



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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 September 13, 2010

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

2. Environmental Commission Annual Report to City Council
  - a. Report from subcommittee on Environmental Commission 2009-2010 goals and accomplishments for presentation to the City Council joint meeting with the Environmental Commission on October 19, 2010
  - b. Discussion and preparation of 2010-2011 Environmental Commission Goals and Work Plan for presentation to the City Council joint meeting with the Environmental Commission on October 19, 2010

3. Items for Information

- a. Junko Bryant will present Redwood Grove creek clean-up and restoration project to City Council.

**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, SEPTEMBER 13, 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, Anderson, Keller, Bray, Reed

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Introduction of John Reed, Environmental Commissioner
2. Commission Minutes  
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEMICHEL, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR LABETICH to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2010. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Creek Clean-up  
Presentation by Junko Bryant, Acterra staff, on creek clean-up project at Redwood Grove and Redwood Grove Restoration Project. Commissioners discussed ideas for various community educational outreach efforts for the future.
4. Re-usable Bag Program  
Update by Chair Rosewater. All stores have robust programs and were very responsive. Discussed that further outreach and education may be to retail stores.
5. Community Green House Gas Inventory  
Update by Commissioner Bray. MOTION BY CHAIR ROSEWATER, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR LABETICH to revise Environmental Commission subcommittee to include Chair Rosewater and Commissioners Bray and Reed. Commissioner Reed will take lead on modeling phase of the community greenhouse gas plan.
6. Items for Information
  - a. Staff update on waste management services transition by Mission Trails Waste Systems.
  - b. Staff report on updates to the Environmental Commission website. Request from Commissioner DeMichiel to add the Redwood Grove creek clean-up and restoration to the website.

7. Environmental Commission Annual Report to City Council

- a. Report from subcommittee on Environmental Commission 2009-2010 goals and accomplishments for presentation to the City Council joint meeting with the Environmental Commission on October 19, 2010.
- b. Discussion, review of materials and preparation of 2010-2011 Environmental Commission Goals and Work Plan for presentation to the City Council joint meeting with the Environmental Commission on October 19, 2010.

**COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rosewater adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

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J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and STAFF LIAISON

## Los Altos Environmental Commission

### *DRAFT* Project Accomplishments 2009-2010

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

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

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#### **Goal #1: Work with staff to secure the best value in waste management services value for Los Altos.**

##### Progress / Accomplishments:

- **Waste contract vendor has been awarded; weekly pickup, new services, flat rates, diversion rate contracted at 78%. Committee included Environmental Commission Chair Steve Anderson.**
- **Two Special Environmental Commission meetings held to present RFP to public in August 2009.**
- Eight staff reports presented to Commission from June 2009 to March 2010.

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#### **Goal #2: Implement approved education and outreach programs to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos.**

##### Progress / Accomplishments:

- Waste Management Contract:
  - Two MTWS progress reports presented to Commission in April 2010 and June 2010.
  - **MTWS Special Presentation for public held as part of August 2010 EC meeting; approximately 175 community members attended.**
  - Links to MTWS site on LA Home page and LAEC home page and recycling page.
- Water Conservation:
  - **Educational material created for water conservation, including FAQs, now posted on LAEC web site.**
  - Los Altos nominated for Water Conservation award for reduced municipal water use.
  - Several reports on water usage received by Commission, including [1] Los Altos Demonstration Gardens (Aug 2009); educational materials placed on website; [2] Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Los Altos Water District water conservation results (Nov 2009), [3] SCVWD mandatory 15% water reductions, model landscaping ordinance and gray water ordinance (Dec 2009), and [4] city participation in Water-Wise program for City Hall (May 2010).
- Sustainable Events:
  - Presentation on Sustainable event waste management in Feb 2010.
  - **Events guide from GTLA placed on LAEC web site.**
- Reusable Shopping Bags:
  - Received report on efforts of other municipalities in regards to re-usable bags (Nov 2009).
  - Received report from Chamber of Commerce on "Got Bags" program in May 2010. Project to introduce "Got Bags" materials approved by Council to in June 2010. **Chamber of Commerce President and EC Chair visited 7 Los Altos grocery stores to raise awareness of re-usable bags. All have established programs in their stores.**
- Other:

- **Earth Day Event: Partnered with Acterra and GTLA on Earth-Day events in Redwood Grove and at Los Altos library (April 2010)**
- Received reports at public sessions regarding
  - [1] GTLA Downtown Visioning (Jan 2009),
  - [2] City application for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants for municipal operations (Sep 2009)
  - [3] AB811 regarding state program to provide solar financing through property tax vehicle (Oct 09)
  - [4] City LED street light replacement project (Nov 2009)
  - [5] City participation in regional stimulus programs for residential energy efficiency retrofits (Dec 2009).
  - [6] Redwood Grove Habitat Restoration (Feb 2010 and Sept 2010),
  - [7] Environmentally Sustainable elements of Packard Foundation Building (May 2010),
  - [8] Solar installation award for highest # installations in Bay Area (Aug 2010),
  - [9] California First program for residential energy retrofits (Jan 2010)

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**Goal #3: Develop baselines and progress indicators for Los Altos usage of water, waste, energy, and greenhouse gases (GHG):**

Progress / Accomplishments:

- Water: In June 2009, Council approved Environmental Commission resolution for voluntary water conservation. 2004 selected as base year. Each Cal Water monthly bill now shows a "Water Budget," calculated as 2004 consumption – 15%. Two staff reports received and sent to Council to support this resolution.
- Waste: Baseline diversion rate of 54% established by GTLA report. **Diversion rates contracted at 78% in new waste management contract; metrics monitoring included in new contract.**
- Energy: baseline established as part of GHG inventory. See item #4. Received ICLEI report for Municipal GHG Inventory baseline (Sep 2009).
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Community baseline completed as part of GHG inventory. See Item #4 (May 2010).

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**Goal #4: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the Community**

Progress / Accomplishments:

- **Community GHG inventory report completed and received by City Council.**
- **Approval to move forward with education and outreach efforts (May 2010).**

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**Other goals as directed by City Council**

City Council goals for 2010 include the following: "Assign Environmental Commission task of developing an Environmental Element to the General Plan."

Progress / Accomplishments:

- Feb 2010: Report received from City Planning Services Manager David Kornfield (March 2010). He recommended holding off on this while his department does some preliminary work.

## Los Altos Environmental Commission

### Anticipated Projects 2010-2011

Prepared for Joint City Council Study Session

October 19, 2010

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

Proposed Goals 2010-2011		Proposed Projects in support of goals
1	Continue to provide approved community education and outreach activities to achieve natural resource conservation for Los Altos. (Ron Labetich?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update web site as appropriate information is available</li> <li>• Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public</li> </ul>
2	Explore enhancements to further improve waste management in Los Altos. (Don Bray)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor MTWS waste diversion rate. Look for ways to meet and exceed contracted diversion rate. Make results available to community, along with education on how they can help improve outcomes.</li> <li>• Work with MTWS to provide recycling and composting services for downtown shoppers. Help educate citizens as soon as new services are available.</li> </ul>
3	Educate community of ways to reduce environmental impact. (Subcommittee: Don Bray, John Reed, Patty Rosewater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use CAPP tool to model the impact of various behaviors (i.e. change to florescent bulbs, use energy star appliances, use cold water in washing clothes...)</li> <li>• Pick a limited number to pursue; with Council approval, develop education and outreach activities to educate community</li> </ul>
4	Work with Planning Services Manager to develop Conservation element to Los Altos General Plan (Steve Anderson?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2011 CIP includes funds for this project in July 2011. The EC will serve in an advisory and review role.</li> </ul>
5.	Implement approved re-useable education bag program in Los Altos (Patty Rosewater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with Chamber of Commerce in visits with CVS Pharmacy and Walgreens to inquire about their re-usable bag programs.</li> <li>• Publicize results of reusable bag survey as appropriate.</li> </ul>
6.	Develop Los Altos water conservation plan. (Linda DeMichiel?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Cal Water to develop Los Altos specific baseline.</li> <li>• Incorporate water resource plans into broader "Environmental Resource Plan" above.</li> </ul>
7.	Develop Los Altos Solar information base (Chris Keller)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on solar usage and available programs in Los Altos.</li> </ul>