

Michael Horta

From: David Kornfield
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 7:36 AM
To: J Logan
Cc: James Walgren
Subject: Environmental Element

J

You asked for some input on the Environmental Commission's upcoming work on the "Environmental Element," which I understand is in response to the need update our General Plan policies with regard to air quality and climate legislation. This could take the form of adding an Environmental Element or Climate Action Plan or adjusting policies within the General Plan depending on our approach.

We are planning on a 2011 CIP project for the Climate Action Plan, which coincides nicely with the pending development of the air quality thresholds that should be fairly well defined by the State and regional agencies by the end of the year. We are beginning to look at our development parameters and California Environmental Quality Act significance thresholds and will identify any changes Planning needs once the legislation has settled. We expect that the Environmental Commission will review this work, develop recommendations on the City's Emission Reduction Strategies (2005 Los Altos Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, ICLEI) and review any desired changes to the General Plan. Our General Plan has a systematic approach to the City's environmental goals—the environmental polices are spread throughout the entire plan.

The Environmental Commission will have an opportunity to review the community's expectations in this work. I look forward to helping with the development-related aspects of environmental policies.

Please let me know if there are any other questions in the meantime.

David

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Environmental Committee

Work Plan Update – Sept 2010

Goal	Proposed Projects in support of goals	Progress to date – June 2010	Next Steps
<p>Implement approved education and outreach programs to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos.</p>	<p>a) Help with community education regarding new waste management contract (Steve Anderson)</p>	<p>MTWS special presentation for public held as part of August 2010 EC meeting. Approximately 175 community members attended.</p>	<p>Environmental Commission to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate use of web site for ongoing updates about transition and waste management issues / best practices
	<p>b) Implement water conservation measures as approved by City Council on June 9 and June 23, 2009 (Linda DeMichiel)</p>	<p><u>March 2010:</u> Los Altos nominated for Water Conservation award for reduced municipal water use. <u>Sept 2009:</u> Educational material created and posted on LAEC web site.</p>	<p><u>June 2010:</u> Linda to make recommendation for this project at Aug 2010 EC meeting.</p>
	<p>c) Implement Sustainable Events education program as approved</p>	<p><u>June 2010:</u> New waste contract gives MTWS responsibility for waste management at public events; this is included in overall diversion goal of 78% for Los Altos. <u>Feb 2010:</u> Sustainable events guide from GTLA placed on web site.</p>	<p>Follow MTWS progress and diversion rates over next year; determine if follow up action is necessary at that time.</p>
	<p>d) Implement reusable bag program as approved (Patty Rosewater)</p>	<p><u>Sep 2010:</u> Chamber of Commerce ED and EC Chair visited all 7 Los Altos grocery stores. All have established reusable bag programs. Some took our materials as well. <u>June 2010:</u> CC approved distribution of "Got Bags" materials to local grocery stores. <u>July 2009:</u> Program delayed due to higher priority items.</p>	<p>Los Altos Chamber of Commerce sponsoring a speaker on subject of reusable bags at May 2010 EC meeting. Next steps TBD after hearing presentation.</p>

<p>Develop baselines and progress indicators for Los Altos usage of water, waste energy, and greenhouse gases.</p>	<p>a) Water: Work with city staff and Cal Water to develop baseline and monitor usage of water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2004 selected as base year. - Each Cal Water monthly bill now shows a "Water Budget," calculated as 2004 consumption – 15%. - Cal Water says they cannot get usage data specific to the City of Los Altos. 	<p>Chris to again request water usage specifics for the City of Los Altos.</p> <p>Explore ways to help the city rationalize differing goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Los Altos: ↓15% v 2004 - SCVWD: ↓15% v 2004 - SBx7-7: ↓15% per capita v 10-yr avg - Dept of Water Res: ↓20% v 2020
<p>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the Community</p>	<p>Investigate feasibility of accomplishing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the community (Don Bray)</p>	<p><u>May 2010:</u> draft received by City Council; modification of work plan approved to work with city on action plan</p> <p><u>April 2010:</u> draft now complete. Met with city staff with positive results.</p> <p><u>Sept 2009:</u> Community GHG inventory found to be very feasible</p>	<p>Meet with city staff to determine next steps in developing plan. Ideally would lead to specific targets and Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Los Altos for both Municipal and Community GHG efforts.</p>
<p>Other goals as directed by City Council</p>	<p>City Council goals for 2010 include the following: Assign Environmental Commission task of developing an Environmental Element to the General Plan.</p>	<p><u>Feb 2010:</u> City Engineering Manager David Kornfield recommended holding off on this while his department does some preliminary work.</p>	<p>Wait for direction from city staff.</p>
<p>9/9/2010</p>			

Black = City Council Approved Workplan – June 2009

Redwood Grove Restoration Project



About Acterra

We bring people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet.

- Stewardship program
 - Redwood Grove, Arastradero Preserve, San Francisco Creek Watershed, Young Earth Stewards (YES), Urban Ecology, Native Plant Nursery
- Green@Home
- Business Environmental Awards
- Be the Change

About the Project

• City contracted with Acterra in November 2009 to restore habitat, coordinate volunteers, and provide environmental education opportunities for the community.



Restoration Activities



- Planting under the redwoods
- Removing invasive plants and establishing natives
- Creating habitat structures
- Demonstration garden

A Community Effort

- 633 volunteers
- 1,574 hours
- Neighbors, service clubs, student groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, local business, church and alumni groups.



Establishing Native Plants



529 plants installed, including native plant garden







Removing Invasives



- 18,000 sf of ivy cleared
- 45 trees freed of ivy
- *Arundo donax* removed and tarped
- Poison hemlock removed from picnic area
- French broom removed from entry driveway











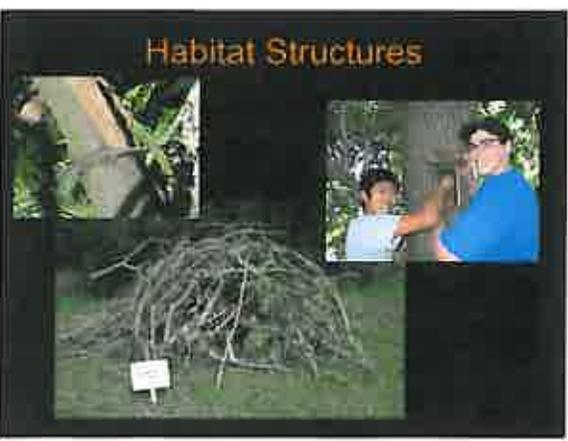












Adobe Creek



Adobe Creek



Large woody debris

Adobe Creek



High water

Adobe Creek



Eroding creek bank

Native Plant Garden



Before

Native Plant Garden



During







Vegetable Garden



After

Interpretation



Education

- Hands-on experience during workdays
- Citizen vegetation monitoring
- Starting Adopt-A-Plot program with high school clubs

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Next Steps - Restoration

- Continue to monitor and weed ivy and blackberry sprouts from work areas.
- Replant new areas (Nov-Feb)
- Water District Planning Grant: Develop recommendations for creek bank stabilization using ecological methods.
- Develop plans for meadow restoration and establishing plants used by the Ohlones.
- Install barn owl nesting boxes.

Next Steps - Educ/Outreach

- Partner with high school groups to adopt restoration plots
- Young Earth Stewards program
- Create Self-Guided Nature Walk
- Community Workshops:
 - Landscaping in Harmony with Oaks (February)
 - Creek-friendly Backyards?
- Fundraising for more plants

Redwood Grove Restoration Project



Los Altos Environmental Commission

DRAFT Project Accomplishments 2009-2010

Prepared for Joint City Council Study Session - October 19, 2010

Environmental Commission Goals approved by the City Council in June 2009 and progress to date.

Goals 2009-2010	Progress / Accomplishments
<p>1 Work with staff to secure the best value in waste management services value for Los Altos.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste contract vendor has been awarded; weekly pickup, new services, flat rates, diversion rate contracted at 78%. Committee included Environmental Commission Chair Steve Anderson. Two Special Environmental Commission meetings held to present RFP to public in August 2009.
<p>2 Implement approved education and outreach programs to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Contract • Water Conservation • Sustainable Events • Reusable Shopping Bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Waste Management Contract</u>: MTWS Special Presentation for public held as part of August 2010 EC meeting. Approximately 175 community members attended. Links to MTWS site on LA Home page and LAEC home page and recycling page. • <u>Water Conservation</u>: Educational material created, now posted on LAEC web site. Los Altos nominated for Water Conservation award for reduced municipal water use. • <u>Sustainable Events</u>: Sustainable events guide from GTLA placed on web site. Partnered with Acterra and GTLA to do Earth-Day events in Redwood Grove and at Los Altos library. • <u>Reusable Shopping Bags</u>: Project approved by Council. Chamber of Commerce President and EC Chair visited 7 Los Altos grocery stores to raise awareness of re-usable bags. All have established programs in their stores.
<p>3 Develop baselines and progress indicators for Los Altos usage of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Waste • Energy • Greenhouse Gas (GHG). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Water</u>: 2004 selected as base year. Each Cal Water monthly bill now shows a "Water Budget," calculated as 2004 consumption – 15%. • <u>Waste</u>: Baseline diversion rate of 54% established by GTLA report. Diversion rates contracted at 78% in new waste management contract; metrics monitoring included in new contract. • <u>Energy</u>: baseline established as part of GHG inventory. See item #4. • <u>Greenhouse Gas (GHG)</u>: baseline completed as part of GHG inventory. See Item #4.
<p>4 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community GHG inventory report completed and received by City Council. Approval to move forward with education and outreach efforts.
<p>5 Other goals as directed by City Council</p> <p>City Council goals for 2010 include the following: "Assign Environmental Commission task of developing an Environmental Element to the General Plan."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Feb 2010</u>: City Engineering Manager David Kornfield recommended holding off on this while his department does some preliminary work.

Los Altos Environmental Commission

Anticipated Projects 2010-2011

Prepared for Joint City Council Study Session

October 19, 2010

Listed below are proposed goals for our 2010-2011 work Plan, subject to approval by the City Council.

Proposed Goals 2010-2011		Proposed Projects in support of goals
1	Develop Environmental Resource Plan with City Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Model impact of specific behavior changes on GHG footprint• Implement programs as approved• Track progress to plan
2	Develop Environmental element to Los Altos General Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Engineering Manager to develop a Sustainability element to the General Plan.
3	<i>Implement approved re-useable education bag program in Los Altos?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

Present to Council
9.13.10

**Los Altos Grocery Store Survey
Reusable Bag Programs and Practices**
Prepared by Julie Rose and Patty Rosewater
September 2010

Summary Table

	Andron-icos	Di Martini's	Draegers	Luckys	Safeway	Trader Joe's	Whole Foods
Door signs/ other reminders?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sell reusable bags?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offer rebates?	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Other incentives?		No.	Weekly \$50 Raffle		Yes	Weekly \$25 Raffle	
Bagger training?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bagger buttons?	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.

Andronicos

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Took ours and will post it
Sell reusable bags	Yes. 99 cent grocery bag, \$1.99 for wine bag. Wine bag free if you buy 6 bottles.
Offer rebates	Yes. 5 cent credit for each bag.
Other incentives?	
Bagger training?	Yes. Baggers ask customers before bagging.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	In Palo Alto they had banners and bags from the city. He is very willing to work with the city. Thinks 10-20% of customers use reusable bags.
Contact	Enrique Sanchez, Store Manager – 948-6648

DiMartini's

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Put one of our signs on each door.
Sell reusable bags	??
Offer rebates	No.
Other incentives?	No.
Bagger training?	Yes.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	
Contact	Craig Kozy (Owner/Manager) and Denny (Asst Manager) – 948-0881

Draegers

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Have "Got Bags" sign from us and their own larger sign.
Sell reusable bags	Yes. Colorful Chico bags (\$6) prominently displayed, also branded bags for 99 cents.
Offer rebates	No.
Other incentives?	Yes. Poster sized sign at store entrance advertising weekly raffle for \$50 gift certificate
Bagger training?	Yes. Cashier puts bag on counter for bagger before unloading groceries.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	
Contact	Ron Piazza, Store Manager – 948-4425

Luckys

Door signs or other reminders?	No. Corporate policy
Sell reusable bags	Yes. 25 cents each, posted near register.
Offer rebates	Yes. 5 cent credit for each bag.
Other incentives?	
Bagger training?	Yes. Baggers are very well aware of reusable bags, always ask. Not interested in our buttons unless Corp blesses it.
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	Said to call Community Affairs Department, Alicia Rockwell, 209-548-6511 for more information.
Contact	Tom Hamilton, Store Manager – 969-1326

Safeway

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Green signs prominently posted on doors. Took ours as well.
Sell reusable bags	Yes. Safeway Branded bags sold for 99 cents.
Offer rebates	No. Used to offer 3 cents per bag rebate but discontinued that program.
Other incentives?	Yes. People with reusable bags are offered 10% discount on Safeway "Green" products
Bagger training?	Yes. Baggers always ask if people want bags, know to use as few as possible.
Bagger buttons?	No. This would have to be approved by Corp.
Other?	
Contact	Alicia Lima, Store Manager – 941-1208. Her last day is Friday, Sept 10; she will be replaced by Auggie.

Trader Joe's

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes. Lots of reminders inside store. None on doors allowed per store policy
Sell reusable bags	Yes. Large selection, prominently displayed, \$.99 - \$6.
Offer rebates	No.
Other incentives?	Yes. Each bag qualifies for one entry into a weekly raffle for \$25 gift certificate
Bagger training?	Yes. Said baggers routinely ask customers if they have bags before bagging.
Bagger buttons?	No. Did take one and said he would think about it.
Other?	Very "green" brand, go all out with the reusable bags.
Contact	John McCleod, Store Manager – 245-1917

Whole Foods

Door signs or other reminders?	Yes
Sell reusable bags	Yes
Offer rebates	Yes. 5 cent / bag credit, can be applied to their order or donated to selected non-profits
Other incentives?	
Bagger training?	Yes
Bagger buttons?	No.
Other?	
Contact	Scott Yamasaki, Marketing & Community Team Leader – 559-0300 X260

9/13/10

Listed below are goals for the 2009-2010 Work Plan, subject to approval by the City Council.		
Environmental Commission 2009-2010 Goals - revised		Projects in support of goals
1	Work with staff to secure the best value in waste management services for Los Altos.	Participate in RFP process and provide support as appropriate.
2	Implement approved education and outreach programs to achieve waste source reduction for Los Altos.	a) Implement Water Conservation Measures as approved by City Council on June 9 and 23, 2009 b) Implement Sustainable Events education program as approved
3	Develop baselines and progress indicators for Los Altos usage of water, waste, energy, and greenhouse gases.	a) Review ICLEI results for municipal operations greenhouse gas inventory; provide support as necessary. b) Work with city staff and Cal Water to develop baseline and monitor usage of water
4	Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Community	Investigate feasibility of accomplishing Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the community
	7-28-09	

ITEM # 16

Environmental Commission Prioritization Worksheet

Criteria

- 1 **City Council / Staff Direction:** Has the City Council or Los Altos staff asked us to look at this issue?
- 2 **Mission:** Does this fit within the [to be approved] mission of the Environmental Commission:
- Advisors to City Council
- Public Education & Outreach
- 3 **Impact:** Can the Environmental Commission have a meaningful impact on this issue?
- 4 **Government Interest:** Is there recent federal / state / county legislation, pending legislation or interest in the topic?
- 5 **Community Interest:** Is there evidence of resident / local business interest?
- 6 **Resources:** Does the Environmental Commission have access to the appropriate resources (staff, volunteer, financial) and expertise to be successful?

Criteria	Water Conservation	Water Baseline	Waste Management RFP	Waste Baseline	Municipal GHG Baseline	Community GHG Baseline	Re-useable Bags	Sustainable Events	Recycling	Composting	Green Building Policies	Solar	Green Business Certification	Sustainability Element to Gen Plan	Footnotes
1	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(1) Explicit request from City Council
2	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(2) Related to explicit CC request
3	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(3) Staff request
4	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(4) Baselines required to monitor progress of any E&O effort
5	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(5) Education yes, coordinated purchasing questionable
6	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(6) Purview of city staff and Planning Commission
7	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(7) Purview of Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, or public transit related
8	H	H	H	H	M	L	H	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	(8) Purview of city staff and Planning Commission

- (9) Impact on related to composting, recycling, and sustainable event
- (10) Potentially add Focus, Manpower
- (11) Efforts already underway from Cal Water; less incremental impact
- (12) No one else working on this; larger impact
- (13) GTA already working on this
- (14) Much work will be done within the waste management contract
- (15) Emerging issue.
- (16) Large, long term problem; commission unlikely to resolve
- (17) AB939 (50% waste diversion) + follow-on; AB32 (emissions capped to 1990 levels, organic waste diversion)
- (18) California water rationing
- (19) County promoting fees, some cities banning plastic
- (20) High community usage, LAVA endorsing education & outreach
- (21) Commissioner Participation only
- (22) Think modest program could be accomplished with volunteers and ~\$5-10K budget.

2.08.120 Powers and duties of the environmental commission.

The commission shall have those powers and duties entrusted to it by the council from time to time, and shall submit an annual report to the council. The environmental commission studies and makes recommendations to council on issues that affect the natural and built environment in the city and the region. Additional duties include special projects as directed by the council.

(Ord. 08-326 § 2)

Environmental Commission Mission Statement – Council approved 6-9- 2009

The mission of the Los Altos Environmental Commission is to advise the City Council on issues related to environmental sustainability including:

- Evaluation and recommending policies and programs to make Los Altos an environmentally sustainable place to live and work;
- Providing information and education to the public regarding environmentally sustainable lifestyles