



# Memorandum

**TO:** RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** Lori Mitchell  
**SUBJECT:** See Below  
**DATE:** August 28, 2024

Approved

Date:

8/27/24

**SUBJECT: Update to the August – December 2024 Transportation and Environment Committee Work Plan**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve an amendment to the August – December 2024 Transportation and Environment Committee Work Plan to drop the following item from the October 7, 2024 Transportation and Environment Committee meeting agenda.

### **Climate Smart San José Zero Waste Element Status Report.**

**Purpose:** Provide a status report on the Zero Waste Element strategy as part of Climate Smart San José. (Environmental Services)

## **BACKGROUND**

The Zero Waste Element is an update to the 2008 Zero Waste Strategic Plan and provides the community and businesses with the strategies and plan to reach zero waste goals by 2050. In 2018, the City joined other international leaders in zero waste to define specific milestones and commitments by joining as a signatory to the C40 Cities Advancing Toward Zero Waste Declaration. As part of this declaration, the City is committed to reduce generation per capita by at least 15 percent by 2030, compared to 2015, and increase diversion rate away from landfill by at least 70 percent by 2030. The Zero Waste Element aligns with Climate Smart San José, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the City's commitment to C40 zero waste goals.

Environmental Services Department staff intended to present the final Zero Waste Element strategy for review, approval, and potential integration into the Climate Smart San José plan at the October 7, 2024 Transportation and Environment Committee meeting. Staff determined that the strategies and plan require additional time to incorporate new legislation, improved methodologies, and further analysis. A new

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section for Senate Bill 54, which is a new extended producer responsibility program to manage packaging and single-use plastic foodware products across every sector of the economy, will be added. An improved methodology and new data for calculating greenhouse gas emissions are being analyzed and updated, and additional time is needed for City staff and the consultant, Cascadia, to review and integrate required related edits into the Zero Waste Element strategy.

The Environmental Services Department requests to drop this item from the current work plan and incorporate the updated Zero Waste Element with the Climate Smart San José Plan Semi-Annual Report to be presented to the committee and City Council in April 2025.

/s/

Lori Mitchell  
Acting Director,  
Environmental Services

For questions, please contact Valerie Osmond, Deputy Director, Environmental Services Department, at email [valerie.osmond@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:valerie.osmond@sanjoseca.gov) or (408) 535-8557.