



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

Community Meeting Chambers, Los Altos City Hall
1 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.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. **Environmental Commission Minutes**
Approve minutes of the regular meeting of August 12, 2019
2. **Herbicide Use in Los Altos City Parks**
Review and discuss current use of herbicides in City parks
3. **Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority**
Discuss proposed electrification Reach Codes for 2019 Energy Code
4. **Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund**
Discuss EnviroThon Challenge award distribution process
5. **Environmental Commission Work Plan**
Commissioner updates on work plan items

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. **City Staff Updates**
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 https://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings?field_microsite_tid_1=2261.

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.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019 BEGINNING AT
7:00 P.M. AT COMMUNITY MEETING CHAMBERS, LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, 1
NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair Weiden, Vice Chair Yuan, Commissioners Klein, Bray, Martin and Teksler

ABSENT: Commissioner Halkola

STAFF: Staff Liaison Niday

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. **Environmental Commission Minutes**

Approved minutes of the regular meeting of July 8, 2019

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Bray, seconded by Commissioner Teksler, the Environmental Commission approved the minutes from the July 8, 2019 regular meeting as written.

The motion was approved (6-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Weiden, Yuan, Klein, Bray, Martin and Teksler

NOES: None

ABSENT: Halkola

ABSTAIN: None

2. **Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority**

Discussed the 2019 Building Electrification and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Reach Code Initiative.

Public Comment: None

Action: The Commission affirmed support for City development and ratification of a Reach Code based upon the work of SVCE and authorized Commissioner Teksler to make a statement of the Commission's support to the City Council during the public comment period at the scheduled August meeting of the City Council.

3. **Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund**

Discussed EnviroThon Challenge winners and award distributions.

Public Comment: None

Action: None

4. Environmental Commission Work Plan

Reviewed and discussed goals for the 2019/20 Work Plan

Public Comment: None

Action: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. City Staff Updates

Received information and announcements from City staff

COMMISSION REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weiden adjourned the meeting at 8:18 P.M.



DATE: September 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #2

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Herbicide Use in Los Altos City Parks

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss current use of herbicides in Los Altos City parks

BACKGROUND

At the regular meeting of August 14, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) approved a motion to recommend to City Council the banning of the use of synthetic herbicides and synthetic pesticides in Los Altos parks. The PARC forwarded the August 14, 2019 commission's agenda report on "Herbicide Use in Los Altos City Parks" along with the other documents to the Environmental Commission to explore the banning of synthetic herbicides and synthetic pesticides in the City of Los Altos. On August 27, 2019, a meeting took place with Donna Legge (Recreation & Community Services Director), Manny Hernandez (Maintenance Services Director), Callie Niday, and Don Weiden to discuss this matter.

Like many Bay Area agencies, herbicides are used to control or eliminate unwanted vegetation in public parks, open spaces and other city-owned outdoor spaces. The City of Los Altos does not use Roundup; however, the current herbicide being used to control weeds is Ranger Pro. Ranger Pro contains 41% Glyphosate (same active ingredient as Roundup). This product is a complete broad spectrum non-selective post-emergent professional herbicide, approved and in compliance. Ranger Pro is generic for Roundup and is equivalent and just as effective as the name brand. This generic roundup will kill most weeds and grasses. Ranger Pro moves through the plant from the point of foliage contact to and into the root system. It is then absorbed into the soil and breaks down naturally, and therefore will not spread through the ground and kill neighboring plants.

Within the Municipal Services Department, the Park Maintenance Division makes efforts to avoid usage of herbicide around the public or common areas. Pathway spraying is done as early as 5am to allow drying prior to the arrival of park users. There are no public pathways through median landscapes. In addition, staff uses a diluted mix of Ranger Pro, a dilution of 2% with water. Application happens once a year, to target the weed explosion in the spring. Ranger Pro is applied along park pathways, City owned medians, and hardscape as needed. On direction from the County, Glyphosate herbicide is not used on the Foothill medians as it is owned by the County. Weeds in those areas are knocked down throughout the year. Several other "organic" herbicides and time-consuming techniques, such as torching and use of vinegar, have not proven successful. Neighboring agencies have experienced the same.

Over the last few years, the City of Los Altos has severely cut back on the usage of Glyphosate herbicides in parks and medians by limiting where they are used and when the public is least present. A move completely away from the use of Glyphosate products will have aesthetic implications in the parks and medians.

The City is currently mandated by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program through a Municipal Regional Permit to maintain an Integrated Pest Management Program that mandates minimal herbicide use. The City is currently in compliance. The current Integrated Pest Management Policy prohibits the use of pesticides for pest control.

Staff reached out to surrounding agencies and below is a summary of the information received from six neighboring agencies on their weed control practices.

Redwood City:

Redwood City uses pre-emergent treatment twice per year (Cool/Warm). The herbicides they have used since stopping the use of Glyphosates include:

- Scythe- not found to be effective in recycled water or high salinity soils areas, stopped use.
- Avenger Organic- not found to be effective at all.
- Fiestas Organic- used for a long time, not super effective but some staff like it for very specific uses so we keep it.
- Finale- Was effective, new main product, then they didn't re-register it for use in California. (Tons of So Cal cities switched to it also)

Atherton:

Atherton currently uses Roundup on non-turf areas. However, in the coming weeks Council will discuss discontinued use of it. If they approve and it is discontinued, Atherton proposes to use Mirimichi or Reward. When using Roundup, Atherton applied it 5 times a year (3 applications over 3 days) in the early morning and close off sections until dry. The City has not used herbicides on turf areas for a few years now. The City only has one 22-acre park so it may be easier for the City to control weeds. The focus is to keep the turf healthy. The City dethatches once a year, aerates twice a year and fertilizes every 3 months with a seasonal fertilizer. When the City gets Clover, it uses nitrogen. The City has well water and keeps the turf areas well irrigated.

Sunnyvale:

Sunnyvale has not banned the use of Roundup or Glyphosate derivatives. It is still legal use in California. CA DPR, CA EPA, and the US EPA still has listed it as a legal product to use. Sunnyvale has been looking into alternatives because Baylands Park is a 177-acre Santa Clara County park and the county banned the use of Glyphosate on all county owned facilities last fall.

The City is trying an alternative which is Glufosinate-ammonium, trade name of the product we use is Lifeline Herbicide. Its mode of action is like Glyphosate in the it is an enzyme blocker of an amino acid synthesis pathway. The amino acid synthesis blocked by Glyphosate is more effective than Glufosinate-ammonium enzyme action. Because of the stigma of the most recent litigation many agencies are banning its use just to avoid any potential litigation that could arise. So far Glufosinate-ammonium has not been linked to any cancers.

Currently the City does not have any hard data on its use. The first use of Lifeline Herbicide has been at Baylands Park. The City has just started using it. Some City staff are experimenting with Lifeline Herbicide at other parks and open space facilities but for the most part most the staff still uses tried and true Roundup.

Foster City:

Foster City stopped using Roundup last year, but continued to use Ranger Pro. The City has since stopped using both products and has just started using Lifeline mixed with Magnify (surfactant). As a result, the City started applying this last week. Foster City has limited to spraying windows due to what seems to be never-ending winds. The City also uses Reward when necessary as well as some broadleaf chemicals such as Speedzone and Turflon. The City has also increased the usage of Surflan for pre-emergent control. It has had mixed results with this, especially in areas where the City has done a lot of mulching.

San Mateo County Parks:

San Mateo County currently uses a Glyphosate herbicide but are stopping use once the product on hand is used up, which will be by December 2019 when the staff recommendation expires. The County has been using Finalsan with Oroboost as a surfactant. We also have recommendations for Gallery and Dimension, the results are somewhat comparable to Roundup but decreases staff time by mechanically removing weeds as well as Workers Comp claims for repetitive motion injuries. Glyphosate is really the optimum treatment choice since it is selective in what it treats. The others mentioned are not selective and have a warning label compared to a danger label on Roundup.

Santa Clara:

Stopped using Glyphosate last year. Spraying Reward and tested a propane burner until something caught on fire. Not using any organics as of now.

DISCUSSION

Under the Community Development Department, the City of Los Altos Environmental 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.”

Should the PARC wish to further pursue this topic, it is recommended that the topic also be reviewed by the Environmental Commission, prior to being forwarded to the City Council.

Attachments:

- A. Herbicides Email Correspondence

From: Pat Marriott <patmarriott@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 10, 2019 8:31 PM
To: Los Altos Parks & Recreation Commission; Los Altos Environmental Commission
Subject: herbicides

Dear Commissioners,

Item 3 on the August 14th PARC agenda addresses herbicide use in our parks.

California requires companies to warn customers about chemicals known to cause cancer under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, approved by voters in 1986. But the EPA just defied California regulators and Bay Area environmentalists, telling businesses to ignore that requirement.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Trump-s-EPA-defies-California-rules-says-14294237.php>

I strongly urge you to ban all glyphosate products and other poisonous pesticides.

Los Altos should lead the way in making our city safe for humans as well as for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. In response to the massive global bee die-off, beekeepers came together 13 years ago to create an annual survey of hive loss. **Last year's survey shattered the all-time record with a startling 40.7 percent loss.**

<https://umdrighnow.umd.edu/news/us-beekeepers-suffered-higher-average-colony-loss-last-year-winter-losses-highest-recorded>

Ethan Strimling, the mayor of Portland, Maine, passed an ordinance to ban bee-killing pesticides. We should follow his lead and protect our children and animals – as well as the bees – from deadly herbicides.

Thanks for listening,

Pat Marriott



DATE: September 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #3

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCEA) 2019 Building Electrification and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Reach Code Initiative

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss proposed electrification Reach Codes for 2019 Energy Code and make a recommendation to City Council

BACKGROUND

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), along with Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) and the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, are supporting their municipalities to adopt building codes that will result in safer and more comfortable buildings, increase their electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and reduce their carbon footprint.

In support of municipalities and counties in SVCE and PCE service territory, SVCE and PCE are providing extensive technical assistance plus a \$10,000 incentive to each city that brings reach codes to their councils.

Reach Code Adoption Process

Every three years, the State of California adopts new building standards that are organized in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, referred to as the California Building Standards Code. This regular update is referred to as a “code cycle.” The last code cycle was adopted in 2016 and was effective as of live on January 1, 2017. The next code cycle will be adopted in 2019 and will be effective January 1, 2020. Cities and counties can adopt reach codes that require items that are above and minimum state code requirements. However, these reach codes must be filed with the State.

In addition, the California Energy Commission (CEC) requires that a cost-effectiveness study be conducted and filed in the case of local amendments to the Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6). It is required that the City demonstrate to the CEC, using a cost-effectiveness study, that the amendments to the code are financially responsible and do not represent an unreasonable burden to the non-residential and residential applicants. A cost-effectiveness study is not required for amendments to the Green Building Code (Title 24, Part 11).

Statewide Cost-Effectiveness Study for Energy Code Reach Codes

Funded by the California investor-owned utilities, the California Statewide Codes and Standards Program (Statewide Program) led the development of a cost-effectiveness study for Energy Code reach codes that examined different performance-based approaches for new construction of specific

building types. There are two kinds of reach code approaches: performance-based ordinances and prescriptive ordinances. Performance-based ordinances mandate an increase in the overall energy efficiency required but leave flexibility for the builder on how to achieve this goal. In contrast, prescriptive ordinances mandate implementation of a specific measure (such as solar panels or cool roofs). The Statewide Program's analysis focused on performance-based ordinances but some conclusions about prescriptive measures can be made from the results.

Prescriptive Codes: Require one or more specific energy efficiency measures.

Performance Codes: Require a building to perform more efficiently based on accepted computer modeling and allow trade-offs between energy efficiency measures.

Why Establish Reach Codes?

The benefits of greenhouse gas (GHG) free electricity can best be realized by electrification of new and existing buildings and transportation vehicles. Electrifying buildings and vehicles transition them away from the use of natural gas and gasoline to clean energy provided by SVCE. By developing electrification reach codes, cities can save energy and reduce GHG emissions in Santa Clara and San Mateo County. All-electric buildings are safer and healthier to live in along with being cost effective, especially when adopted at the new construction stage. It is most efficient for cities to coordinate adoption of reach codes with the adoption of the new 2019 building code, taking effect January 1, 2020.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging requirements in California can generally be broken into three categories:

1. EV Charging Installed: all supply equipment is installed at a parking space, such that an EV can charge without additional equipment.
2. EV Ready: Parking space is provided with all power supply and associated outlet, such that a charging station can be plugged in and a vehicle can charge.
3. EV Capable: Conduit is installed to parking space, and building electrical system has ample capacity to serve future load. An electrician would be required to complete the circuit before charging is possible.

EV charging capacity and speed can be summarized as three categories:

1. Level 1: Capable of charging at 120V, 20A. This is a equivalent to a standard home outlet.
2. Level 2: Capable of charging at 240V, 30-40A. This is the service capacity typically used for larger appliance loads in homes
3. Level 3 (DC Fast Charging): Capable of charging at 20-400kW. This is the type of charger used for Tesla Superchargers and DC Fast Chargers at some supermarkets.

The 2019 California Green Building Code Update (Title 24, Part 11) increases requirements for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new construction; including:

1. New one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses with attached private garages: must be Level 2 EV-capable
2. Multi-family dwellings: 10% of parking spaces must be Level 2 EV-capable
3. Non-residential: 6% of parking spaces must be Level 2 EV-capable

Building Appliance Electrification

For multiple reasons including health, safety economics and environmental benefits, there is considerable interest in mandating all-electric new construction, or “building electrification,” which means that the buildings would not have any fossil fuel services. All-electric buildings have electric appliances for space heating, water heating, clothes-drying, and cooking. The interest in building electrification stems from the fact that SVCE is providing 100% carbon-free electricity and eliminating the use of natural gas can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector. To date, the City does not often see all-electric buildings constructed. Mandating that all new construction be all-electric through the building reach code process has not been chosen as the appropriate path because of legal implications in proving cost-effectiveness of this approach to the CEC. The leading approach is to encourage electrification by giving builders the choice of two options:

1. achieving a higher energy efficiency level than the Energy Code using mixed fuels (natural gas and electricity); or
2. building an all-electric building at the minimum efficiency as required in the Energy Code. The Statewide Program’s study analyzed this approach.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Local residents are showing a significant interest in electric vehicles. For example, the number of registered plug-in vehicles in Santa Clara county increased by 31% in 2018. By comparison, registrations for vehicles powered by fossil fuels shrank in 2018. It is widely known that availability of EV charging infrastructure is a critical component to EV adoption. Meanwhile, it is significantly more expensive to install charging infrastructure as a retrofit than it is during new construction. As such, ensuring that newly constructed residential and non-residential parking has ample EV charging capability will reduce long-term costs of EV infrastructure installation, while helping to increase EV adoption and decrease transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. While California’s new minimum requirements are a step forward, it is unlikely that the requirements for multi-family dwellings and non-residential buildings are enough to keep pace with expected EV growth looking towards 2030. The Statewide Program’s team reviewed approaches to increase the amount of EV infrastructure in new construction buildings, while keeping construction costs as low as possible.

For more information on the Reach Code initiative, please visit:
<https://www.svcleanenergy.org/reach-codes/>

DISCUSSION

Staff attends monthly Member Agency Working Group (MAWG) meetings with SVCEA. The monthly updates can be found below.

SVCEA MAWG Updates (January 2019 – August 2019):

The MAWG did not meet in December 2018. City staff attended the SVCE County-wide Reach Code Working Group Launch on January 15, 2019 to learn more about the Reach Code project described above. Members of the City Manager’s Office and Community Development Department attended as well.

At the January 24, 2019 MAWG meeting, the group discussed the potential for SVCEA to form a joint funding mechanism with BAAQMD and other agencies to fund EV infrastructure. SVCEA staff is currently developing an RFP and scope of work to secure a consultant to explore the EVSE market

and identify barriers, forecast infrastructure needs, and establish a mechanism to pursue grant funding. SVCEA also updated the group on youth focused programs like the Bike to the Future event, which took place in April 2019 and the creation of a student ambassador program, focused on educating students and schools about ways to reduce GHG emissions.

On March 20, 2019, SVCEA hosted a workshop on the Reach Code project to the appropriate City Staff, the Building/Developer Community and interested stakeholders. The Reach Code project is currently underway, the consultant completed the cost effectiveness study, and the initial draft of the reach codes was released in March.

At the April 25, 2019 MAWG meeting, the group discussed the release of the new PG&E rates for 2019. Sunnyvale gave a presentation on their Climate Action Playbook. The group received an update from Aimee Bailey, Director of Decarbonization and Grid Innovation, on SVCE Innovation Onramp which went live April 3, 2019. The Heat Pump Technology Days: Water Heating Meeting was held on May 9, 2019 in San Francisco. SVCEA also informed the group that the results of the cost effectiveness study for the Reach Codes project are available. SVCE is looking for input from cities and stakeholders; May 15, 2019 is the deadline to provide input before the reach code language is drafted. In May 2019, SVCEA launched a showcase design grant focused on all-electric projects within the service territory; the new all-electric Los Altos Community Center may be eligible. Also, the group announced that PG&E has delivered gas data for the Climate Action Plan.

At the May 23, 2019 MAWG meeting, SVCE presented the heat pump water heater program, which launched in June 2019. This program is offering funding for 100 residential projects including incentives for new heat pump water heaters and new solar panels. The group received an update on the showcase of all-electric design awards, which also launched in June 2019. The awards are going to be available for all-electric buildings that are already built, rather than future projects. The goal is to showcase the participating projects in SVCE's resource center. SVCE also gave an update on the jurisdictions that have sent in a letter of intent for the reach codes – including Cupertino, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Campbell, Los Altos, and Sunnyvale. On May 29, 2019, the building model reach code language was shared and on June 6, 2019, the electric vehicle model reach code was discussed.

At the June 27, 2019 MAWG meeting, the group discussed the reach codes initiative with the building officials from various jurisdictions. The building officials from the City of Sunnyvale, City of Milpitas, and the City of Cupertino attended this meeting. As previously discussed, the overall goal of adopting a reach code is to increase the electrification of buildings and decrease buildings overall carbon emissions. Additional benefits of constructing a home that is all-electric is that they are the healthier, cleaner, safer, and more cost-effective option than building a home that has mixed-fuel (electricity and natural gas). Three pathways were presented at the meeting, including: pathway 1 (all-electric), pathway 2 (mixed fuel), and pathway 3 (mixed-fuel with no space and water heating). Pathway 3 would cut the carbon emissions by 80% and would still offer people the option to have comfort appliances (i.e. gas stove top and gas fire pit). In addition, the group received an update that the all-electric showcase awards are now live; applications will be accepted until July 26, 2019. SVCE will showcase the customers who have successfully constructed an all-electric home and will showcase the design elements to help support the reach code effort. The FutureFit Heat Pump Water Heater program launched on June 28, 2019 and about 115 people have already shown their interest. The Heat Pump Cost Effectiveness webinar was given on July 3, 2019.

At the July 25, 2019 MAWG meeting, Aimee Bailey introduced a new program focused on grid integration called the Virtual Power Plant (VPP) initiative. To better understand VPP functions and values, SVCE and Gridworks are releasing the [Silicon Valley Clean Energy Virtual Power Plant Options Analysis Discussion Draft](#) to generate thoughts, ideas, and feedback on possible solutions and the path to achieving those solutions in Silicon Valley. Other programs discussed at the MAWG meeting include the [Innovation Onramp Program](#), the [All-Electric Showcase Awards](#), and [FutureFit](#) – the heat pump water heater program. The Heat Pump Water Heater Buyers Guide can be found in Attachment A. It was announced that the City of Berkeley unanimously voted to ban natural gas for new low-rise residential buildings starting January 1, 2020. PG&E has offered to attend council meetings in support of building electrification. There is a Building Decarb Coalition webinar on August 29, 2019 called “Is a Gas Moratorium Right for You?” In addition, SVCE announced that there are existing tools on their website to help support the reach code effort, including the Model Staff Report Letter Template and informational flyers (found in Attachment B). Additional tools are currently under development, including a general slide deck for City staff use, building department checklists, a cost effectiveness informational chart, an electric vehicle cost effectiveness analysis, and an informational video. An update was given to the group that the 2018 GHG inventory is almost completed. Lastly, the Draft EV Infrastructure Joint Action Plan was discussed.

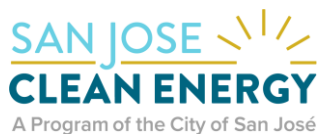
At the August 22, 2019 MAWG meeting, Don Eckert, the Director of Finance of SVCE, gave a presentation on the proposed 2019-2020 operating budget. A status update of the following programs was given: all-electric showcase awards, heat pumps, reach codes, and VPP. In addition, an announcement was made about the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP): SVCE formed a regional coalition with other Community Choice Aggregations and municipal utilities to try to interest the CEC in partnering on a CALeVIP program in our area. The CEC announced earlier this month that they have chosen SVCE for a CALeVIP launch in 2020, with a combined funding of \$60 million! As SVCE’s territory will have \$12 million dedicated to it (with half coming from the CEC and half from SVCE), this program will lead to substantially more charging infrastructure installed throughout SVCE territory.

More information can be found at:

- [SVCE’s Webpage on CALeVIP](#)
- [CALeVIP Website](#)
- [2020 CALeVIP Announcement Presentation from CEC](#)

Attachments:

A. CALeVIP Grant Press Release



Powering The Center of What's Possible

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2019

State Proposes \$33M in New Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

California Energy Commission to help the Peninsula and South Bay keep pace with rapid adoption of electric vehicles

Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Calif. - The California Energy Commission is partnering with five local energy agencies to launch an incentive project for the installation of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. As more Californians choose to drive EVs and the state transitions to an electric transportation system, there is a continued need for available charging stations. This is especially the case in Silicon Valley, which has the highest rate of EV sales in the state.

The project, expected to launch in spring of 2020, is an initiative of the Energy Commission's [California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project](#) (CALeVIP), which works with local community partners to develop and implement regional incentive projects for charging infrastructure that supports the adoption of EVs statewide. Funding will span two to four years.

The Energy Commission is proposing to provide \$21 million in incentives to Santa Clara County and \$12 million in incentives to San Mateo County. City of Palo Alto Utilities, Peninsula Clean Energy, San José Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy and Silicon Valley Power are pledging to contribute millions in matching funds to this effort, pending approval by their respective governing boards or city councils. By leveraging local investment, CALeVIP funds will further expand EV charging accessibility in the region.

"This project will help provide the necessary infrastructure for the shift to a clean, electric transportation system statewide," says California Senator Bob Wieckowski. "Adding charging options in convenient locations will make electric vehicles accessible for those unable to charge at home. This in turn will support a continued increase in EV adoption, allowing our communities to meet our climate goals, and helping everyone benefit from better local air quality."

"The lack of charging stations is one of the main reasons consumers are reluctant to make the switch to electric vehicles. We can't move the needle on EV adoption unless we aggressively expand our charging infrastructure. This state and local funding partnership would not only support the current demand in the South Bay and Peninsula, but also help meet the needs of future EV drivers," said Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), whose district includes northern San Mateo County.

"The Energy Commission is excited to work with all our partners on this project to increase access to convenient charging for electric vehicles in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties,"

said Commissioner Patty Monahan of the Energy Commission. “By expanding the state’s charging network, CALeVIP projects like this one help the state transition to zero-emission transportation, provide cleaner air and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

CALeVIP works to address regional needs for EV charging infrastructure throughout California, while supporting the state’s goals to improve air quality, fight climate change and reduce petroleum use.

The incentive project will help increase the number of fast chargers and Level 2 chargers in public, workplace and multi-family housing locations, as well as along highway corridors.

Fast chargers provide at least 100 miles of range per hour of charging, and some can charge a battery up to 80 percent in 30 minutes. Level 2 chargers provide 15-35 miles of range per hour of charging, which is enough for most day-to-day driving.

California’s goal is to get 5 million EVs on its roads by 2030 to reduce carbon emissions and to support those vehicles by installing 250,000 chargers statewide, including 10,000 direct current fast chargers, by 2025.

Santa Clara and San Mateo counties receive clean electricity from local energy providers that is at a minimum 80 percent greenhouse-gas free. Powering cars with electricity rather than fossil fuels dramatically reduces tailpipe emissions that contribute to climate change and air pollution. CALeVIP funding and the matching funds from local agencies will help Santa Clara and San Mateo counties accelerate this transition, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, the leading source of emissions in Silicon Valley.

CALeVIP has several regional projects throughout the state, including projects in Fresno, Sacramento and Southern California. CALeVIP and its regional projects are implemented by the Center for Sustainable Energy and funded primarily by the Energy Commission’s [Clean Transportation Program \(also known as the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program\)](#).

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About the California Energy Commission

The California Energy Commission is leading the state to a 100 percent clean energy future. It has [seven core responsibilities](#): developing renewable energy, transforming transportation, increasing energy efficiency, investing in energy innovation, advancing state energy policy, certifying thermal power plants, and preparing for energy emergencies.

About the Center for Sustainable Energy

The Center for Sustainable Energy® (CSE) is a nonprofit offering clean energy program administration and technical advisory services. With the experience and streamlined efficiency of a for-profit operation, CSE leads with the passion and heart of a nonprofit. We work nationwide with energy policymakers, regulators, public agencies, businesses and others as an expert implementation partner and trusted resource. EnergyCenter.org

About City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU)

The City of Palo Alto is the only municipality in California operating a full suite of utility services, including electric and fiber optics, water, wastewater, natural gas, refuse and

storm drain services. Since 2013, the City's electric supply portfolio has been [carbon neutral](#). For more about CPAU's EV programs, visit cityofpaloalto.org/EV

About Peninsula Clean Energy

Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) is San Mateo County's official electricity provider. PCE (www.PeninsulaCleanEnergy.com) is a public local community choice energy program that provides electric customers in San Mateo County with cleaner electricity at lower rates than those charged by the local incumbent utility. PCE is projected to save customers more than \$18 million a year. PCE, formed in March 2016, is a joint powers authority made up of the County of San Mateo and all 20 cities and towns in the County. PCE serves approximately 290,000 accounts. www.peninsulacleanenergy.com

About San José Clean Energy

San José Clean Energy is the new electricity generation service provider for residents and businesses in the City of San José, operated by the City's Community Energy Department. Governed by the City Council, it provides over 328,000 residential and commercial electricity customers with cleaner, lower carbon power options at competitive prices, from sources like solar, wind and hydropower. For more information, please visit www.SanJoseCleanEnergy.org.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) @SJCleanEnergy.

About Silicon Valley Clean Energy

Silicon Valley Clean Energy is a community-owned agency serving the majority of Santa Clara County communities, acquiring clean, carbon-free electricity on behalf of more than 270,000 residential and commercial customers. As a public agency, net revenues are returned to the community to keep rates competitive and promote clean energy programs. Member jurisdictions include Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Saratoga, Sunnyvale and unincorporated Santa Clara County. SVCE is guided by a Board of Directors, which is comprised of a representative from the governing body of each member community. For more information, please visit SVCleanEnergy.org.

About Silicon Valley Power

[Silicon Valley Power](#) (SVP) is the trademark adopted for use by the not-for-profit electric municipal utility of [Santa Clara, CA](#), serving residents and businesses for over 120 years. SVP provides power to nearly 55,000 customers, at rates 25 to 48 percent below neighboring communities. SVP is the only full service, vertically integrated publicly owned utility in Silicon Valley owning generation, transmission and distribution assets. See more at: <http://www.siliconvalleypower.com/>.

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DATE: September 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #4

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss EnviroThon Challenge award distribution process

BACKGROUND

In November 2003, the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) entered into a Donor Advised Fund Agreement with the Los Altos Environmental Commission (formerly the Los Altos Environmental Committee) for the purposes of creating and maintaining an Environmental Education fund, “the Fund”. The Fund is maintained and administered by LACF and was initially created for the purpose of funding the reprinting of the *Trees of Los Altos* booklet. Upon an initial grant of \$1,000 by LACF, the fund received donations from the public to aid in the printing and distribution of the *Trees* booklet. The books were printed and distributed, though LACF reports hundreds of copies remaining in storage. The current balance of the account is \$3,528 and is to be used specifically for “environmental education”.

DISCUSSION

LACF has informed the City that the \$3,528 balance remains available for environmental education efforts. The Environmental Commission has the authority to make recommendations to LACF for disbursement of the funds.

At the January 14, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission discussed potential uses for the environmental education fund. The Commission determined that a brainstorming session would help determine potential uses for the funds and directed Commissioners to bring ideas to the February meeting. The Commissioners will share their ideas and begin to narrow the focus of the environmental education fund.

The Environmental Commission continued its discussion of potential uses for the environmental education fund at the February 11, 2019 meeting. Vice Chair Yuan and Commissioner Teksler formed a subcommittee to distill the February 11, 2019 discussion and develop a list of the group’s top ideas from the brainstorming session.

At the March 11, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission continued to discuss the potential uses for the environmental education fund. Commissioner Klein expressed interest to work with the History Museum to develop specific activities and programs to use the funding for engagement and community involvement focused on environmental education as both organizations deem fit, and bring back a generalized proposal with review and input from the Commission.

At the May 13, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein gave an update that the Commission is going to work with the Los Altos History Museum to host an activism workshop during the Apricot STEM Fair on Sunday, June 30, 2019. The goal is for participants to form a team, design an environmental protection campaign, and pitch their campaign for cash funding. The pitches will be recorded, and the Commission will select the winners. The details of how the environmental education fund is being allocated is being discussed and will be presented at the June meeting.

At the June 10, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein updated the Commission that 12 applications representing seven schools across four cities were received for the Los Altos EnviroThon Challenge at the Apricot STEM Fair. Despite the challenge of getting the attention of teachers and students at the end of the school year and the challenge of holding the event during the summer break, a great number of students signed up for the event. Commissioner Klein informed the group that the pitch presentations will be recorded and published on the web. Once the videos are reviewed by the Commission, the winners will be selected and the amount of funding to award each team will be decided. Awards will be judged on the basis of both the feasibility of the project idea and the persuasiveness of the presentation. The grand prize-winning team will also receive a session of personalized tutoring in advance of reprising their pitch in front of an audience at the Los Altos Night of Ideas event in September.

At the July 8, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein announced that the EnviroThon event was a success. There were 13 participants from seven different schools across four cities. Four teams were formed, and they had only three hours to put together a presentation. The EnviroThon Challenge winners were announced including Fight Back for First Place, Field Trippers and Next Generation tied for Second Place, and Vroom Vroom for Third Place. The Commission unanimously awarded the four winners up to \$1,700 (approximately half) of the Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund balance. The group discussed how to allocate funding appropriately. It was announced that the awards will be distributed to non-profit or educational organizations selected by the winning teams. The remaining education fund balance will go towards hosting a similar event next year.

On the August 12, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein gave an update that the winning team, Fight Back, has been actively involved with the City for the carbon dividend tax. The two teams focusing on education has attended a few community events and has decided to combine funds (\$800 total). One of the groups gave a presentation to the Cupertino City Council with the Youth Climate Group. Commissioner Klein will give an update on the award distribution process at the next Environmental Commission meeting on September 9, 2019.

Attachments:

None



DATE: September 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #5

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action, as appropriate, on the 2019/20 Environmental Commission Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council on May 7, 2019 to review the Commission's 2018/19 Accomplishments and Draft 2019/20 Target areas and discussed issues and projects for the upcoming year. Based on this discussion, the targets were finalized, and the 2019/20 Work Plan was developed. The Targets and Work Plan are intended to focus the Commission's agenda items and will serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2019/20 year.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Commission Targets and resulting Work Plan for 2019/20 are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Water Conservation and Stormwater Management
3. Solid Waste Diversion
4. Community Outreach and Education

The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and act appropriately.

Attachments:

- A. 2019/20 Targets and Work Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2019/20 Targets & Work Plan

September 9, 2019

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action Plan	Review and comment on Building and Electric Vehicle Reach Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee -Don Weiden, Laura Tekslar and Lei Yuan 	January 2020	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVCE presentation of Building Model Reach Code language on May 29, 2019 SVCE presentation of Electric Vehicle Model Reach Code language on June 6, 2019 SVCE presentation of Reach Codes to Environmental Commission on July 8, 2019; EC made a motion to support staff development and ratification of a reach code Subcommittee met on July 15, 2019 The subcommittee will come back with recommendations to City staff by the next EC meeting
	Update of City's CAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainability Coordinator position was approved by the City Council for the Fiscal Year 2019-20 / 2020-21 Operating Budget on June 11, 2019 This is on hold until the new Sustainability Coordinator is on board
Water Conservation & Stormwater Management	Green Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist staff in development and review of Plan 	June 2019	Storm Water Regional Discharge Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff made a presentation of their final plan to the Environmental Commission on May 13, 2019 Approved by City Council on July 9, 2019

Solid Waste Diversion	Provide review comments on Solid Waste Disposal Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee Don Weiden, Laura Tekler and Chad Martin 	January 2020	Solid Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee met with staff and City Consultant on March 20, 2019 for a study session; City held a Community Meeting on May 15, 2019; staff met with subcommittee on Thursday, August 15; a Study Session was held with City Council on August 27; the contract is on the agenda (tentatively) for October 22, 2019
	Investigate initiatives on limiting single use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to EC on June 10, 2019 The City of Los Altos is participating in the Ad Hoc Model Foodware Ordinance Committee Andrea Trese from the City's Engineering Division is the Los Altos representative
Community Outreach & Education	Develop program in collaboration with the Los Altos History Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Education Fund held by LACF David Klein 	June 2019	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with History Museum Apricot Stem Fair EnviroThon Challenge held at the Apricot STEM Fair on June 30, 2019 Winners and awards were selected at the EC meeting of July 8, 2019
	Update environmental measures on the City web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chad Martin 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	
	Continue gas-powered leaf blower ban outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Tekler 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	
	Continue anti-idling outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Weiden 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 10, 2019 Report on Los Altos HS Survey Results
	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	
	Assist staff with various outreach and education efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Plan Water Conservation Storm Water Management Solid Waste Diversion Urban Forest / Trees Downtown Vision 		Public outreach and education	



DATE: September 9, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #6

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: City Staff Updates

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive staff report

BACKGROUND

Monthly staff reports and updates will be discussed as listed below.

DISCUSSION

1. Environmental Commission attendance for upcoming Council meetings

Attachment:

- A. 2019 City Council Meeting Attendance Assignments



1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 9, 2019
TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: TENTATIVE 2019 City Council Meeting Attendance Assignments

Please sign up to attend or view (Channel 26 or online) three (3) Regular City Council meetings for 2019.
Tentative 2019 Schedule

2019 Regular City Council meeting dates:	Attendance by:
January 8, 2019	Don Weiden
January 22, 2019	Laura Tekster
February 12, 2019	Lei Yuan
February 26, 2019	Don Bray
March 12, 2019	Don Weiden
March 26, 2019	David Klein
April 9, 2019	Laura Tekster
April 23, 2019	Don Weiden
May 14, 2019	Don Weiden
May 28, 2019	Chad Martin
June 11, 2019	Don Bray
June 25, 2019	Heather Halkola
July 9, 2019	Lei Yuan
August 27, 2019	Laura Tekster
September 10, 2019	David Klein
September 24, 2019	Chad Martin
October 22, 2019	
November 12, 2019	
November 26, 2019	
December 10, 2019	

The All-Commission training was on May 15, 2018, 10:00 A.M. The Joint Meeting with the City Council and the Environmental Commission was on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. All Commissioners were expected to attend.

Regular City Council meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. If you are unable to attend or view one of the City Council meetings to which you are assigned, please arrange for another Commissioner to attend in your place.