



Meeting Date: June 12, 2024

Subject: Special Presentation by MTWS

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Upon the request of the Environmental Commission, the City's waste hauler, Mission Trail Waste Systems (MTWS), will be presenting on the current state of plastic recycling in the local area. This report outlines key points we anticipate from the presentation such as:

- **Recycling Rates:** address the current recycling rate for plastics in the Los Altos community and the greater Bay Area region.
- **Challenges:** highlight challenges impacting plastic recycling, including:
 - **Contamination:** Incorrectly sorted recyclables, particularly with food residue or non-recyclable plastics, contaminate entire loads.
 - **Limited recyclability:** Certain plastic types are not accepted in our current recycling program due to limited processing facilities.
 - **Market fluctuations:** The global market for recycled plastics can fluctuate, impacting the economic viability of some recycling programs.
- **Upcoming legislation:** SB 54 shifts "The law shifts the plastic pollution burden from consumers to producers by raising \$5 billion from industry members over 10 years. This will:
 - Cut plastic pollution and
 - Support disadvantaged, low-income, and rural communities hurt most by the impacts of plastic waste." Calrecycle

The attachments provided by MTWS contain detailed information on SB 54 policies.