



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

**April 8, 2026 - 6:00 PM
In Person/Virtual**

IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION: Members of the public may participate in-person at the Los Altos Community Center in the Sequoia Room located at 97 Hillview Ave., 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/84746058434>

Telephone: 1-669-444-9171 / Meeting ID: 847 4605 8434

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.

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.

AGENDA

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: Approve minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2026.**
2. **2026 Workplan: Finalize and Approve 2026 Workplan**
3. **Establish Ad-Hoc Subcommittee for Workplan Projects if necessary**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. **Urban Forest & Ecosystem Health Update: Staff will provide an update on the project and next steps.**

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

STAFF UPDATES

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL NOTICES TO THE PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California Law, it is the policy of the City of Los Altos to offer its programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials in an appropriate alternative format; or if you require any other accommodation, please contact department staff. Advance notification within this guideline will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

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

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN
PERSON AND TELECONFERENCE

ESTABLISHING QUORUM

PRESENT: Chair van Reis, Vice Chair Nee, Commissioner Humayun, Commissioner Hecht,
Commissioner Weiden, and Commissioner De Giuli (arrived at 6:30pm)

ABSENT: None

ATTENDEES: Tania Katbi (Management Analyst II), Anthony Carnesecca (Assistant to the City
Manager)

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION**1. Environmental Commission Minutes**

Approved minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting.

Action: Upon a motion by Commissioner Humayun, seconded by Chair van Reis, the Environmental Commission approved the meeting minutes.

The motion was approved (5-0) by the following vote:

AYES: Hecht, Humayun, van Reis, Nee and Weiden

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS**2. Workplan Update**

No formal action was taken. Workplan will be brought back in April for final approval.

Public Comment provided by Laura Fey.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**3. Reports from Council Meetings**

Commissioners shared updates from Council meetings.

4. Roundtable Progress Updates

Group	Topic	Commissioner
Working Pair	Residential Home Electrification	Hecht, Nee

Working Pair	Urban Forest	Humayun, van Reis
Working Pair (New)	CAAP Review	Weiden, De Giuli

STAFF UPDATES

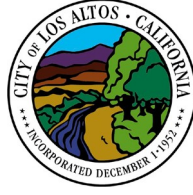
Staff shared updates with the commission.

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. CAL Water Update (Special Presentation) (Summer 2026)
2. GHG Inventory Follow-up (Staff)
3. Workplan Updates (All)
4. Artificial Turf Discussion (All)
5. Living Green Event Discussion (Humayun)
6. Native Grasses (van Reis) (Special Presentation)
7. Rainwater Harvesting (Lu) (Special Presentation)
8. California Native Plant Society (Special Presentation)
9. Urban Forest & Ecosystem Health Update (Staff) (April)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair van Reis adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm.



Meeting Date: March 11, 2026

Subject: Joint Council Meeting Debrief

Prepared by: Tania Katbi, Management Analyst II

Background

On February 24, 2026, the Environmental Commission met with the City Council to review the proposed workplan. Council provided specific feedback, emphasizing a pragmatic approach to environmental policy. Council directed the Commission to focus on projects that align with City resources, stay within jurisdictional boundaries, and remain mindful of staff capacity.

Discussion

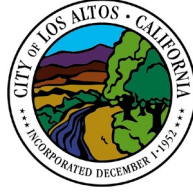
Following the joint meeting, a key policy question for the Commission is how to best organize and sequence the workplan to reflect Council's feedback. While the Commission may consider additional factors, the following criteria are some examples that ensure alignment with the feedback received during the joint meeting:

- Council direction: Items directly requested or prioritized by Council during the recent Workplan debrief.
- Departmental purview: Projects within the Commission's purview that do not infringe on the operations or jurisdictions of other City departments.
- Resource alignment: Items that can be supported within currently allocated budgets and existing staff capacity.

The Commission is asked to provide direction on the 2026 Workplan to ensure that the Commission's efforts are coordinated with City Council expectations and available staff resources.

2026 Los Altos Environmental Commission Work Plan

Focus Area	Goal	Project	Expected Completion	Priority Source	Status	Assignment	Notes
CAAP Management	Review CAAP priorities	Conduct a status review of the CAAP	Q4 2026	Power & Duties Item B	Not started	Weiden, De Giuli	Commission to conduct a status review of the CAAP to identify potential updates. This includes reassessing timelines, proposing goal/action edits, and adjusting priority levels to ensure the plan remains current.
Building Electrification	Accelerate electrification in homes, businesses, and travel	Create a prioritized list of monetary electrification incentives and programs to assist in determining future incentives	Q4 2026	<u>City Council Strategic Goal:</u> Environmental Sustainability, Public Safety CAAP Goals 2.3 & 2.4	In Progress	Nee	Staff is executing the local rebate program for Heat Pumps that was a result of work from the 2025 workplan. Working pair to assist in developing a prioritized list of additional monetary rebates to determine future incentives.
Green Community + Climate Risk	Sequester carbon and improve environmental and human health	Provide advisory support for the Urban Forest & Ecosystem Health Project	Q3 2027	<u>City Council Strategic Goal:</u> Environmental Sustainability, Public Safety CAAP Action 5.2 Supporting CAAP Actions 5.5, 6.1, 6.2	In Progress	van Reis, Humayun	This is a multi-phase continuation of the 2025 workplan (\$200k total funding). Following the completion of Phase 1 (Goal Setting), the current focus is on RFP development and consultant selection (Phase 2). Commission provides advisory oversight to ensure community alignment through (Phase 3).
	Support Public Environmental Health	Research and develop recommendations on artificial/synthetic turf policy that covers residential, commercial, and recreational uses.	TBD	Council Direction CAAP Action 6.1C	Not started	City Staff	Development of artificial/synthetic turf policy recommendations for City Council. Formal work will start following the review of the Sunnyvale study. Staff will provide a defined framework to guide the Commission's evaluation and recommendation process.
Community Engagement	Support Public Engagement	Participate in community outreach at events	Ongoing	CAAP Action 1.4A	Ongoing	City Staff + Commission	In coordination with City staff, Commissioners to attend tabling and outreach at local events to promote CAAP goals.



Meeting Date: April 8, 2026

Subject: Urban Forest & Ecosystem Health Update

Prepared by: Tania Katbi, Management Analyst II

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Urban Forest and Ecosystem Health Project and next steps. This project aims to fulfill the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Action Item 5.2A by transitioning from a high-level goal to an implementable project that creates technical resources for City operations and residents.

BACKGROUND

The proposed scope of work was developed through a collaborative process between City staff and the Environmental Commission Working Group. Incorporating the recommendations from the August 13, 2025, Commission meeting which shifts the focus from the specific planting targets outlined in CAAP Action Item 5.2A toward a more comprehensive approach to tree management and overall ecosystem health.

Subsequently, staff and the Working Group engaged in multiple detailed discussions to refine the objectives, ensuring the goals of the RFP address ecological priorities and municipal operational needs. Through this process, the project transitioned from a high-level plan to implementable deliverables focused on creating technical resources for City staff and residents.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The RFP outlines multiple tasks designed to bridge ecological health with municipal operations and community resources:

- **Comprehensive Assessment and Inventory:** Includes an update to the inventory of approximately 6,500 City trees and a high-resolution land cover assessment to map canopy, impervious surfaces, and soil. Specialized analysis will identify heat islands, equity, wildfire risk zones, and habitat connectivity gaps that can be used to identify future needs.
- **City Operations:** Development of technical manual to assist City staff effectively manage public trees and protect the soil and roots of the City's Urban Forest and

Ecosystem. This includes standardized technical specifications for use in future municipal construction projects.

- Community Resilience: Development of a Residential Care Manual to provide homeowners with practical guidance on fire-safe landscaping, native plant assemblages, and climate-resilient yard care.

Coordination with the Working Group will continue throughout the development of public-facing materials. This ensures that educational resources align with local priorities.

Project Budget and Scope

City Council has allocated \$200,000 for this project. The RFP is structured to allow for the coordination of tasks based on the competitive proposal process. This approach ensures that the most critical data and operational needs are met within the allocated budget. Final project deliverables will be confirmed following the evaluation of proposals to ensure full alignment with available funding.

TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

The RFP is scheduled for release in mid-April, with consultant selection in May and contract execution in June. A project kickoff is anticipated for summer 2026. Periodic updates will be provided to the Commission as the assessment moves forward.