

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

7:00 P.M. - REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

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

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Commission regarding any item on this agenda are available to the public on the counter in the main lobby located at One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos CA 94022 during business hours.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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. State law prohibits the Commission from acting on items that do not appear on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

These items will be considered by one motion unless any member of the Commission or audience wishes to remove an item for discussion. Any item removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion will be handled at the discretion of the Chair.

1. Commission Minutes
Approval of minutes – Regular Meeting of November 8, 2010

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Environmental Commission Annual Report to City Council

Review and discussion of all items on the 2011 Work Plan based on goals presented to City Council at the Joint Meeting with the Environmental Commission on October 19, 2010.

- a. 2010-2011 Environmental Commission Goals and Work Plan.
- b. Discussion of action items and projects

3. Environment Commission Website

Update from Environmental Commission Subcommittee for possible revisions to the website

4. Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Update by Environmental Commission Subcommittee

5. Items for Information

- a. Meeting with Joe Eyre, Greentown Los Altos representative and J. Logan regarding water conservation efforts.
- b. Flyer from Santa Clara County Valley Water District for Los Altos community. Posted on Environmental Commission website – Water Conservation link
- c. 2011 Santa Clara County Valley Water District water reduction goal is 10% voluntary reduction. This a change from the 15% goal in 2010.
- d. Water Supply message from Santa Clara County Valley Water District posted on the City website.
- e. Update on Redwood Grove Acterra Project.
- f. 2011 Environmental Commission meeting dates: Jan. 10; Feb. 14; Mar. 14; Apr. 11; May 9; June 13; July 11; Aug. 8; Sept. 12; Oct. 10; Nov. 14; Dec. 12

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the staff liaison 24 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2610. A sound enhancement system is available in the City Council Chamber. You may check out headsets, which boost the public address signal during the meeting. Please ask for assistance PRIOR to the start of the meeting or during a break in the meeting.

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2010, AT
7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD,
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Rosewater, Labetich, DeMichiel, Bray, Reed

ABSENT: Anderson, Keller

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Commission Minutes
MOTION BY VICE CHAIR LABETICH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER REED to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 11, 2010. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Environmental Commission Annual Report to City Council
Commissioners discussed the results of the October 19, 2010 Joint Meeting with City Council, the 2009-2010 Environmental Commission Goals and Accomplishments and the 2010-2011 Environmental Commission Goals and Work Plan; and discussed action items for 2010-2011 goals.
3. Environment Commission Website
Commissioner discussed possible revisions to the Commission website. A subcommittee of Chair Rosewater and Commissioners DeMichiel and Reed was formed to review content of and propose changes to the website.
4. Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
This item was continued to the December 13, 2010 meeting.
5. Items for Information
Chair Rosewater reported that Junko Bryant will present a report on the Redwood Grove creek clean-up and restoration project to City Council on November 9, 2010.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rosewater adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and STAFF LIAISON

Los Altos Environmental Commission

Approved Projects 2010-2011

Goals Approved by City Council Oct 19, 2010	Deliverables established by EC Nov 2010 -- Progress Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects 2010-2011 	
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide approved community education and outreach activities to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos. (Steve Anderson, Linda DeMichiel) Deliver updated web site that is visually pleasing, navigates well, has relevant, current content, and ties into city look and feel. (Owner: Linda) Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g Packard Building, Solar) (Owner: Steve) 	<p>By Jan 2011: Confirmation that we are in alignment with City web direction. Overall architecture established, initial review of content and links completed. Specific proposal re how best to link to the City of Los Altos main site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 2010: Subcommittee established (Linda, John, Patty). Commission reviewed initial prototype from Linda. Agreed to (a) change title on home page to "Environment, City of Los Altos," (b) add "About the Environmental Commission" as a subcategory, and (c) add "What's New" page. <p>By Apr 2011: Ownership and process for content/updates established. Content updates complete, including Acterra presentation on Redwood Grove.</p> <p>By Jul 2011: Architecture implemented and tested. New site is live.</p> <p>By Oct 2011:</p> <p>By Jan 2011: (a) Documentation re our unique value-add in public forums. (What is the role of the EC vs. GTLA? How would we evaluate potential topics in that context? How do we work with other LA groups with similar interests?) (b) ongoing list for potential topics. (Note: Is Creek Cleanup a good topic?)</p> <p>By Apr 2011: With City approval, public forum on Waste Contract based on first 6 months results (see Goal #2 below)</p> <p>By Jul 2011: Plan for garbage stuffer. With City approval, waste metrics published on City web site.</p> <p>By Oct 2011:</p>
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore enhancements to further improve waste management in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Steve Anderson, Ron Labetich) 	

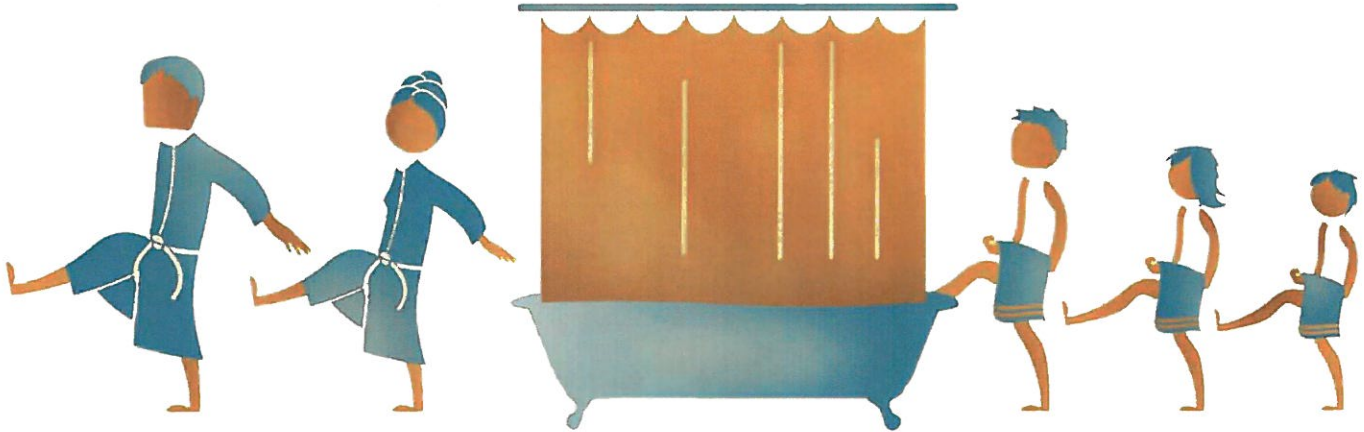
item # 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor MTWS waste diversion rate for both regularly scheduled pickups and event waste management. Look for ways to meet and exceed contracted diversion rate. (Owner: Don) • Make results available to community, along with education on how they can help improve outcomes. (Owner: Steve) 	<p>By Jan 2011:</p> <p>By Apr 2011: Update from MTWS to LAEC re Waste Contract: How is it going? Diversion rate? Lessons learned? Customer Satisfaction? Guidance re best practices from MTWS? Results of public event waste management (Festival of Lights)?</p> <p>By Jul 2011: Content for community information forum and web posting related to waste management results.</p> <p>By Oct 2011:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with MTWS to provide recycling and composting services for downtown shoppers. (Owner: Ron) • Help educate citizens as soon as new services are available. (Owner: Steve) 	<p>By Jan 2011: Meeting with City and MTWS to determine (a) current status of efforts, including barriers to implementation, and (b) status of compactor donation from MTWS.</p> <p>By Apr 2011: Plan from city on implementation.</p> <p>By Jul 2011: Implementation according to plan.</p> <p>By Oct 2011:</p>
3	<p>Provide modeling and analysis of ways to reduce environmental impact in the community. (Subcommittee: Don Bray, John Reed, Patty Rosewater)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use CAPPa tool to model the impact of various behaviors (i.e. change to fluorescent bulbs, use energy star appliances, use cold water in washing clothes...). (Owner: John) • Pick a limited number to pursue; with Council approval, develop education and outreach activities to educate community. (Owners: Don, John, 	<p>By Jan 2011: First pass at CAPPa tool for Los Altos specific opportunities reviewed by EC. Develop draft dashboard for key opportunities to monitor progress from last 5 years going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nov 2010: John has identified ~20 elements to examine more closely. Will meet with Don to get data to complete analysis and have specific items to review at Dec meeting. <p>By Apr 2011: Meeting with City staff to review results of CAPPa tool modeling. General agreement on which programs to pursue</p> <p>By Jul 2011: First draft at plan to implement programs presented to City staff.</p> <p>By Oct 2011: Clarity on how these programs fit in with Sustainability Element to General Plan (tie with Goal #4 below). Presentation to City Council re results of CAPPa modeling, recommended programs for implementation, and tie to Sustainability Element to General Plan (tie with Goal #4 below.)</p>

	Patty)	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Planning Services Manager to develop Sustainability element to Los Altos General Plan. (Ron Labetich, Chris Keller, Linda DeMichele) • The 2011 CIP includes funds for this project in July 2011. The EC will serve in an advisory and review role. (Owners: Ron, Chris, Linda) 	<p>By Jan 2011:</p> <p>By Apr 2011:</p> <p>By Jul 2011: Update from Staff regarding consulting/funds engagement for development of Sustainability element to General Plan. Invite City Planning Manager and Consultant to EC meeting to discuss outcomes and roles and responsibilities. Clarity and documentation on how Resource Plan/CAPPA modeling fit with City Sustainability Element to General Plan.</p> <p>By Oct 2011: Update on progress of Sustainability Element to General Plan</p>
5.	<p>Implement approved education program regarding re-useable bags in Los Altos. (Patty Rosewater)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to partner with Chamber of Commerce in visits with CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens to inquire about their re-usable bag programs. (Owner: Patty) • Publicize results of reusable bag survey as appropriate. (Owner: Patty) 	<p>By Jan 2011: EC Member and ED of Los Altos Chamber of Commerce visit Drug stores in Los Altos to inquire about re-useable bags program. Report published on web site; article in LATC. Article to include information about bacteria, wash-ability, and durability.</p> <p>By Apr 2011: TBD based on any new legislation regarding reusable bags</p> <p>By Jul 2011:</p> <p>By Oct 2011:</p>

<p>6. Continue to work to foster water conservation in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichiel, Chris Keller)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Cal Water to develop Los Altos specific baseline. (Owner: Chris) 	<p>By Jan 2011: Baseline of trends over 5 years established, and incorporated into dashboard (see Goal #3). By Apr 2011: Updated baseline with most current information published on web site. By Jul 2011: Article re water usage in LATC. By Oct 2011:</p> <p>By Jan 2011: By Apr 2011: One program selected and documented to propose to staff and Council for water conservation. By Jul 2011: Meeting with staff held to tie program into Sustainability Element; prepare for presentation to Council. By Oct 2011: Program presented to Council as part of Sustainability Element.</p>
<p>7. Other Council goals as directed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate state requirements and funding opportunities for creek-clean up. (Owner: j) 	<p>By Jan 2011: Report on any state requirements that require Los Altos to sponsor/participate in an annual creek cleanup General Comment from Council: If any programs require funding, case must be presented in time for annual budget cycle.</p>	

INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUR HOME



For a better world, sign up for our indoor water conservation programs.

You're probably using more water in your home than you realize. The Santa Clara Valley Water District offers several programs to help residents save 20 gallons a day. Check out these programs to see how you can save:

→ **Water-Wise House Call Program**

A free program where a surveyor will come to your home and offer suggestions on how to use water more efficiently both inside and outside your home.

→ **Clothes Washer Rebate Program**

Offers residents a rebate of up to \$125 (starting on January 1, 2011) for the purchase and installation of a qualifying new high-efficiency clothes washer.

→ **High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program**

Offers residents a rebate of up to \$125 for replacing toilets that use 3.5 gallons per flush or more.

→ **Free Low-Flow Showerheads and more**

Provides free low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet flappers and dye tablets.

Small actions can add up to huge water savings. If everyone in your household saved 20 gallons a day, we'd save over 13 billion gallons a year in Santa Clara County alone.

Find more tips and tools at save20gallons.org or call 408.265.2607, ext 2554.

Programs available until June 30, 2011 or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first.



Santa Clara Valley Water District 

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUR HOME



For a better world, sign up for our outdoor water conservation programs.

You're probably using more water in your home than you should be. The Santa Clara Valley Water District offers several programs to help residents save 20 gallons a day. Check out these programs to see how you can save:

→ **Water-Wise House Call Program**

A free program where a surveyor will come to your home and offer suggestions on how to use water more efficiently both inside and outside your home.

→ **Replace high-water using landscapes**

Qualifying low-water using landscapes can reduce irrigation water use by up to 15-20% and homeowners can qualify for rebates through our Landscape Rebate Program.

→ **Purchase and install efficient irrigation equipment**

Homeowners can receive rebates for upgrading to qualifying irrigation hardware through our Landscape Rebate Program.

→ **Install weather-based irrigation controllers**

These controllers use local weather conditions to calculate and adjust a site-specific irrigation schedule. They not only maximize water efficiency, they also qualify for rebates through our Landscape Rebate Program.

Small actions can add up to huge water savings. If everyone in your household saved 20 gallons a day, we'd save over 13 billion gallons a year in Santa Clara County alone.

Find more tips and tools at save20gallons.org or call 408.265.2607, ext 2554.

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Santa Clara Valley Water District 

Michael Horta

From: J Logan
Sent: Wednesday, December 08, 2010 4:18 PM
To: Michael Horta
Subject: FW: Redwood Grove Update 11/23

From: junkob@acterra.org
 Subject: Redwood Grove Update 11/23
 Date: Tue, 23 Nov 2010 14:10:51 -0800
 To: junkob@acterra.org

Redwood Grove friends,

We have come a long way at the park since our first workday last December! My rough tallies count nearly 18,000 SF of ground cleared of ivy, 80 trees freed from climbing ivy (and the subsequent berry-production thwarted), 700 SF of ground cleared of Himalayan blackberry, two stands of *Arundo donax* removed, and 680 native plants installed. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and supported our project through its first year!

So what's next?

More planting! We have several newly-cleared areas ready for new plants, and these will be going in over the next couple of months. Fall/winter is the ideal time to plant as the winter rains provide a healthy start for these plants in their new home. (More details on upcoming work below.)

Here are our **upcoming volunteer dates:**

December 11

January 8 & 29

February 12 & 26

All workdays are 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Also coming up, Acterra will be hosting a "Landscaping with Oaks" workshop at Shoup Park/Redwood Grove on Saturday, February 5th, 9 AM - noon. (More info to come.)

These programs are made possible by contributions from our members. Support our natural environment by making a gift to Acterra today. The *Positive Change Challenge* will match your new or increased gift dollar for dollar! <http://acterra.org/donate/>

Thanks and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

-Junko

Work Plan for Fall/Winter:

-Planting, planting, planting. We will in-fill some areas planted last year, and install plants in areas where ivy and blackberry were removed. We will also be incorporating plants used by the Ohlones into various areas of the park, to be used for educational purposes.

-Clearing creek banks of ivy and Himalayan blackberry has been pushed back until next year, due to delays in getting all agency approvals in line for creek work. But we will be ready next year!

-Once all paperwork is finalized for our Planning Grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, we will be starting our studies of the creek corridor and working with a partner organization to design a bank stabilization project and riparian revegetation plan.

-Homestead High School National Honor Society and St. Francis High School BRIC Brothers are "adopting" two oak trees that are overgrown with ivy and blackberry. They will be clearing these trees and, hopefully, raising some money for native plants that will complement the trees.

-Continue to pull resprouting ivy and Himalayan blackberry from restoration areas.

-Develop informational display material to place in kiosk & updating our website.

12/10/2010

Junko Bryant
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