



MEETING DATE: February 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Reach Codes

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REVIEWED BY: Aida Fairman, Director of Environmental Services and Utilities

BACKGROUND

On September 6, 2022, City Council accepted staff's recommendations to (1) complete a cost effectiveness study based on the recommendations of the Environmental Commission on Reach Codes, (2) refer the recommended Codes to the California Energy Commission (CEC) for comment, (3) affirm or re-adopt the existing Reach Codes to continue after 12/31/2022, and (4) direct staff to review what other peer and local agencies have adopted with regards to Reach Codes after the new State Codes take effect on 1/1/23.

On November 29, 2022, City Council adopted the updated California Building Standards Code (Title 24) with local amendments that included the previously existing Reach Codes. These will continue to be in effect for three years or until the new Reach Codes have been adopted.

STATUS UPDATE

City Staff has completed the following tasks:

- Staff reviewed the Bay Area Model Reach Code, the existing Los Altos Reach Code, and the Reach Code recommendations presented by the Environmental Commission during the September 6, 2022, City Council meeting.
- Staff conducted research and compiled data on reach codes adopted in late 2022 in peer and local jurisdictions.
- Staff reviewed and gathered cost effectiveness studies relevant to Los Altos' Climate Zone based on the Reach Code recommendations presented by the Environmental Commission.
- Staff is finalizing a local cost analysis to determine electrification costs for a typical single-family home in Los Altos.

Staff has developed recommendations to present to the Environmental Commission for comment and approval. These recommendations are included in the following presentation.

After the Environmental Commission reviews the updated Reach Code recommendations, Staff will bring the recommendations to City Council in March 2023. Once the Reach Codes are formally adopted by Council, they will be submitted to the CEC for review.