at (650) 947-2633 or at [zdahl@losaltosca.gov](mailto:zdahl@losaltosca.gov). Climate Action Plan updates will also be provided at each Environmental Commission meeting, which is held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Los Altos City Hall.

# Los Altos Residential Energy and Water Use Survey

As part of the process to develop the Los Altos Climate Action Plan, we would like to better understand residential energy and water usage within the City. While this survey is not intended to be scientific, it will help guide us in looking at new and existing policies related to green building, energy conservation, etc. **This survey should be filled for your entire household and should only be filled out for households located within the City of Los Altos.** This survey is confidential. Results will be aggregated and anonymous, and will not identify your address.

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1. **How many people, including yourself, have resided in your house at least 50-percent of the time for the last 12 months?** \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. **How many square feet is your house (excluding garage and non-habitable space)?**
  - 1,500 or less sq ft
  - 1,501-2,500 sq ft
  - 2,501-3,500 sq ft
  - 3,501 or more sq ft
  
3. **What year was your home originally built?**
  - Before 1970
  - 1970s
  - 1980s
  - 1990s
  - 2000s
  - 2008 or newer
  
4. **If your home has been substantially remodeled, affecting and/or adding more than 50% of your home's habitable square footage, when was this work most recently completed?**
  - 1970s
  - 1980s
  - 1990s
  - 2000s
  - 2008 or newer
  - No Substantial remodeling has occurred
  
5. **Have you made energy efficiency improvements as part of a remodel or at some other time? If so, please check the applicable improvements below:**
  - New water heater
  - New windows on at least 50% of the house
  - New insulation (attic, under-floor or walls) on at least 50% of the house
  - New heating/ventilation system
  - New air conditioning unit(s)
  - Photovoltaic/solar electric panels
  - Energy Star appliances (refrigerator, stove, washer/dryer, etc.)
  - Solar water heater for household water or swimming pool
  - Electric vehicle charging station
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. **Does your house have a swimming pool and/or spa?**
  - Swimming pool
  - Jacuzzi/spa
  - No

7. How many kWh (kilowatt hours) of electricity did your household use in the last 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ kWh

*If you do not have your previous 12 bills, you can either call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 and ask for your total kilowatt hour usage for the last 12 months or make an online request for this information via the "Contact Us" screen on [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com)*

8. How many therms of natural gas did your household use in the last 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ therms

*If you do not have your previous 12 bills, you can either call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 and ask for your total natural gas usage for the last 12 months or make an online request for this information via the "Contact Us" screen on [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com)*

9. How much water in CCF (Hundred Cubic Feet) did your household use in the last 12 months?

\_\_\_\_\_ CCF

*If you do not have your previous 12 bills, you can call CalWater at 1-650 917-0152 or view your usage at [www.Calwater.com](http://www.Calwater.com), "Account Activity and Water Usage"*

10. Have you had a home energy audit done on your house?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

11. What is the address of your household in Los Altos?

*This question will be kept confidential and is only asked in order to ensure the validity of the data collected.*

Address number: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_

12. If you would like to be notified when the survey results are published and receive updates about the Los Altos Climate Action Plan, please provide your email address (optional).

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

You can complete this survey online at <http://www.losaltosenvironment.org/> or complete this form and submit it via email to [zdahl@losaltosca.gov](mailto:zdahl@losaltosca.gov). Or, you can submit it via mail or in person here:

Community Development Department  
Attn: Zachary Dahl  
1 North San Antonio Road,  
Los Altos, CA 94022



# Los Altos Resident Travel Patterns Survey

As part of the process to develop the Los Altos Climate Action Plan, we would like to better understand our resident's travel patterns and modes of transportation used. **This survey should be filled by individuals who are Los Altos residents.** This survey is confidential. The results will be aggregated and anonymous, and will not identify your address.

1. **How old are you?**

- 20 or younger
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71 or older

2. **What is your occupation?** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Do you own or lease a vehicle?**     Yes     No

a. **If yes, what is the year, make and model (i.e. 2005 Ford Explorer) of the primary vehicle you drive?**

Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Model: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **In an average week, approximately how many miles do you drive?** \_\_\_\_\_

a. **Of the total miles you drive in an average week, how many does your commute to and from work account for?** \_\_\_\_\_

5. **When you think about an average week, what percent of the mileage you drive is for the following categories (the categories should total 100%)**

	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Commuting to work, school, volunteer activity, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shopping, errands, taking kids to school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social/leisure/recreation activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____											
_____											

6. **When you think about an average week, what percent of the mileage you drive is within the City of Los Altos?**
- 0%
  - 20%
  - 40%
  - 60%
  - 80%
  - 100%
7. **When traveling inside Los Altos, how do you travel? (check all that apply)**
- Drive alone in your car
  - Carpool in a car
  - Take public transportation
  - Walk or bicycle
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
8. **When traveling outside Los Altos, how do you travel? (check all that apply)**
- Drive alone in your car
  - Carpool in a car
  - Take public transportation
  - Walk or bicycle
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
9. **How often do you carpool (drive with more than one person in your vehicle) when traveling to destinations outside of Los Altos?**
- Never
  - Rarely (once or twice a year)
  - Sometimes (several times a month)
  - Often (multiple times per week)
  - Every day
10. **How often do you use public transportation when traveling outside of Los Altos?**
- Never
  - Rarely (once or twice a year)
  - Sometimes (several times a month)
  - Often (multiple times per week)
  - Every day
11. **How often do you bike or walk to commute or run an errand (this does not include recreational biking or walking)?**
- Never
  - Rarely (once or twice a year)
  - Sometimes (several times a month)
  - Often (multiple times per week)
  - Every day
12. **How often do you telecommute in place of traveling to work?**
- I am not permitted to telecommute for my work
  - I can telecommute, but I never do it
  - Rarely (once or twice a month)
  - Regularly (once a week)
  - Often (at least 3 days/week)
  - Every day

13. When thinking about your air travel, how many plane trips (roundtrip) did you make in the past 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Approximately how many miles did you travel by plane in the past 12 month? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What percentage of the plane miles traveled were business/work related verses for pleasure/vacation?  
\_\_\_\_ % Business/work  
\_\_\_\_ % Pleasure/vacation

14. Are you a resident of Los Altos?  Yes  No

15. What is the address of your household in Los Altos?

*This question will be kept confidential and is only asked in order to ensure the validity of the data collected.*

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Street: \_\_\_\_\_

16. If you would like to be notified when the survey results are published and receive updates about the Los Altos Climate Action Plan, please provide your email address (optional).

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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You can complete this survey online at <http://www.losaltosenvironment.org/> or complete this form and submit it via email to [zdahl@losaltosca.gov](mailto:zdahl@losaltosca.gov). Or, you can submit it via mail or in person here:

Community Development Department  
Attn: Zachary Dahl  
1 North San Antonio Road  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**Michael Horta**

**From:** Larry Lind  
**Sent:** Friday, June 22, 2012 1:25 PM  
**To:** Zach Dahl  
**Cc:** Jim Gustafson; Kathy Kleinbaum; J Logan; David Kornfield  
**Subject:** FW: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of Program DEIR - COUNTY OF SAN MATEO SINGLE USE BAG BAN ORDINANCE

**Attachments:** SUBB Final NOA.pdf



SUBB Final NOA.pdf  
(99 KB)

Did you get this? Anything we need to do?

Larry Lind, PE  
Senior Engineer/City Engineer  
(650) 947-2624  
llind@losaltosca.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Camille Leung [mailto:cleung@smcgov.org]  
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 9:57 AM  
To: davids@acterra.org; barmbaker@aol.com; dottynhugh@aol.com; donald@bahl.com; cdemelo@belmont.gov; gscoles@belmont.gov; jmccluskey@burlingame.org; jnantell@burlingame.org; pstroud@cattaneostroud.com; citymanager@ci.brisbane.ca.us; rbreault@ci.brisbane.ca.us; mraines@ci.millbrae.ca.us; sreider@ci.millbrae.ca.us; ekoo@ci.milpitas.ca.gov; twilliams@ci.milpitas.ca.gov; rhodess@ci.pacifica.ca.us; ritzmaa@ci.pacifica.ca.us; cjackson@ci.sanbruno.ca.us; BILLH@cityofcampbell.com; cmoffice@cityofcampbell.com; mdaher@cityofepa.org; bmoura@cityofsancarlos.org; jmaltbie@cityofsancarlos.org; citymanager@cityofsanmateo.org; SStClair@cityofsanmateo.org; city.manager@colma.ca.gov; Michael.Laughlin@colma.ca.gov; lgroshong@comcast.net; nbarnby@comcast.net; vkojola@comcast.net; cherid@cupertino.org; manager@cupertino.org; jcurran@dalycity.org; pmartel@dalycity.org; alorenz@fostercity.org; jhardy@fostercity.org; bradshaw1729@gmail.com; christinajadelee@gmail.com; donaldbahl@gmail.com; dusink12@gmail.com; katiec@hmbcity.com; LSnideman@hmbcity.com; jason\_mansfield@hotmail.com; jrodricneal@hotmail.com; Administration; Larry Lind; CWolter@losgatosca.gov; manager@losgatosca.gov; tim@lsls.net; lpd@major2nd.com; grojas@menlopark.org; rlfotu@menlopark.org; city.mgr@mountainview.gov; Lori.Topley@mountainview.gov; mstechbart@msn.com; sodonnel@msn.com; angela@portolavalley.net; bdegarmeaux@portolavalley.net; citymanager@redwoodcity.org; malcolm.smith@redwoodcity.org; lsanders@sanbruno.ca.gov; bacobitz@sbcglobal.net; capekorn@sbcglobal.net; douglecta@sbcglobal.net; DCraft@SeizeTruth.com; Matt Fabry; Nicholas Calderon; barry.nagel@ssf.net; susan.kennedy@ssf.net; mmurrayl@stanford.edu; lhotchki@visa.com; kbryant@woodsidgetown.org; PNagengast@woodsidgetown.org; acmoffice2415@yahoo.com; ambrozic1@yahoo.com; jenniferpont@yahoo.com; lesliannel@yahoo.com; MarciaKeimer@yahoo.com; sjtaffee@yahoo.com; taraihito@yahoo.com; chris@zig-align.com  
Cc: Megan Jones; Matthew Maddox; Adrienne Tissier; Carole Groom; Don Horsley; Dean Peterson; Dave Pine; John Maltbie; Rose Gibson; Tim Fox  
Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of Program DEIR - COUNTY OF SAN MATEO SINGLE USE BAG BAN ORDINANCE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO SINGLE USE BAG BAN ORDINANCE

DATE: June 22, 2012  
TO: Responsible Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties  
LEAD AGENCY: County of San Mateo

Pursuant to Sections 15086 and 15087, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, this

Notice is given to advise interested parties that the County has completed a Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (Program DEIR) for the proposed project described below and that the Program DEIR is available for public review.

DEIR is directly available at the following link:

[http://smchealth.org/sites/default/files/docs/EHS/SanMateoCountySingleUseBagBanOrdinance\\_DEIR%5B1%5D.pdf](http://smchealth.org/sites/default/files/docs/EHS/SanMateoCountySingleUseBagBanOrdinance_DEIR%5B1%5D.pdf)

PROJECT SPONSOR: County of San Mateo Health System, Environmental Health Services, 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100, San Mateo, CA 94403, Contact: Dean D. Peterson, Director, (650) 372-6200

PROJECT LOCATIONS: For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that the Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance (Proposed Ordinance) would be effective within the geographical limits of unincorporated San Mateo County and within the following participating municipalities, referred to as the "Study Area:

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Belmont  
Brisbane  
Burlingame  
Colma  
Daly City  
East Palo Alto  
Foster City  
Half Moon Bay  
Menlo Park  
Millbrae  
Pacifica  
Portola Valley  
Redwood City  
San Bruno  
San Carlos  
San Mateo  
South San Francisco  
Woodside

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Milpitas  
Cupertino  
Los Gatos  
Los Altos  
Campbell  
Mountain View

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Proposed Ordinance would regulate the use of paper and plastic single use carryout bags and apply to all retail establishments located within the limits of the Study Area, including those selling clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer. It would not apply to restaurants nor nonprofit charitable reuse organizations. The Proposed Ordinance would (1) prohibit the free distribution of single-use carryout paper and plastic bags and (2) require retail establishments to charge customers for recycled paper bags and reusable bags at the point of sale. The minimum charge would be ten cents (\$0.10) per paper bag until December 31, 2014 and twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per paper bag on or after January 1, 2015. Single-use plastic carryout bags are defined as bags made from petroleum or bio-based plastic that are less than 2.25 mils thick (0.00225 inches). The Proposed Ordinance would prohibit retailers from distributing both petroleum and bio-based single-use carryout plastic bags at the point of sale. The Proposed Ordinance would not prohibit the distribution of plastic "product bags". Retail establishments would be required to keep a complete and accurate record (including documents of the purchase and sale of any recycled paper bag or reusable bag) for a minimum period of three years from the date of purchase and sale. The record must be available for inspection during regular business hours by any County employee authorized to enforce this part at no cost to the County. The charge would be retained by the affected stores to compensate the stores for increased costs related to compliance with the Proposed Ordinance.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Air Quality ● Hydrology/Water Quality ● Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources ● Utilities and Service Systems

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Program DEIR will be available for public comment for a 45-day review period, beginning on June 22, 2012 and ending on August 6, 2012. Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:00 p.m. on August 6, 2012 and addressed to:

Camille M. Leung, Planner, Planning and Building Department, 455 County Center, Second Floor, Redwood City, CA 94063, cleung@smcgov.org, (650) 363-1826.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Program DEIR is available for public review at the County of San Mateo Environmental Health Services website (<http://www.smchealth.org/BagBan>), as well as the following locations during regular business hours:

County of San Mateo  
Planning and Building Dept.  
455 County Center  
Second Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

San Mateo Main Library  
55 West 3rd Avenue  
San Mateo, Ca 94402

City of Redwood Downtown Library  
1044 Middlefield Road  
Redwood City, CA 94063

County of San Mateo Health System  
Environmental Health Services  
2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100  
San Mateo, CA 94403

Half Moon Bay Library  
620 Correas Street  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

City of Mountain View Library  
585 Franklin Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Serramonte Main Library  
40 Wembley Drive  
Daly City, CA 94015

Los Gatos Public Library  
Town Civic Center  
100 Villa Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Milpitas Library  
160 North Main Street  
Milpitas, California 95035

Millbrae Library  
1 Library Avenue  
Millbrae, CA 94030

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: For unincorporated San Mateo County, the first of 2 Planning Commission meetings is scheduled for July 11, 2012. The 2nd meeting date and the Board of Supervisors decision date has not yet been set. For each of the 24 participating agencies, decisions by the participating agencies will follow the County's actions described above. Hearing dates at participating municipalities have

not yet been set. For more information and updates on upcoming hearings, please visit: <http://www.smchealth.org/BagBan>.

Camille M. Leung  
Planning and Building Department  
455 County Center, Second Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
Phone: (650) 363-1826  
Fax: (650) 363-4849

Please help us to serve you better and take a moment to complete our survey, just click on the link below:

<http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/planning/survey>

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## Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance

- 24 cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara County
- 552,931,362 plastic bags used per year in study area
- Bans the distribution of plastic carry-out bags
  - Minimum charge of 10 cents per paper bag
    - Includes all retail **except** restaurants
- **Does not** include protective bags for produce or meat
  - Intent is to reduce litter and plastic use
    - Encourages use of reusable bags
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) studies possible environmental issues with the ordinance
- Comments on the EIR are due by August 6<sup>th</sup>

[www.smchealth.org/bagban](http://www.smchealth.org/bagban)



<b>Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>		
<b>Impact AQ-1</b> Evaluates emissions from the manufacture of paper, plastic and reusable bags	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as the ordinance will substantially reduce the number of bags produced.	The impact would be <b>beneficial</b> without mitigation
<b>Impact AQ-2</b> Evaluates emissions due to the transportation of paper, plastic and reusable bags	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as the slight increase in truck trips is not expected to exceed BAAQMD thresholds.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Impact BIO-1</b> Evaluates the impact of litter entering coastal and bay waterways	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as the number of single use bags will be reduced, thus it is anticipated there will be an 8 to 12 percent reduction of litter entering the environment.	The impact would be <b>beneficial</b> without mitigation
<b>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b>		
<b>Impact GHG-1</b> Evaluates the creation of methane and other GHG when paper bags decompose	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as emissions would not exceed established thresholds.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation
<b>Impact GHG-2</b> Evaluates conflicts with policies/regulations that reduce emissions of GHS	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as the ordinance does not conflict with existing policies or regulations.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation
<b>HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY</b>		
<b>Impact HWQ-1</b> Evaluates impacts to stormdrains	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as the reduction in the use of single use bags will reduce litter by 8 to 12 percent.	The impact would be <b>beneficial</b> without mitigation
<b>Impact HWQ-2</b> Evaluates increase use of chemicals associated with the production of paper and reusable bags and degradation of water bodies	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as bag manufactures are required to comply with a myriad of requirements designed to protect water bodies and the environment.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation
<b>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</b>		
<b>Impact U-1</b> Evaluates the increased use of water due to the washing of reusable bags	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as water use would increase negligibly and there are sufficient water supplies available to meet the needs, even in drought conditions.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation
<b>Impact U-2</b> Evaluates the increase in wastewater disposal requirements due to washing of bags	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as the increase is negligible and would remain within current capacity to treat waste water in the Study Area.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation
<b>Impact U-3</b> Evaluates increase in solid waste associated with the increase in use of paper bags	<b>Mitigation is not required</b> as projected increase would remain within the capacity of the regional landfills.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This section summarizes the characteristics of the proposed ordinance and the significant environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and residual impacts associated with the proposed Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance.

### **PROJECT SYNOPSIS**

#### **Project Sponsor**

County of San Mateo Health System  
Environmental Health Services  
2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Suite 100  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
Contact: Dean D. Peterson, Director  
(650) 372-6200

#### **Project Characteristics**

The proposed Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance (“Proposed Ordinance”) would regulate the use of paper and plastic single-use carryout bags within the participating municipalities. Participating municipalities include the County of San Mateo and 24 cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties (see full list of participating municipalities in Section 2.0, *Project Description*). For the purposes of this Program EIR, the geographical limits of unincorporated San Mateo County and all of the participating municipalities listed above shall be known as the “Study Area”. The Proposed Ordinance would apply to all retail establishments located within the limits of the Study Area, including those selling clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer. It would not apply to restaurants. The Proposed Ordinance would (1) prohibit the free distribution of single-use carryout paper and plastic bags and (2) require retail establishments to charge customers for recycled paper bags and reusable bags at the point of sale. The minimum charge would be ten cents (\$0.10) per paper bag until December 31, 2014 and twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per paper bag on or after January 1, 2015.

The intent of the Proposed Ordinance is to reduce the environmental impacts related to the use of single-use carryout bags, and to promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags. It is anticipated that by prohibiting single-use plastic carryout bags and requiring a mandatory charge for each paper bag distributed by retailers, the Proposed Ordinance would provide a disincentive to customers to request paper bags when shopping at regulated stores and promote a shift to the use of reusable bags by retail customers, while reducing the number of single-use plastic and paper bags within the Study Area.

Single-use plastic carryout bags are defined as bags made from petroleum or bio-based plastic that are less than 2.25 mils thick (0.00225 inches). The Proposed Ordinance would prohibit retailers from distributing both petroleum and bio-based single-use carryout plastic bags at the point of sale. The Proposed Ordinance would not prohibit the distribution of plastic “product bags”, as defined, which includes bags without handles provided to a customer (1) to transport prepared food, produce, bulk food or meat from a department within a store to the point of sale; (2) to hold prescription medication dispensed from a pharmacy; or (3) to segregate food or



merchandise that could damage or contaminate other food or merchandise when placed together in a reusable bag or recycled paper bag. The Proposed Ordinance would not apply to restaurants and other food service providers, allowing them to provide plastic bags to customers for prepared take-out food intended for consumption off of the food provider's premises.

As noted above, the Proposed Ordinance would require regulated retailers to impose a mandatory charge for each paper carryout bag provided. Retail establishments would be required to keep a complete and accurate record (including documents of the purchase and sale of any recycled paper bag or reusable bag) for a minimum period of three years from the date of purchase and sale. The record must be available for inspection during regular business hours by any County employee authorized to enforce this part at no cost to the County. The charge would be retained by the affected stores to compensate the stores for increased costs related to compliance with the Proposed Ordinance, actual costs associated with providing recyclable paper carryout bags or reusable bags, and costs associated with a store's educational materials or education campaign encouraging the use of reusable bags.

## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The County of San Mateo's and the participating cities' objectives for the Proposed Ordinance include:

- Reducing the amount of single-use plastic bags in trash loads (e.g., landfills), in conformance with the trash load reduction requirements of the NPDES Municipal Regional Permit
- Reducing the environmental impacts related to single-use plastic carryout bags, such as impacts to biological resources (including marine environments), water quality and utilities (solid waste)
- Deterring the use of paper bags by customers in the respective jurisdictions
- Promoting a shift toward the use of reusable carryout bags by retail customers in the respective jurisdictions
- Avoiding litter and the associated adverse impacts to stormwater systems, aesthetics and the marine environment (San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean)

## **ALTERNATIVES**

As required by CEQA, the EIR examines a range of alternatives to the proposed project that feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives. These alternatives are described and evaluated in Section 6.0, *Alternatives*. Studied alternatives include:

- *Alternative 1: No Project* - The no project alternative assumes that the Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance would not occur. The existing retail establishments would continue to provide single-use bags free of charge to the customers.



- **Alternative 2: Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags at all Retail Establishments -** *This alternative would prohibit all retail establishments in the Study Area from providing single-use plastic bags to customers at the point of sale, including restaurants and other retailers not covered by the Proposed Ordinance.*
- **Alternative 3: Mandatory Charge of \$0.25 for Paper Bags -** *This alternative would continue to prohibit retail establishments (except restaurants) in the Study Area from providing single-use plastic bags to customers at the point of sale, but would increase the mandatory charge for single-use paper bags from \$0.10 to \$0.25.*
- **Alternative 4: Ban on Both Single-use Plastic and Paper Carryout Bags -** *This alternative would prohibit all retail establishments (except restaurants) in the Study Area from providing single-use plastic and paper carryout bags to customers at the point of sale.*

## **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Table ES-1 includes a brief description of the environmental issues relative to the Proposed Ordinance, the identified significant environmental impacts, proposed mitigation measures, and residual impacts. Impacts are categorized by classes. Class I impacts are defined as significant, unavoidable adverse impacts which require a statement of overriding considerations to be issued pursuant to the *CEQA Guidelines* §15093 if the project is approved. Class II impacts are significant adverse impacts that can be feasibly mitigated to less than significant levels and which require findings to be made under Section 15091 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. Class III impacts are considered less than significant impacts, and Class IV impacts are beneficial impacts.



<b>Table ES-1 Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>		
<b>Impact AQ-1</b> With a shift toward reusable bags, the Proposed Ordinance is expected to substantially reduce the number of single-use carryout bags, thereby reducing the total number of bags manufactured and the overall air pollutant emissions associated with bag manufacture, transportation and use. Therefore, air quality impacts related to alteration of processing activities would be Class IV, <i>beneficial</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be beneficial without mitigation.
<b>Impact AQ-2</b> With an expected increase in the use of recyclable paper bags, the Proposed Ordinance would generate air pollutant emissions associated with an incremental increase in truck trips to deliver recycled paper and reusable carryout bags to local retailers. However, emissions would not exceed BAAQMD operational significance thresholds. Therefore, operational air quality impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Impact BIO-1</b> Although the Proposed Ordinance would incrementally increase the number of recycled paper and reusable bags within the Study Area, the reduction in the amount of single-use plastic bags would be expected to reduce the overall amount of litter entering the coastal and bay habitat, thus reducing litter-related impacts to sensitive wildlife species and sensitive habitats. This is a Class IV, <i>beneficial, effect</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be beneficial without mitigation.
<b>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b>		
<b>Impact GHG-1</b> The Proposed Ordinance would increase the number of recyclable paper bags used in the Study Area. Implementation of the Proposed Ordinance would incrementally increase GHG emissions compared to existing conditions. However, emissions would not exceed thresholds of significance. Impacts	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation.



<b>Table ES-1 Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts</b>		
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .		
<b>Impact GHG-2</b> The Proposed Ordinance would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be less than significant without mitigation.
<b>HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY</b>		
<b>Impact HWQ-1</b> The Proposed Ordinance would incrementally increase the number of recycled paper and reusable bags used in the Study Area, but the reduction in the overall number of single-use plastic bags used in the Study Area would reduce the amount of litter and waste entering storm drains. This would improve local surface water quality, a Class IV, <i>beneficial</i> , effect.	Mitigation is not required.	The impact would be beneficial without mitigation.
<b>Impact HWQ-2</b> A shift toward reusable bags and potential increase in the use of recyclable paper bags could potentially increase the use of chemicals associated with their production, which could degrade water quality in some instances and locations. However, bag manufacturers would be required to adhere to existing regulations, including NPDES Permit requirements, AB 258, and the California Health and Safety Code. Therefore, impacts to water quality from altering bag processing activities would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.
<b>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</b>		
<b>Impact U-1</b> The increase of reusable bags within the Study Area as a result of the Proposed Ordinance would incrementally increase water demand due to washing of reusable bags by a negligible amount. However, sufficient water supplies are available to meet the demand created by reusable bags. Therefore, water supply impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.
<b>Impact U-2</b> Water use associated with washing reusable bags would increase negligibly in the Study Area resulting in an increase in wastewater	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.



**Table ES-1  
 Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts,  
 Mitigation Measures, and Residual Impacts**

<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Significance After Mitigation</b>
generation. Projected wastewater flows would remain within the capacity of the wastewater collection and treatment system of the Study Area, and would not exceed applicable wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB. Impacts would be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .		
<b>Impact U-3</b> The Proposed Ordinance would alter the solid waste generation associated with increased paper bag use in the Study Area. However, projected future solid waste generation would remain within the capacity of regional landfills. Impacts would therefore be Class III, <i>less than significant</i> .	Mitigation is not required.	Impacts would be less than significant without mitigation.





**Los Altos Environmental Commission – Workplan 2012-13 – updated June, 2012**

**Approved Projects & Projects for Approval**

Goals approved by City Council April, 2012	Goals -- Progress Updates
<p>Projects 2012-2013, updated 6/24/12</p> <p>1</p> <p>Provide approved community education and outreach activities to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichiel, Zahra Ardehali,)</p> <p>a. Maintain updated 'Los Altos Environment' website with relevant, high-value content, in a manner that is visually pleasing, navigates well, and ties into the city website. (Owner: Linda)</p>	<p>– CAP survey links will be incorporated into EC website homepage – J to coordinate w/Zach, staff. Linda will do another review of the site, updated 'what's new' ideas and check for broken links</p> <p>– Zahra presented additional ideas for website-based 'resource center'; Linda will look at ideas/content for a new Food tab menu tab the site, and Zahra for a Household &amp; Personal Products tab. Joe will review an initial draft, and when a draft is fully developed, J will review with the city attorney.</p> <p>– In the August timeframe, CAP documents, survey results, etc., should be included in a new website tab on the EC website (TBD).</p> <p>– Periodic reviews and updates to site content, news items on main landing page, and staff-provided website traffic statistics; regular item on EC meeting agenda; traffic of 170 since 5/1, ~730 ytd.</p>
<p>b. Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g. Climate Action Plan) (Owner: Steve)</p>	<p>– Joe, John and Zahra tabled at the History Museum Earth Day event; develop a one-page summary of EC background activities and plans and presented website. Good event; could use better signage next time.</p> <p>– Conduct forums, receive reports, etc. when there are specific opportunities related to city programs or policies. One upcoming opportunity will be for interim review and public input to Climate Action Plan development process.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Work with Planning Services Manager and city residents to develop Climate Action Plan for City Los Altos. (Joe Eyre, Don Bray, TBD)</p> <p>a. Aid in developing, reviewing, and facilitating public input to a Los Altos Climate Action Plan (Owner: Joe, Don)</p>	<p>– Don and Joe to update community surveys on transportation patterns and home energy use; when the survey is finalized by PMC and city staff, it will be sent out electronically through various channels to the community, including survey links on the EC homepage.</p> <p>– Survey will be open ~6 weeks, mid-June to July 31; email address field will be added so that summary of results maybe sent to participants</p> <p>– PMC/staff will present updated inventories, and inventory projections at August meeting.</p> <p>– At joint session, Council and EC discussed the question of the scope of the CAP vs an Environmental or Sustainability element in the General plan; agreement that potential scope</p>

Hem # 7

<p>additions would have to be identified and addressed after the CAP takes shape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work on the CAP began in March, with presentation of the project plan to EC and City Staff by the City's Planning Services Manager, and consultant PMC; EC providing GHG inventory data to PMC</li> <li>- The role of the Environmental Commission will be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o provide input and policy recommendations on reduction targets, reduction measures, and 'level of ambition'</li> <li>o identify issues and opportunities and evaluate feasibility</li> <li>o provide a forum for community participation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>3 Improve watershed stewardship for the City of Los Altos (Joe Eyre, Zahra Ardehali)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re status Fremont Ave bridge over Permanente Creek, and potential to design permanent engraving of creek name, J will bring signage recommendation from 'draft final submittal' to EC for review/input likely by August timeframe.</li> <li>- Likely assignment of council consideration in Sept/October timeframe for Storm Drain Master Plan (to be released in the mid-May timeframe?) and provisions for implementation of standard labeling at storm drain inlets 'NO DUMPING!' - Only Rain Down the Drain - Flows to xxxx Creek'. Can it be validated that this labeling will be broadly implemented? Are there pros/cons/constraints?</li> <li>- Advance city storm drain labeling, incorporation of recently establish standards</li> <li>- Investigate development and implementation of creek signage, with possible initial focus on new Fremont Road bridge over Permanente Creek</li> <li>- Continue to support creek restoration activities and education, information on EC website</li> <li>- Monitor findings of quarry-related water discharges</li> </ul>	<p>a. Investigate potential education and outreach, and best practices associated with watershed awareness and protection, and identify near-term actions for implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improved creek habitats</li> <li>- storm water &amp; runoff</li> </ul> <p>(Owner: Joe, Zahra)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- E.g. selected muni guidelines for native landscaping, organic fertilizers/herbicides/pesticides</li> <li>- Joe met with Damon (city staff); city doing progressive things. Joe and Zahra will meet to discuss, and possibly present background, potential ideas</li> <li>- SCVWD guidelines and standards for land use near streams - Joe reported that these are in place and being utilized by the city; creek testing done every eight years or so as part of Santa Clara County runoff and pollution protection program. Joe looking in to getting testing data.</li> </ul>	<p>b. High-level review of selected city policies, practices, &amp; implementation v/v watershed stewardship, to identify potential opportunity areas</p> <p>(Owner: Joe)</p>

4	<p>Continue to foster water conservation in Los Altos (Joe Eyre, Zahra Ardehali)</p> <p>a. Work with Cal Water to develop detailed Los Altos water usage baseline and trends, and ongoing process for tracking. (Owner: Joe)</p> <p>b. Incorporate water conservation plans into broader Climate Action Plan above. (Owner: Linda)</p> <p>c. Continue to actively support community outreach and education activities related to water conservation (Owner: Zahra)</p>	<p>- Work with CalWater, City Staff and others to develop and present water use baseline, recent trends; General trend toward reduced water use. Joe will present a summary of 2007-2011 data recently received from CalWater.</p> <p>- leveraging water baseline developed above, incorporate specific water efficiency measures into Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>- Additional co-sponsorship of CalWater conservation classes</p> <p>- Promotion of such elements as SCVWD rebates (landscape conversion and hardware upgrades), weather-based irrigation controllers in muni and residential applications</p>
5	<p>Monitor and advance solid waste diversion and source reduction practices in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Joe Eyre, John Reed)</p> <p>a. Monitor MTWS diversion rate and look for ways to help meet and exceed contracted 78% diversion rate in 2013; make results available to community, along w/ education on how they can help improve outcomes. (Owner: Steve, Don)</p>	<p>- Overall diversion rate of 71.44% for calendar year 2011; need to achieve 78% in 2013; in 2011, estimate diversion rate for single family residential at 81% (75% of overall tonnage), commercial at 39% (23% of tonnage), and multi-unit residential at 52% (2% of tonnage).</p> <p>- Publication of 2011 results, and 'leading practices' article featuring top business/commercial participants in Los Altos; Feb 2012 - Discussed possible development of a news article featuring waste management efforts at leading local businesses – to highlight 'best practice' examples, and educate the public and other businesses; Don will look into this with Margie Suozzo, Town Crier</p> <p>- Educational visit to Newby Island conducted with EC, staff, council, community participants; learned about 85-day composting process, and issues with certain items such as compostable tableware that requires substantially longer than 85 days to compost; also, some biodegradable foodscrap bags contain GMOs, so all such bags are placed in the garbage stream;</p> <p>- Joe working with Teresa and GTLA on 'best practices' guide for what is best introduced to organics stream to fully enable composting. Cascadia doing testing on compostability of selected materials in MTWS processes.</p> <p>- Continue to work on supporting and communicating 'Green Events' guidelines, e.g. for 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Don to follow up with Steve Anderson re ongoing role or transition.</p>

	<p>b. Monitor overall solid waste volumes relative to source reduction and longer-term 'zero waste' concepts &amp; practices; (Owner: John)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate source reduction measure(s) into CAP</li> <li>- Support education and outreach v/v source reduction, zero-waste practices (e.g. participation in free-cycling networks, e-waste collection)</li> </ul>
6	<p>Evaluate and recommend program options, and assist in implementing effective city programs restricting use of selected environmentally-harmful products. (Chris Keller, John Reed)</p> <p>a. Engage in on-going analysis of program and implementation options v/v restricting use of expanded polystyrene and 'single use' plastic bags (Owner: Chris)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support city development and implementation of restrictions on use of expanded polystyrene, plastic shopping bags, etc. as recommended by the Santa Clara County RWRC, and required by the Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Board. Environmental Commission will study potential recommendations, timing, and approach.</li> <li>- Los Altos participating in San Mateo County EIR process for plastic bags; final recommendations due out in September/October timeframe. J will forward info on next steps in the DEIR/comment process and timeframes.</li> <li>- J will maintain dialog with staff on status of a potential EIR for EPS, and partnership options similar to San Mateo county for bags; timing for EIR likely late this year or early next year.</li> </ul> <p>Notes: In January 2012, the 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.</p> <p>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>
7	<p>Other Council goals as directed</p> <p>a. City position on potential move at state level to relax CEQA guidelines?</p>	<p>- J talked with City Attorney re knowledge of this; in Jolene's queue; does not believe this is a relaxation, more of a clarification</p>

General Comment from Council: If any programs require funding, case must be presented in time for annual budget cycle.

**Miscellaneous Topics for Possible Discussion/Consideration TBD**

- disposal of prescription drugs – police department will take; ‘drugs and sharps’ also collected elsewhere in the city, including some pharmacies?
- use of outdoor chemicals
- use of environmentally-friendly cleaning materials

Notes from Sustainovation -  
Greening Silicon Valley: Successes, Challenges & Opportunities.

June 27, 2012

Sustainovation is a small group dedicated to inspiring environmentally and socially sustainable business practices through educational events, programs and initiatives.

This event brought together speakers from our neighboring cities and the county of Santa Clara. Each spoke about their efforts and then Peter Drekmeier, former mayor of Palo Alto, led a question and answer session.

Phil Bobel, Assistant Director of Environmental Services and Public Works of Palo Alto, told us that Palo Alto is planning to hire a sustainability coordinator in the city manager's office to work with the departments of utilities, public works and transportation. He told us that Measure E, passed last year will "undedicate" 10 acres of Byxbee Park (formerly the landfill) for 10 years for the digestive conversion of yard and food waste to generate and capture methane to be used to run generators to produce electricity. There are opponents - those who object to any loss of precious park land. The city's goal is to get 33% of its power from renewable energy by 2015. He also told us about efforts to reclaim and use waste water (despite the yuck factor) because it is 99% water after all.

Steve Attinger, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Mountain View, described the activities in his city. They will roll out a general plan update next month setting sustainability goals/responsibilities in the functional areas. They have established 50 specific initiatives, including greenhouse gas reduction targets. The process of setting these goals started with a grass roots effort to engage the community by asking people what they want. Mountain View pilots their programs in city operations before they roll them out to the community. He described Transit Hubs and their logical connection with local high density development.

Erin Cooke, Sustainability Manager, Cupertino, immediately mentioned that they have copied large parts of the Mountain View program. Their mayor, Mark Santoro, is a strong supporter of this effort and wants to make sustainability a part of his legacy. They have sustainability written into the city's general plan. Erin described an interesting program of working with business owners to make them aware of the value of sustainability and that help that is available such as landscape water audits, energy audits and free low flow toilets. She spends many hours working with each business owner. She made the interesting observation that city staff typically works with regulatory compliance and enforcement, whereas her role is to meet with residents, business owners and schools. She also tracks down grants. She made another interesting point - we are all social creatures and by working together we can generate local interest and excitement. She is leading a Block Leader Initiative to apply this to environmental issues.

Demetra McBride, Director of the Office of Sustainability and Climate Change for Santa Clara County, spoke about the Energy Upgrade California program. She noted that the early adopters are interested in the savings (energy and dollars), but that this is a narrow segment. Most people aren't paying attention. One way to attract a wider audience is to point out the health benefits of improved indoor air quality. To prove that Santa Clara carried out a health assessment study that supports this conclusion. The results will be published this fall. She described an award winning ad campaign featuring a sick house on a gurney. She described another program to fund the cost of energy audits. At a typical cost of \$800, this is an obvious barrier as most people don't know if it's worth it. She calls this the 'high cost of uncertainty.' They have found that 45% of the people who do get audits follow up with action.

The event was exciting with motivated, energetic speakers. I met each of the speakers after the presentation and here is the best news for us, they are without exception ready to work with Los Altos as we tackle our environmental challenges.

Gary Hedden  
Los Altos Environmental Commission