



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

**MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.**

Community Meeting Chambers, Los Altos City Hall  
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California

### ESTABLISH QUORUM

### 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.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Information on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Commission Minutes  
Approve minutes of the meeting of June 10, 2013
2. Environmental Public Information Forums  
Review and discuss opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach
3. Environmental Commission Website  
Receive update on website activity and migration to new City website
  - a. Review edits to draft article for website – Fostering Bird Habitat
4. Environmental Commission FY 2013/14 Work Plan  
Discuss and update progress on FY 2013/14 Work Plan

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Los Altos Climate Action Plan  
Receive staff update on progress of the Climate Action Plan
6. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos  
Receive Subcommittee and staff update on watershed signage on roads crossing creeks
7. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Reusable Bags  
Receive staff report on status of reusable bag ordinance outreach activities and EPS
8. Monthly Staff Report  
Receive information and announcements from City Staff

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

## POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

## ADJOURNMENT

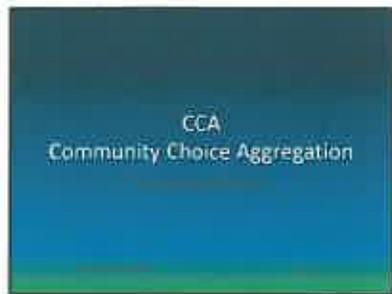
### **SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC**

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 City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for the Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the Internet at <http://losaltosca.gov/committees-commissions/environmental/meetings.html>

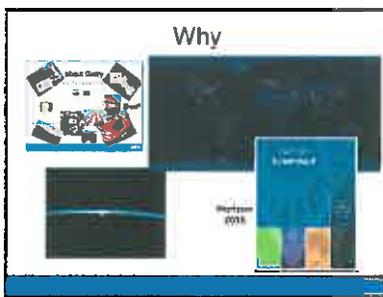
If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For other questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.



- ### Topics
- Who is speaking & Why & Getting on the same page
  - Electricity & How do we get it
  - What is a CCA & Where does it fit in
  - Legislative trail & How CCA came to be & Why is CCA connected to Climate Change
  - Our Community & Community Dimensions
  - CCA Risks and Rewards & Establishing a CCA

WHO IS SPEAKING  
&  
WHY  
&  
GETTING ON THE SAME PAGE



### Physics 101

- WATT Electric Unit of power
- WATT-Hour Electric Unit of energy
- GHG ratio PG&E 2012 South Bay CCA
- Local Energy needs Santa Clara County Sunnyvale (estimate)

### Physics 101 play with numbers

- Quad Unit of Energy
- One Quad since I don't know BTU's
- GHG Equivalents

ELECTRICITY  
&  
HOW DO WE GET IT

### Electricity is one form of Energy

#### Conservation of Energy

Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be transferred or transformed from one form to another.

Of course you can always find an exception.

The 6th Grade Energy Toolkit

### Background: Energy Landscape

- Electric energy is normally vertically **integrated**
- Includes:
  - Generation of electricity
  - Transmission into region
  - Distribution to customer (e.g. Zephyr)
- Two Predominant Models used**
  - 70% Investor Owned Utility (IOU)
  - 30% Municipal Owned Utility
- Results in natural monopolies, highly regulated**
  - California Public Utility Commission enforces rules and guidelines



### Electric Regulatory Terms

- LSE Load-serving Entities**
  - PG&E
  - SDG&S
- Resource Adequacy**
- REC Renewable Energy Credit**
- RPS Renewable Portfolio Standard**

### Electricity Today



### WHAT IS A CCA & WHERE DOES IT FIT IN

### Electricity with a CCA



### Typical Questions

Many of questions asked get answered when you fill in 2 blanks

A CCA is \_\_\_\_\_, but a CCA is NOT \_\_\_\_\_



### A CCA is NOT \_\_\_\_\_

- Municipal Utility
- A department of city government.
- A complete replacement for the Investor Owned Utility (IOU - PG&E)
- A replacement for the existing infrastructure.



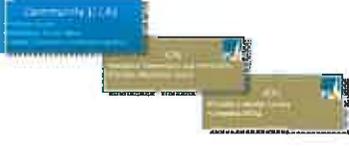
### A CCA is \_\_\_\_\_

- Community Choice Aggregation
- A method to allow local government agencies to negotiate the purchasing and development of power and energy-related programs on behalf of their communities.
- A way for energy generation revenues to be reinvested in and by the local community.
- Regulated by the CPUC (RPS, RPS, resource adequacy, and allocation but not rates nor terms and conditions of service)



### Simply - What is a CCA?

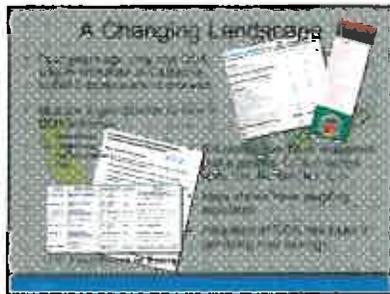
- Community-controlled electric power supplier
- Hybrid approach for supplying electric energy



**Slide 18**

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**GG25** Need to look at references used in CAP to confirm the percentages they will hear from team  
Gerald Glaser, 11/25/2012



LEGISLATIVE TRAIL  
&  
HOW CCA CAME TO BE  
&  
WHY IS CCA CONNECTED TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE

**California AB32 – sets a new agenda**

AB 32 requires actions be taken to reduce California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020



**California AB32 – sets a new agenda**

AB 32 requires actions be taken to reduce California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020

Various agencies have involved Local communities in describing how that will be achieved



**Legislative Landscape**

- 1998 – AB 1890 endorses retail competition
- 2002 – AB 117 lays the foundation for CCAs
- 2006 – AB 32 Sets GHG limit goal for 2020
- 2011 – SB 790 Protects CCA's
- 2011 – SB 2 Establishes RPS Standards
- 2012 – SB 643 Expands private energy alternatives

**Legislative – Addressing Concerns**

**AB 117 – Establishes CCAs**

- Provides protections; requires CCA to file full implementation plan with CPUC
- Gives CPUC 90 days respond to any submitted CCA implementation plan
- Identifies cost recovery requirements
- Specifies the energy efficiency and conservation program aspect of CCAs
  - Doesn't overburden GHG reduction systems
- If CCA fails, the cost of returning to IOU is NOT the burden of the customer.
- CCA must not discriminate with regards to customers in its service area
- Identifies how OFF-GUT is to be handled

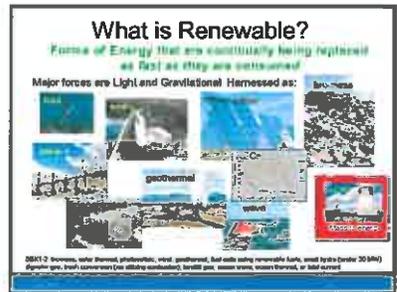
**SB 790 – protects CCA creation**

- Identifies which agencies can form CCAs
- Reinforces that Utility MUST cooperate with CCA. Establishes rules of conduct
- Identifies that market information must be shared
- Explicitly identifies that IOU is to facilitate development of any CCA and fair competition.

**Legislative – Green Solutions**

**2011 SB 2 specifies satisfying green targets and methods**

- RPS can be satisfied by using a variety of power and offset options
- Qualified Renewable Power Minimums
  - 20% by 2018
  - 33% by 2020
- Three categories of Renewable Power
  - Category 1 – Unlimited
    - energy from qualified renewable energy generators located within the state
    - or from out-of-state generators that can avoid strict siting requirements to ensure deliverability to California
  - Category 2 – Limit 25% after 2015
    - "Energy and storage" transactions where the energy produced by the renewable resource is not necessarily delivered to California, but is the source of energy from a different resource in California and located within the power's renewable energy attribute (Qualified Power Partnership)
  - Category 3 – Limit 10% after 2015
    - unbundled renewable energy production (RES) with no related physical energy delivery



### California Energy Profile

Fuel Type	California's Total Generation (2010)	Percentage of California's Total Generation	Percentage of Total Demand			
Coal	1,120	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Large hydro	21,110	22%	13%	13%	13%	13%
Natural Gas	52,110	54%	43%	43%	43%	43%
Nuclear	16,110	17%	18%	18%	18%	18%
Other	20	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Renewables	20,110	21%	14%	14%	14%	14%
Geothermal	1,110	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Biomass	1,110	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Small Hydro	1,110	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Solar	17,110	18%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Wind	7,110	7%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Geothermal	1,110	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Small Hydro	1,110	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other	1,110	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	20,110	21%	14%	14%	14%	14%

### Repurposing CCA?

- CCA concept developed before pervasive awareness of climate change
- CCA developed to provide choice and control costs
- CCA provides flexible ways to address GHG emissions
- In California, starting from AB32 efforts, CCA was identified as an established mechanism that also positively addressed Climate Change
- With further change in charter, CCA can provide a year achieve community goals associated with energy

### California PUC Regulations

CCA is governed by CPUC regulations to which all **Load Serving Entities** must comply

- Provide plan for 115% of forecast peak demand
- Local Area Resources must be made available to CA-ISO
- Tracks compliance to RPS portfolio

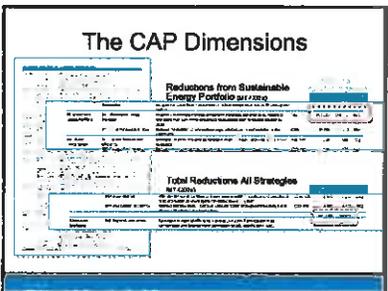
Also, CCA-specific CPUC regulations govern CCAs

- As part of creation, the CCA must document how it would be abandoned

### SUNNYVALE COMMUNITY DIMENSIONS

### Addressing the CAP Problem

- Reduction Goals change little over the next 25 years
- Two types of Reduction
  - Efficiency and behavior**  
change relies on personal choices
  - Systemic**  
change relies on a substitution of methods



### The CAP Problem – the math

- Sunnyvale Energy Portfolio
  - Currently accounts for 55% of the GHG inventory, surpassing transportation at 57%
  - 37% of GHG inventory is Electric Energy
  - 85% of Electric Energy Portfolio is captured in utility retail usage

### CCA Efforts in California

2010 GHG Emissions (Million Tons)	EST. REDUCTION (Million Tons)	EST. COST (\$ Million)
16,336	1,130	5,400

### The CAP Problem – the math

Tackling Energy Portfolio provides **the earliest, the quickest, most impactful** method of addressing GHG mitigation.

# CCA RISKS AND REWARDS & ESTABLISHING A CCA

- ### What we learned - Myths - about CCA
- Utilities will stop the effort
  - This is bleeding edge
  - This is difficult and expensive to setup
  - Utilities already find it difficult to find alternative power
  - This is a drain on Municipal resources

- ### What we learned - Reasons - to have a CCA
- The Obvious**
    - Provides new options for citizens to participate in the green economy
    - Provides opportunities for customers - more sources and energy options
    - Eventually reduces energy costs
  - The Not so Obvious**
    - Supports existing Sonoma-headquartered industries that play in the industry
    - Makes Community more attractive to businesses
    - Better ensures energy supply (get the benefit of both IOU and CCA - \$5.700)
    - Creates jobs in the energy sector (ex: 12 install and 3 maintenance jobs for each MW of new solar)
    - Provides opportunities for energy supplier - more markets for smaller players
    - Transportation Electrification is increasing the future portfolio mix
    - Reduces the responsibility of the City and reliance on the General Fund for addressing some of the activities associated with the CAP

- ### The Customer Experience
- Customers automatically are serviced by the CCA (by law - 13 111)
  - Costs can be higher initially
  - No change is made to how billing and service is handled
  - Electric power delivery reliability and priorities remain unchanged
  - Rental customers can participate in conservation programs
  - Energy Customers can choose from whom they buy their power

- ### Local Government Responsibilities
- Elect to offer established CCA service
  - Create legal entity that forms CCA
  - Pass Enabling Ordinance to offer or allow others to offer service
  - With independent CCA, depending on charter and method of formation
    - Secure (repayable) start-up funding to establish or modify operation of existing CCA

### Sonoma County - example

Consultants Evaluated 4 Scenarios

- Scenario 1 - Baseline**  
 (Net Solar) CCA Scenario  
 2015-2020  
 100% Solar
- Scenario 2 - Transitional**  
 (Net Solar) CCA Scenario  
 2015-2020  
 100% Solar
- Scenario 3 - Aggressive**  
 (Net Solar) CCA Scenario  
 2015-2020  
 100% Solar
- Scenario 4 - Transformational**  
 (Net Solar) CCA Scenario  
 2015-2020  
 100% Solar

- ### Costs of Starting up
- Startup - first 6 months
- Staffing and Professional Services
    - Marketing and Communications
    - Security deposits
    - Customer outreach and public meetings (at least 3)
    - Data Management GIS exchange w/ PUE
  - PG&E Service Fees
  - Miscellaneous Administrative and General Funded Security Bond Carrying Cost
  - Non-performance bond with PG&E (current rate under review)
- First month Operating
- Working capital
  - Generation prepayment expense and other project financing

- ### Mechanics of Starting up
- CPUC Filing describing:
- Organizational structure of the program, its operations, and its funding
  - Methods for entering and terminating agreements with other entities
    - A description of the first parties that will be supplying electricity under the program, including but not limited to transmission, distribution, service and operational agreements.
  - The rights and responsibilities of program participants, including, but not limited to:
    - Customer protection provisions, such as those related to service interruptions
    - Subsidies and other costs for participants
    - Provisions for disputes and due process in setting rates and allocating costs among participants
  - Description of service level
    - General service
    - Reliability
    - Financial protection of all involved customers
    - Any requirements established by law or the CPUC concerning aggregated services
  - Termination of Program
    - Defaulting plan to be used only if CCA fails
    - After CPUC confirmation, most immediate agreement of terms with PG&E to cover customer requirements
- After approval, CCA entity formation
- Create legal entity
  - City council ordinance to offer service through CCA entity

### Sonoma County 2013 - example

Small number of Accounts  
Very different profile of consumption

Category	2013	2014	2015
CCAs	1,174,214	1,174,214	1,174,214
Other	1,174,214	1,174,214	1,174,214
Total	2,348,428	2,348,428	2,348,428

• Risk: \$225,000 if project abandoned

• Bridge funding repaid by first 21 month operations

• Other profile used to finance energy-related community projects

## Formation Questions Requiring Answers

- **Resource Adequacy –**  
What is the 115% peak demand figure likely to be?  
150 County 50,000 MWyr – balanced peak load – 50,000 MWyr – 150 County
- **What are the available sources of power for CCA**
  - What is available in year one
  - What responsibility should the CCA assume in developing new sources?
  - What programs and innovative schedules should the CCA consider?
- **How would CCA start**
  - What phases might there be?
  - What are CCA's primary supply objectives/targets and when should it plan on meeting them?
  - Are there limitations the CCA should set in advance as to what activities it might include

## Renewable Energy Providers

- Merin's renewable suppliers
- Shell Energy North America
- "Power Suppliers"
- CleanPower:SF

## Mechanics of Starting up

- **Answer Market Analysis Questions:**
  - What is the real market for the CCA
  - Potential CCA
  - Performance history
- Measure the interest of surrounding communities in participating in a South Bay CCA
- Engage with the Industrial Community to measure interest and determine their specific energy needs
- **Identify Sources of Local Supply:**  
Example: 0.6 MW (as of 2011) of installed solar capacity in Sunnyvale  
500 documented solar installations in Sunnyvale
- **Figure what CCA charter should include:**
  - Identify consultants to help complete the initial study, that are also capable of preparing a CPUC CCA submission
  - Highlight how CCA can help address the actions of the Community's CAP

## Next Steps Considered

- Measure the interest of surrounding communities in participating in a South Bay CCA
- Engage with the Industrial Community to measure interest and determine their specific energy needs
- Identify consultants to help complete the initial study, that are also capable of preparing a CPUC CCA submission
- Highlight the actions of the Community CAP that might be better orchestrated by a CCA

## What we saw

- The presenter is interested, but no expert in this area
- A fast look at how we get power and how much we consume
- That early actions need to be taken to address Climate Change for both practical and legal reasons
- That Electric energy could be an effective component in how Sunnyvale addresses its Climate Change Responsibilities
- That reliance on a CCA is potentially a large impact action that many communities are considering
- Engagement with the Sunnyvale Industrial Community is necessary in order to achieve the best results
- That early adopters of CCAs have made it easier to establish one quickly and with little interruption in our daily lives

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE  
CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013 AT  
7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS COMMUNITY MEETING CHAMBERS,  
ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD,  
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

**ESTABLISH QUORUM**

PRESENT: Keller, Bray, Reed, Eyre, Hedden, Yuan,

ABSENT: Ardehali,

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Preston Roper, current Los Altos Hills resident, former Los Altos resident and representing Greentown Los Altos, provided information on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a method of purchasing and setting rates for energy to reduce greenhouse gas and reach reduction targets in the Climate Action Plan.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION**

1. Commission Minutes  
Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Hedden, seconded by Commissioner Bray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2013.
2. Redwood Grove Restoration Project and Aquatic Habitat Quality Study of Permanente Creek  
Received Presentation from Acterra
3. Environmental Public Information Forums  
Reviewed and discussed opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach
4. Environmental Commission Website
  5. Received update on website activity, 239 monthly hits; 731 year to date, and migration to new City website
  6. Reviewed draft article for website and provided recommendations for edits – Fostering Bird Habitat
7. Environmental Commission FY 2013/14 Work Plan  
Reviewed, discussed and updated progress on FY 2013/14 Work Plan

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

8. Los Altos Climate Action Plan  
Received staff update on progress of the Climate Action Plan

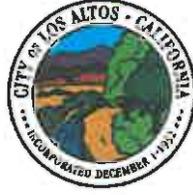
9. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Reusable Bags  
Received staff report on status of reusable bag ordinance outreach activities and EPS
10. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos  
Received Subcommittee and staff update on watershed signage on roads crossing creeks
11. Monthly Staff Report  
Received information and announcements from City Staff
  12. Process for joint commission meeting
  13. No teleconferencing for meeting attendance
  14. Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance change
  15. Mission Trails Public Education Plan and Community Events Guide
  16. Council Reports and Council Meeting Attendance  
June 11, 2013; Vice Chair Hedden; June 25, 2013; Commissioner Ardehali

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Eyre adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.



DATE: June 10, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 2

**TO:** Environmental Commission  
**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Environmental Public Information Forums

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and discuss opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach

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**BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Commission Work Plan, Goal 1, is to provide community education outreach activities in accordance with the Council approved work plan goals to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos.

The Commission determines topics and opportunities for approved public forums related to sustainability. An example of public outreach activities were public forums held prior to the award of the waste disposal contract and a study to determine both Municipal and Community Green House Gas emissions for the City. Current outreach efforts include the design and analysis of a survey to the community to facilitate and gain public input for the Los Altos Climate Action Plan and coordination with the Climate Action Plan consultant firm and with the Community Development Department. An additional topic is single-use bags and issues involved with polystyrene products.

**DISCUSSION**

The Environmental Commission is continuing discussion regarding community education and outreach activities.

To that goal, a Commission subcommittee is exploring topic ideas and approaches on additional ways to engage the public via education and information forums, various outreach mechanisms. The subcommittee will guide this discussion.



DATE: June 10, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 3

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Commission Website

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. Receive update on website activity and migration to new City website
- B. Review draft article for website – Fostering Bird Habitat

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**BACKGROUND**

The Commission redesigned and reorganized the content on the Environmental Commission website on the City's Commission webpage. Knowing that a major redesign of the City site was planned and is now coming to conclusion, the Commission undertook this project as a temporary solution with the expectation that the Environmental website will be blended under the City site once the site is constructed. The introductory statement on the Commission website states the purpose as:

“The City of Los Altos Environmental Commission has designed this site to inform and educate the community about local programs and initiatives that support the environment and to provide information about resources available throughout Santa Clara County and the Bay Area.”

The Environmental Commission seeks to maintain the website with relevant, high value content, in a manner that is visually pleasing, navigates well, and ties into the City website. The Commission monitors website hits and has seen an increase of viewership during 2013. Website content areas are:

- Recycling
- Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Greening an Event
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Green Building
- Alternatives in Transportation
- Water Conservation
- Storm Water Protection
- Sustainable Eating

Landscaping with Native Plants  
Tree Protection  
Local Creeks  
About the Commission  
City of Los Altos

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff will comment on the progress of the migration of the Environmental Commission web pages to the new City website. The migration activity is currently in the implementation phase. The citizen focus groups are currently meeting with the website design team and will provide feedback about the website's navigation, content and aesthetics. Following the focus groups and the review feedback, implementation of needed changes will take place.

Environmental Commission will also review and give comments on a draft document on Fostering Bird Habitat that can be posted as content to the website.

Staff will report the number of Environmental Commission website hits from June 7, 2013, through July 1, 2013 as 73, and 804 cumulative total of hits for January 1 through July 1, 2013.



DATE: June 10, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 4

**TO:** Environmental Commission  
**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Environmental Commission FY 2013/14 Work Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Discuss progress made and assign activities on FY 2013/14 Work Plan

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**BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Commission's FY 2013/14 Work Plan was approved by Council on May 14, 2013 and addressed sustainability programs in: 1) natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos; 2) Climate Action Plan (CAP); 3) watershed stewardship; 4) solid waste diversion and source reduction practices; 5) restriction of use of selected environmentally harmful products and 6) Green business practices.

**DISCUSSION**

Discussion will be on the comments and direction provided by Council to the Environmental Commission FY 2013/14 Work Plan and an update in Work Plan activities during June.

Attachments:

1. Los Altos Environmental Commission – Work Plan FY 2013/14 – May 2013 progress updates

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
FY2013/14 Work Plan**

Goal	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	Status
<p>1. Provide approved community education and outreach activities to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos.</p>	<p>Maintain updated 'Los Altos Environment' website. (Commission coordinator: John)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John will advise J during the EC web site transition. Also to identify outdated information and information gaps.</li> <li>Zahra to revise document recommending healthy and sustainable chemicals/products used inside and outside the home.</li> <li>Joe to write web page on fostering local birds</li> </ol>	<p>Depends on city timetable. Est. 5/30/13</p> <p>Est 6/10</p>	
	<p>Provide public information forums to the community (quarterly or triannually) (Owners: Gary, Chris)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris, Gary to develop proposal for initial event. Possible topics include outreach in preparation for single use bag ban or related to CAP.</li> </ol>	<p>7/2: Come up with specific ideas to propose.</p>	
<p>2. Climate Action Plan for City of Los Altos.</p>	<p>Develop dashboard of community trends on key environmental measures (Owner: Don)</p> <p>Work with Senior Planner to develop Climate Action Plan for City Los Altos</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify parameters and sources of information.</li> <li>Assist in developing, reviewing, and facilitating public input to a Los Altos Climate Action Plan.</li> <li>Identify 3-4 "biggest hitters" for GHG</li> </ol>	<p>8/12: provide mock-up</p>	<p>In progress</p>

<p><b>and source reduction practices in Los Altos.</b></p>	<p>meet and exceed contracted 78% diversion rate in 2013. (Owner: Lei)</p>	<p>difference 1) Exclusive MTWS debris boxes, 2) Multi-family units composting &amp; recycling, and 3) every household should try to divert a pound more/day.)</p>	
<p>5. Evaluate and recommend effective programs restricting use of selected environmentally-harmful products.</p>	<p>Single use' plastic bag ban</p>	<p>1. Ban slated for 7/4/13. EC to investigate assisting on outreach</p>	
	<p>Expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban (Owner: Chris)</p>	<p>1. J to report status of staff bringing a ban recommendation to Council.</p>	
<p>6. Encourage green business practices in Los Altos</p>	<p>Look at ways to encourage greener purchasing and operational practices by Los Altos businesses. (Owners: Gary, Joe, and Lei)</p>	<p>Investigate applicability of Green Business Initiative program to Los Altos businesses. Also investigate if City could get green business certification.</p>	<p>8/12: Lei to present ideas on how to promote this.</p>

**Question: Are the Environmental Commission's activities improving sustainability in our community?**



DATE: June 10, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 5

**TO:** Environmental Commission  
**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Los Altos Climate Action Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational update on Climate Action Plan

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**BACKGROUND**

Over the past eleven months, staff, consultant group PMC and the Environmental Commission have been working together to prepare data and discuss strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in compliance with State Assembly Bill (AB) 32. On April 23, 2013, staff and Consultant PMC presented the Climate action Plan report. Environmental Commissioner Don Bray also addressed Council. The April 23, 2013 CAP staff report authored by Senior Planner Zachary Dahl that was presented to Council was reviewed at the May 13, 2013 Environmental Commission meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

Publication of the Draft CAP is planned for early July. The August Environmental Commission meeting will provide members of the public and the Commission with an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the Draft CAP. Staff will bring the Draft CAP back to the Environmental Commission for a formal recommendation at the September meeting. Following the September Commission meeting, the Draft CAP will be scheduled for City Council review at their next available meeting. Following Council action/direction on the Draft CAP, staff will conduct CEQA review on the document and prepare it for final adoption. The goal is to get it adopted by the end of the year.



DATE: June 10, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 6

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Increased Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive update on watershed signage on roads crossing creeks

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**BACKGROUND**

The Commission partners with Acterra, GreenTown Los Altos and the community to raise awareness and provide education about local creeks, clean-up efforts and water run-off in order to preserve local creek habitat and water quality. The Commission has expressed interest in creek identification signage that will inform the public of the name of the creeks at bridge crossing to promote information and pride in our local creeks and natural habitat.

**DISCUSSION**

The Planning and Transportation Commission will be reviewing the Fremont bridge design and as part of the project, it is planned that Permanente Creek is to be identified on the Fremont bridge signage.

For other bridges that cross creeks, staff suggests the Environmental Commission could participate and take forward a project to identify major creeks at bridge crossing. The following steps are recommended:

1. Identification of appropriate locations for creek signage. The City has four major creeks at multiple crossings. Environmental Commission input would be helpful to identify locations that would be appropriate for creek signage.
2. Staff report with presentation to and direction from Council to proceed with creek identification and signage
3. Procure consulting services to develop examples for creek signage
4. Staff develops budget and costs for presentation to Council for approval and funding

The Commission subcommittee presented a report and series of photographs to identify locations for consideration of creek signage. Staff reviewed the report and held a meeting with the subcommittee to discuss next steps. Staff will provide assistance to advise and coordinate creek signage placement and installation, type of signs and budget for signs. The subcommittee researched information on costs and purchase of signage and presented this information for discussion with the Commission and staff and will provide an update on the meeting with staff. Upon conclusion of the project, a report with recommendations will be prepared for Council.



DATE: June 10, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 7

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Reusable Bags

**RECOMMENDATION:**

A. Receive staff report on status of public outreach for reusable bag ordinance and EPS

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**BACKGROUND**

The issue of restrictions on single use bags and polystyrene foam food containers was presented to the City Council at the January 10, 2012 Council meeting as a strategy to help mitigate effects of litter in storm water. City Council authorized staff to submit the City of Los Altos' Baseline Trash Load and Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. This Plan lists trash control measures that the City of Los Altos will need to implement in order to reduce the City's trash loads 40% by July 2014 as required by the Municipal Regional Storm water Discharge NPDES Permit (MRP). Two such control measures include prohibiting dispensing single use plastic bags at the checkout stands of retail establishments and prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam food containers at food service facilities.

On April 10, 2012, Council directed staff to participate in San Mateo County's collaborative regional effort to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that includes a proposed ordinance for reusable bags.

During City Council meeting in January, February and March 2013, Council took action on staff recommendations to prepare ordinances for the ban on plastic bags and approve proposals for public outreach and information to the community.

The Environmental Commission has been engaged in following the activities of the San Mateo Environmental Impact Report public hearings and reports in which the City of Los Altos was a participating member and in outreach activities to the community to promote the use of re-usage bags and restrain the use of single use bags.

**DISCUSSION**

During April and May, 2013, staff has completed the following public outreach and informational activities in the community.

1. Preparation of the retail tool kits, including flyers and design, purchase and distribution of "Shop Los Altos" re-usable bags
2. Door to door visits to the commercial community in late April
3. Staffing a table at the Farmers' Market on Thursdays from 4-8 pm
4. Held two merchant outreach forums
5. Preparation of an insert flyer for distribution to residents in the Mission Trails Waste System newsletter.

City of Los Altos staff is reviewing the initial draft EIR report from the City of San Jose to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) and will be preparing next steps toward a ban of EPS in the City of Los Altos.

Provisions for the restrictions on EPS will be forthcoming from staff.