



MONDAY, MAY 14, 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 April 9, 2012.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Tour of Newby Island Composting Facility
Report by Subcommittee attending tour on April 30, 2012.
3. Climate Action Plan
Activity progress report by Environmental Commission Task Force.
4. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene
 - a. Staff update on Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan followed by discussion.
 - b. Report by Commissioners who attended San Mateo County Plastic Bag Scoping session on April 25, 2012.
5. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
 - a. Fremont Bridge Creek signage.
6. Environmental Commission Website
Staff report on monthly hits to website.

7. Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review
Review and discussion of 2012-2013 Work Plan approved by Council at the Joint Meeting on April 3, 2012.
8. City of Los Altos 60th Anniversary Celebration
Report by Commissioner Anderson on Planning Committee meeting progress.
9. Announcements and Items for Information
 - a. Annual Commission Training will be held on Tuesday, May 15th. Sign-ins will start at 5:30 pm and the training will start at 6:00. Remember this is mandatory for all those commissioners appointed by the Los Altos City Council and for staff liaisons.
 - b. Report by Chair Bray on May 8, 2012 Council meeting - Extension of Los Altos involvement in the county Household Hazardous Waste Program through 2015 and zoning code discussion for two story buildings in downtown.
 - c. Environmental Commissioner Representative at May 22 and June 12, 2012 Council Meeting – Commissioners Anderson and Ardehali respectively.
 - d. Annual Volunteer Recognition Event, Thur. April 19, 2012 at 5:30pm at LAYC – comments from attendees.
 - e. Earth Day Activities on April 21, 2012 report by attending Subcommittee.
 - f. Creek Clean up with GreenTown Los Altos event on May 2012 and request for few words by an Environmental Commissioner; start at Heritage Oaks Park.
 - g. Free disposal of household hazardous waste for residents of Los Altos on April 14, 2012 at Foothill College – comments.

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, APRIL 9, 2012 AT
7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD,
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Bray, Eyre, DeMichiel Anderson, Reed, Ardehali

ABSENT: Keller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Comments presented by:

1. Doug Baney regarding fireplace wood smoke issues on health and property use.
2. Gary Hedden regarding GreenTown Los Altos three announcements; Solarize Los Altos, Drive Less Challenge and electric charging stations.

1. Commission Minutes

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DeMICHEL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2012. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Environmental Commission Annual Report to City Council

Review and discussion of the presentation to City Council at the Joint Meeting on April 3, 2012 to report on 2011-2012 Accomplishments and the 2012-2013 Work Plan.

Discussion was led by Chair Bray of each Goal on the Work Plan and action items for May.

3. Climate Action Plan

Activity progress report by Environmental Commission Task Force and discussion on next steps working with consultant, PMC and staff.

4. Tour of Newby Island Composting Facility

Report by subcommittee on tour facility scheduled on April 30 9:30am-12:30pm.

5. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene

Staff comment on Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan.

6. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos

Comment by Commissioner Eyre.

7. Environmental Commission Website

Staff report on 133 hits from last month report and 407 hits for the year to website. Discussion of articles for the website.

8. City of Los Altos 60th Anniversary Celebration
Commissioner Anderson will report on Planning Committee meeting progress in May.
9. Ideas for Improving Environmental Commission Operating Effectiveness
Discussion with recommendations. Chair Bray will make action updates in red; Commissioner Eyre will assist.
10. Announcements and Items for Information
 1. Environmental Commissioner Representative at April 10 and 24, and May 8, 2012 Council Meeting – Commissioners Reed, Eyre and Chair Bray respectively.
 2. Annual Volunteer Recognition Event, Thur. April 19, 2012 at 5:30pm at LAYC.
 3. Earth Day Activities on April 21, 2012 and table staffed by Vice Chair Eyre, Commissioners Reed and Ardehali
 4. Creek Clean up with GreenTown Los Altos event May 2012 and request for few words by an Environmental Commissioner; start at Heritage Oaks Park.
 5. Creek Clean up Sept. 17, 2012, 9-12 noon link is http://www.cleanacreek.org/upcomingcleanupevents_CCD11.asp
 6. Free disposal of household hazardous waste for residents of Los Altos on April 14, 2012 at Foothill College.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bray adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

County of San Mateo Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance

EIR Scoping Meeting

Half Moon Bay

April 18, 2012



Other Communities with Bag Ordinances in Effect

- San Jose
- Sunnyvale
- Santa Clara County
- San Francisco
- Palo Alto
- County of Alameda
- Marin County
- Calabasas
- Fairfax
- Long Beach
- Malibu
- Manhattan Beach
- Santa Monica
- County of Los Angeles



Proposed Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance

- (1) Prohibit the free distribution of single use carryout paper and plastic bags (completely eliminates plastic bags)
- (2) Require retail establishments to charge customers for recycled paper bags and reusable bags at the point of sale.
- Applies to any commercial establishment that sells perishable or nonperishable goods, including, but not limited to, clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer
 - Does not apply to public eating establishments or nonprofit charitable reusers



Proposed Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance

- Intent of the Ordinance is to:
- Reduce the environmental impacts related to the use of single-use carryout bags
- Promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags



Geographic Areas Considered in EIR

- **San Mateo County:**
 - **Unincorporated San Mateo County**
 - **Millbrae**
 - **Pacifica**
 - **Portola Valley**
 - **Redwood City**
 - **San Bruno**
 - **San Carlos**
 - **San Mateo**
 - **South San Francisco**
 - **Woodside**
 - **Belmont**
 - **Brisbane**
 - **Burlingame**
 - **Colma**
 - **Daly City**
 - **East Palo Alto**
 - **Foster City**
 - **Half Moon Bay**
 - **Menlo Park**
- **Santa Clara County:**
 - **Milpitas**
 - **Cupertino**
 - **Los Gatos**
 - **Los Altos**
 - **Campbell**
 - **Mountain View**



Geographic Areas Considered in EIR



Scoping Meeting Purposes

- **Inform the community and concerned agencies about the project**
- **Solicit input regarding the EIR scope**
- **Encourage input on required alternatives analysis**
- **Inform the community about future opportunities for input**

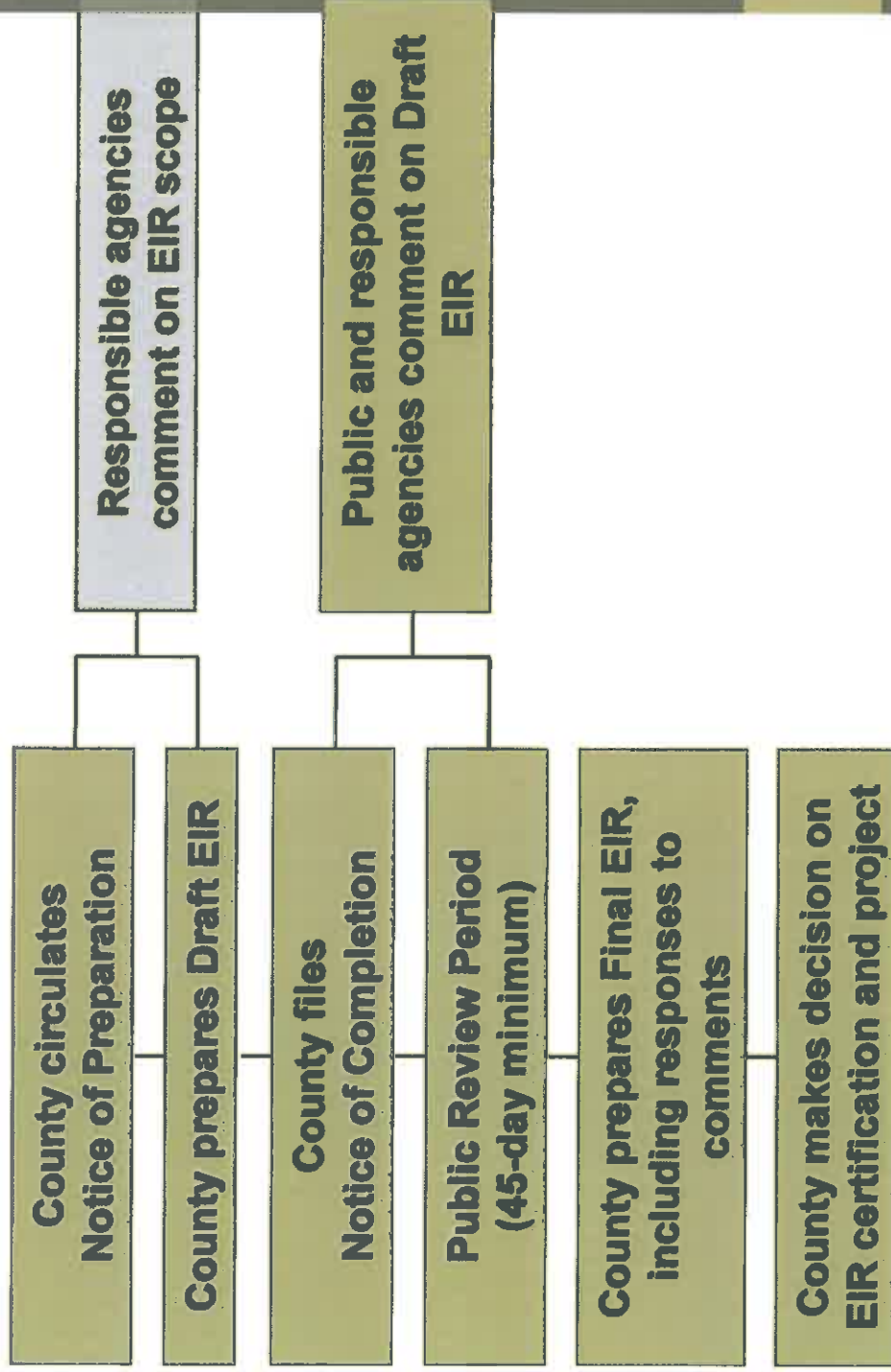


CEQA Purposes

- **Disclose the significant environmental effects of proposed actions**
- **Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage**
- **Consider feasible alternatives to proposed actions**
- **Enhance public participation in the planning process**



EIR Review Process



EIR Review Process Responsible Agencies

- **A responsible agency refers to a public agency other than the lead agency that has discretionary approval over the project**
- **Lead Agency – County of San Mateo**
- **Responsible Agencies – All other cities that would be required to adopt the findings of the EIR and adopt an ordinance that applies within their city**



Impacts Identified as Less Than Significant

- **Aesthetics**
- **Agricultural and Forestry Resources**
- **Cultural Resources**
- **Geology & Soils**



Impacts Identified as Less Than Significant

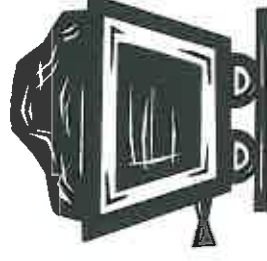
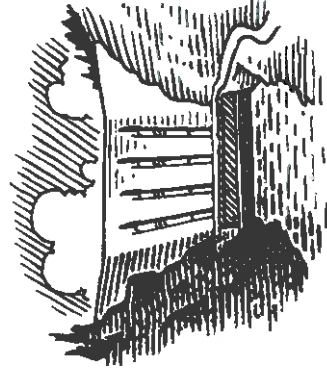
- **Hazards & Hazardous Materials**

- **Hydrology & Water Quality**

- Flood hazards
- Seiche, tsunamis, mudflows

- **Land Use & Planning**

- **Mineral Resources**



Impacts Identified as Less Than Significant

- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation



Impacts Identified as Less Than Significant

- **Transportation**
- **Utilities & Service Systems**
- Storm water drainage



Issues to be Analyzed in an EIR

- **Air Quality**

- Contribute to an air quality violation
- Increase of any criteria pollutants



- **Biological Resources**

- Impacts to sensitive species
- Impacts to sensitive habitat



Issues to be Analyzed in an EIR



- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology & Water Quality
 - Water quality
 - Groundwater supplies



Issues to be Analyzed in an EIR

- Utilities
 - Wastewater treatment system
 - Water supply
 - Solid waste



Projected EIR Schedule

- **Scoping Meetings (7 total)**
 - Half Moon Bay (April 18); San Mateo (April 19); Mountain View (April 25); South San Francisco (April 26); Campbell (May 2); Milpitas (May 3 afternoon); Redwood City (May 3 evening)
- **May 6, 2012**
 - *Last day to submit comments on EIR scope*
- **June 2012**
 - *Release of Draft EIR for public comment*
- **July 2012**
 - *Close of Draft EIR Public Comment Period*
- **September/October 2012**
 - *County hearings on ordinance and Final EIR*



Open Discussion

- **Comments and suggestions for scope of environmental analysis**
- **Suggestions for alternatives**
- **Future opportunities for comments:**
 - Comment sheets available
 - Comments on draft EIR during public circulation period
 - www.smchealth.org/bagban



We Welcome Your Comments

Thank you for participating!



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

DATE: April 6, 2012
TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties
LEAD AGENCY: County of San Mateo

The County of San Mateo intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a proposed Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance. In accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County of San Mateo has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. The County has prepared the attached Project Description. The environmental factors that the County has determined would potentially be affected by the project include:

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

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: The Single Use Bag Ban Ordinance would apply to any commercial establishment that sells perishable or nonperishable goods, including, but not limited to, clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer; and is located within or doing business within the geographical limits of unincorporated San Mateo County and within the following participating municipalities:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>San Mateo County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belmont • Brisbane • Burlingame • Colma • Daly City • East Palo Alto • Foster City • Half Moon Bay • Menlo Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millbrae • Pacifica • Portola Valley • Redwood City • San Bruno • San Carlos • San Mateo • South San Francisco • Woodside | <p>Santa Clara County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milpitas • Cupertino • Los Gatos • Los Altos • Campbell • Mountain View |
|--|---|---|

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: 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 list above under "Project Locations"). The Proposed Ordinance would apply to all retail establishments located within the limits of the participating municipalities, including those selling clothing, food, and personal items directly to the customer. It would not apply to restaurants. The 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) until December 31, 2014 and twenty-five cents (\$0.25) on or after January 1, 2015.

The intent of the 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 participating municipalities.

Single use plastic carryout bags are defined as bags made from petroleum or bio-based plastic¹ that are less than 2.25 millimeters thick. 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 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 complete an 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 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.

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The Lead Agency welcomes agency and public input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information that must be included in the Draft EIR. Responses to this Notice of Preparation may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on May 6, 2012, to:

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

¹ Bags made with at least 90% starch from renewable resources such as corn, potato, tapioca, or wheat, or from polyesters, manufactured from hydrocarbons, or starch-polyester blends.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS: Scoping meetings will be held during the comment period to take comments related to the scope of the environmental issues to be analyzed within the Draft EIR. The dates, times, and locations of the scoping meeting are listed below.

April 18, 2012 6:00 P.M.	Half Moon Bay	Ted Adcock Community/Senior Center Sun Room 535 Kelly Avenue Half Moon Bay, CA
April 19, 2012 5:30 P.M.	San Mateo	San Mateo Public Library Oak Room 55 West Third Ave San Mateo, CA
April 25, 2012 6:00 P.M.	Mountain View	City Council Chambers 500 Castro Street Mountain View, CA
April 26, 2012 6:00 P.M.	South San Francisco	Municipal Services Building 33 Arroyo Drive South San Francisco, CA
May 2, 2012 6:00 P.M.	Campbell	Campbell Library 77 Harrison Avenue Campbell, CA
May 3, 2012 2:00 P.M.	Milpitas	Barbara Lee Senior Center 40 North Milpitas Blvd, Rm 140 Milpitas, CA
May 3, 2012 6:00 P.M.	Redwood City	Redwood City Library 1044 Middlefield Rd Redwood City, CA



Dean D. Peterson, PE, REHS
Director, Environmental Health Services
County of San Mateo Health System

3/30/12
Date

Los Altos Environmental Commission – 2012-13 Work Plan – April, 2012

Approved Projects & Projects for Approval

Goals approved by City Council April, 2012 Projects 2012-2013	Goals -- Progress Updates
<p>1</p> <p>Provide approved community education and outreach activities to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichele, Steve Anderson,)</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>b. Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g. Climate Action Plan) (Owner: Steve)</p>	<p>-- Progress Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add (or link) document with definition of Plastics types 1-7 to website, with MTWS 'context' for recycling plastics (mostly 1&2) (Linda) - Zahra will come up with additional ideas for website-based 'resource center' - 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 133 since 3/1, 407 ytd. - Joe, John and Zahra will table at the History Museum Earth Day event; Joe will develop a one-page summary of EC background activities and plans; website will be presented. - 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>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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 additions would have to be identified and addressed after the CAP takes shape. - 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 - The role of the Environmental Commission will be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o provide input and policy recommendations on reduction targets, reduction measures, and 'level of ambition' o identify issues and opportunities and evaluate feasibility o provide a forum for community participation

ITEM # 7

3	<p>Improve watershed stewardship for the City of Los Altos (Joe Eyre, Zahra Ardehali)</p> <p>a. Investigate potential education and outreach, and best practices associated with watershed awareness and protection, and identify near-term actions for implementation - improved creek habitats - storm water & runoff (Owner: Joe, Zahra)</p> <p>b. High-level review of selected city policies, practices, & implementation v/v watershed stewardship, to identify potential opportunity areas (Owner: Joe)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joe will contact re status Fremont Ave bridge over Permanente Creek, and potential to design permanent engraving of creek name; also, Joe will inquire about whether the Storm Drain Master Plan now under development includes provisions for implementation of standard labeling at storm drain inlets 'NO DUMPING!' - Only Rain Down the Drain – Flows to xxxx Creek'. - Advance city storm drain labeling, incorporation of recently establish standards - Investigate development and implementation of creek signage, with possible initial focus on new Fremont Road bridge over Permanente Creek - Continue to support creek restoration activities and education, information on EC website - Monitor findings of quarry-related water discharges - E.g. selected muni guidelines for native landscaping, organic fertilizers/herbicides/pesticides Joe and Zahra will meet to discuss background and potential ideas - SCVWD guidelines and standards for land use near streams – Joe to look for more info on this
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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with CalWater, City Staff and others to develop and present water use baseline, recent trends; Joe will check with staff on submission of official data request form to Cal Water - leveraging water baseline developed above, incorporate specific water efficiency measures into Climate Action Plan. - Additional co-sponsorship of CalWater conservation classes - Promotion of such elements as SCVWD rebates (landscape conversion and hardware upgrades), weather-based irrigation controllers in muni and residential applications

5	<p>Monitor and advance solid waste diversion and source reduction practices in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Steve Anderson, 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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). - 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 - Organize educational visit to Newby Island for interested EC, staff, council, community participants; Joe, Zahra, and Steve coordinating Newby Island facility tour on the April 30th with selected staff and residents; will report back on findings at May EC meeting - Continue to work on supporting and communicating 'Green Events' guidelines, e.g. for 60th anniversary event
6	<p>b. Monitor overall solid waste volumes relative to source reduction and longer-term 'zero waste' concepts & practices; (Owner: John)</p> <p>Evaluate and recommend program options, and assist in implementing effective city programs restricting use of selected environmentally harmful products. (Chris Keller, Steve Anderson, 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"> - Incorporate source reduction measure(s) into CAP - Support education and outreach v/v source reduction, zero-waste practices (e.g. participation in free-cycling networks, e-waste collection) <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - J will talk with staff to understand the status of a potential EIR for EPS; partnership with San Mateo county for plastic bag EIR is being proposed. - Don will follow up with Val Carpenter re SCCA recommendations v/v bags, EPS; may be same as what was forwarded by Joe E; SCCA agreed with RWRC, but silent on timeframe? <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,</p>

	<p>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	Other Council goals as directed
a.	<p>City position on potential move at state level to relax CEQA guidelines?</p> <p>- J will talk with City Attorney re any knowledge of this</p> <p>- John will do some research on this, and follow up on J's conversation.</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
- use of outdoor chemicals
- use of environmentally-friendly cleaning materials

Los Altos Environmental Commission



The seven-member Environmental Commission studies and makes recommendations to Council on issues that affect the natural and built environment in the City and the region. The Commission's mission is to advise the City Council on issues related to environmental sustainability and provide information and education to the public on environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

The Commission's work plan for 2012-2013 includes:

- Education and outreach to residents and businesses on ways to improve environmental quality within Los Altos, including development of content for the 'Los Altos Environment' web site, <http://www.losaltosenvironment.org/>
- Assisting City staff in developing a Climate Action Plan for Los Altos
- Promoting watershed stewardship and water conservation
- Advancing the diversion of solid waste from the landfill
- Studying and recommending program options for environmentally-harmful products such as Expanded Polystyrene and Single-Use Plastic Bags



The Commission meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the Los Altos City Council Chambers.

The public is invited and welcome to attend Commission meetings. Members of the public may comment on any agenda item, or speak at the beginning of the meeting on any topic not on the agenda.

To automatically receive the Environmental Commission agenda before each meeting, sign up for email notification at: <http://www.losaltosca.gov/listserv/list.html>

For more information about the Environmental Commission, or to provide suggestions for improving sustainability in Los Altos, please email: environmental@losaltosca.gov