

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

**7:00 PM - Monday, March 11, 2024**

*Via Video Conference and In Person*

**IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION:** Members of the public may participate in-person at the Los Altos Community Meeting Chambers at Los Altos City Hall located at 1 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA.

**REMOTE MEETING PARTICIPATION:** Members of the public may attend the meeting virtually via the link below, but will not be permitted to provide public comment via Zoom or telephone.

<https://losaltosca-gov.zoom.us/j/81672879521?pwd=qD1zGXbDdkYaXQ7nntFUb1hLNAdroE.1>

**Telephone: 1-669-444-9171 / Meeting ID: 816 7287 9521 / Passcode: 479222**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comments can be made verbally, in-person at the public hearing or submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Written comments can be mailed or delivered in person to the Development Services Department or emailed to [ECPublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:ECPublicComment@losaltosca.gov).

Correspondence must be received by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to ensure distribution prior to the meeting. Comments provided after 2:00 p.m. will be distributed the following day and included with public comment in the Environmental Commission packet.

Public comment cannot be taken via Zoom or telephone.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Commissioner Delagneau will participate in the meeting via videoconference from the site listed below. The meeting agenda will be posted at the videoconference site, which is accessible to the public. Anyone wishing to address the Commission from the videoconference site will be provided with an opportunity to do so.

### **Location:**

**1790 Sanchez de Bustamente**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

### **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

#### **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. Meeting Minutes (~5 minutes):** Approve minutes of the regular meeting of February 12, 2024.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 2. Commission Meeting Dates (~10 minutes):** Confirm new meeting date and time (2nd Wednesdays at 6:00pm).
- 3. EV Fair Update (~10 minutes):** Additional updates on the event.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 4. City Council Joint Meeting (~20 minutes):** Meeting debrief
- 5. Ad Hoc Subcommittees (~10 minutes):** Formation of Single-Use Plastics and Building Electrification Ad Hoc Subcommittees.
- 6. Single-Use Plastics (~15 minutes):** Staff update.
- 7. Dark Skies Ordinance (~20 minutes):** Update from Ad Hoc Dark Skies Policy research.
- 8. Tree City USA Program (~15 minutes):** Introduction and requirements to the Tree City USA designation.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS****STAFF UPDATES****POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Lehigh Cement Plant Letter of Support
2. Reach Code Status Update

**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 interment at [https://www.losaltosca.gov/meetings?field\\_microsite\\_tid\\_1=2261](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 further 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, FEBRUARY 12, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. IN PERSON AND  
TELECONFERENCE

## ESTABLISHING QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair Hecht, Vice Chair Humayun, Commissioner Delagneau (remote participation), Commissioner Weiden, Commissioner Lu, Commissioner van Reis

ABSENT: Commissioner Teksler

ATTENDEES: Tania Katbi (Sustainability Coordinator)  
Xiomara Aguirre (Development Services Technician)  
Nick Zornes (Director of Development Services)  
Mayor Wienberg (Council Liaison)

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comment.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

### 1. Permeable-Surfaces Presentation

Los Altos resident, Aanya Dhruv, presented to the Commission on solutions that can help prevent urban flooding.

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

### 2. Environmental Commission Minutes

Approved minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Weiden, seconded by Chair Hecht, the Environmental Commission approved the meeting minutes.

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

AYES: Delagneau, Hecht, Humayun, Weiden, Lu, van Reis

NOES: None

ABSENT: Teksler

ABSTAIN: None

### 3. Future Meeting Days/Times

Staff and Commissioners discussed changing the day and time of the regular meetings and tentatively decided on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 4. EV Fair Update

Commissioner Van Reiss and staff provided an update on the upcoming EV Fair – Destination Electric, followed by questions and comments.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**5. Commission Workplan**

Commission discussed and finalized their 2024 workplan that they will present at the Joint Council/Commission meeting on February 27, 2024.

**6. Dark Skies Ordinance**

The Ad Hoc Committee provided an update on the dark skies and bird safe design policies.

**STAFF UPDATES**

Staff provided updates on various Sustainability Division projects and other announcements.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

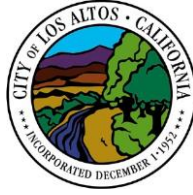
Commissioners provided updates from the January City Council meetings.

**POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. LeHeigh Plant Letter of Support
2. Tree City USA
3. Reach Codes Status

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hecht adjourned the meeting at 9:32 pm.



**Meeting Date:** March 11, 2024  
**Subject:** Joint Commission Meeting Debrief  
**Prepared by:** Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

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### **Background**

“On March 14, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-14 affirming its Strategic Goals. These goals guide the priorities and work of the City and help shape the annual budgeting process.” The fourth goal adopted by the City Council relates to the Environmental Commission:

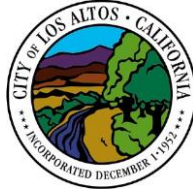
- Environmental Sustainability: The City of Los Altos will be a leader in environmental sustainability through education, and adopting and implementing policies, initiatives and practices identified in the City’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

### **Feedback/takeaways from Joint Commission Meeting:**

- Focus on educating and incentivizing electrification.
- Check-in with Resilient Los Altos on their resiliency efforts to avoid duplication.
- Limit conflicts for energy efficiency/adaption i.e needing gas generator for electricity outages.
- Continue to educate the community and create awareness.
  - Recycling education should be ongoing

### **Discussion**

Receive feedback from Council Liaison, Mayor Weinberg, and discuss where to incorporate Council members and strategic goal into the 2024 workplan.



**Meeting Date:** March 11, 2024  
**Subject:** Ad Hoc Subcommittee Formation  
**Prepared by:** Tania Katbi, Sustainability Coordinator

The Commission will be forming Ad Hoc Committees focused on:

1. Building Electrification – Work with staff to research and develop decarbonization programs. Assist with outreach and education needed for that program(s).
2. Single-Use Plastics Ordinance - Provide staff with guidance on policy recommendations for the ordinance and assist with community outreach.

Ad Hoc Subcommittees rules:

A Commission may appoint Ad Hoc Subcommittees, consisting of less than a majority of the body, to work on specific tasks. Ad Hoc subcommittees:

- should be focused on one specific topic and shall not last more than one year,
- may create reports and conduct analyses to be reviewed by staff,
- cannot be standing committees,

In order to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee, the topic of the formation of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee must be posted and noticed on the regular agenda.

Commission members currently serving on a Ad Hoc Subcommittee are not eligible to serve on another Ad Hoc Subcommittee simultaneously.

The motion of establishment must include that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

- Is comprised solely of members of the Commission establishing the Ad Hoc Subcommittee,
- Consists of less than a quorum of the Commission,
- Includes a defined purpose and the timeframe to accomplish that purpose and is less than one year in duration,
- Will automatically terminate when a final report is given to the Commission, or when the timeframe established by the Commission is met, unless extended by the Commission at a public meeting,
- Will not be re-established or renewed in multiple years, and
- Is advisory in nature and is not established to work on an item where continuing jurisdiction exists.

In accordance with the Brown Act, Ad Hoc Subcommittees do not need to post notice of their meetings or hold meetings in public, unless directed to do so by the City Council.

**Meeting Date:** March 11, 2024  
**Subject:** Tree City USA  
**Prepared by:** Raashina Humayun, Vice Chair

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### **Statement of Support for Los Altos' Application to be recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA"**

The Environmental Commission requests the Council to direct staff to submit an application for Los Altos to be designated a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Tree City USA program was founded in 1976 to celebrate towns and cities committed to growing their urban canopy. Led by the Arbor Day Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Association of State Foresters, it provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their tree cover.

More than 3,600 communities home to 163 million Americans have been named Tree Cities. Beyond giving back to the environment, this recognition is a good way to build pride among our residents and position Los Altos as a great place to live. We'll receive flags, signs, and other materials to display our award.

#### **Requirements to apply and why Los Altos Qualifies**

1. Maintaining a tree board or department

Qualification: The Tree maintenance Department housed with the Public Works division.

2. Having a community tree ordinance

Qualification: The updated Tree Protection Ordinance passed by Council in February

3. Spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry

Qualification: According to the 2017 Los Altos Tree Resource guide compiled by Davey the city spends \$405k on managing our city's tree resources. This amounts to more than \$12/capita. We will just need to verify and update the numbers as appropriate.

4. Celebrating Arbor Day

The city council members participate in various tree planting ceremonies, adding one for Arbor Day would be appropriate and not a large investment.

#### **Benefits of joining**



- 1. Rewards communities for improvements in urban forestry practices and increases public awareness and pride in the city's natural resource
  
- 2. Provides educational resources to improve upon canopy cover and for increasing and maintaining local trees.
  
- 3. Helps gain financial support as being a Tree City USA will qualify us for several additional grants.

**Status of neighboring cities:**

Most neighboring cities have been on the Tree City USA list for more than 10 years.

Campbell	41 years
Cupertino	11 years
Los Gatos	43 years
Mountain View	22 years
Palo Alto	38 years
Redwood City	41 years
San Carlos	11 years
San Mateo	42 years
Santa Clara	36 years*
Sunnyvale	33 years

\* Santa Clara has also received the Growth Award for 23 years