

## ATHERTON

Atherton is a small community characterized by beautiful foliage, elegant gardens, and heritage trees. It is purely residential in nature, having no businesses within the town limits. Atherton continually strives to preserve its character as a scenic, rural area with abundant open space.

### Water Use

New housing construction in Atherton is required to maintain all newly created runoff water onsite in detention ponds that percolate into the ground, which helps replenish the aquifers and lessen the amount of runoff to San Francisco Bay.

### Recycling

Atherton offers free recycling of paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, and green waste, and a reduced fee for organic materials. The Town requires recycling of construction and demolition materials. These programs have resulted in a 69 percent diversion rate for the Town. Household battery and cell phone recycling for residents is available at Town Hall.

### Green Building

The Town hosted a Green Building Workshop in 2005, which addressed issues of large homes and how they can be designed to use fewer natural resources and be more energy efficient. The Building Department offers information on green building techniques for citizens who are remodeling or building new structures.

### Habitat Protection

The Town of Atherton has had a Heritage Tree Ordinance since 1989. The ordinance protects trees over 48 inches in circumference when located outside of the buildable area for the main house on a lot. Native oak species are protected anywhere on the lot. The ordinance prohibits removal without a permit and damage to heritage trees as a result of construction impacts.

As part of our creek stabilization project, the Town is creating a habitat for the red-legged frog and protecting this species from further decline. Mark Twain celebrated this species as the Calaveras Jumping Frog; it was widely consumed as a delicacy a century ago but is now listed as a federally threatened species.

## BELMONT

The Belmont Community takes great pride in its scenic open space with its rugged canyons, rolling hills of oak trees, and scenic vistas. This commitment to the natural state of the land is long standing and reflected in Belmont's land use policies. Included in that commitment are policies that seek to preserve existing trees and encourage new plantings of all forms of native flora. This mindset is in harmony with sustainability efforts that include seeking alternatives to fossil fuels, encouraging housing near shopping and public transportation, and preserving the water quality of our creeks and San Francisco Bay.

### Carbon Emissions

Currently the City of Belmont operates four vehicles that run on compressed natural gas, a fuel that produces less carbon emissions than gasoline and diesel fuel. Two of the vehicles are street sweepers, which are in extended use everyday. The other two are a van that provides services to senior citizens and a shared vehicle used by City staff.

This past year the City of Belmont has lowered fees and streamlined the permit process for photovoltaic installations. This clean, sustainable technology reduces demand on the state's power grid and reduces the use of fossil fuels in the creation of electricity. In addition, Belmont encourages the use of photovoltaics by providing contractors and property owners written guidelines that clarify code and submittal requirements.

Plans are currently underway for the installation of photovoltaic systems at City-owned properties including the Corporation Yard, City Hall, and the Community Center.

### Housing

This past year the City of Belmont had the unique opportunity to create affordable housing and preserve a historical landmark

in one project. As part of its downtown redevelopment plan, the City will be relocating an historic building, the Emmet House, from a busy commercial corridor to a more residential setting and converting its use from offices to two low- to moderate-income units. Construction will begin in late summer 2007 and be completed by mid-2008.

Mixed-use development policies that encourage housing development near both shopping and public transportation have continued to prove effective. Belmont is fortunate to have several sites where moderate-density housing will be located within walking distance to a variety of retail businesses, San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and Caltrain. Thirty such units are anticipated for construction in 2007-08.

### Water

Belmont takes a proactive approach to safeguarding the water quality of our streams and the San Francisco Bay by rigorously enforcing erosion control measures for all new development and substantial additions and alterations to the existing building stock. All projects are encouraged to try and dissipate water from roofs and other improved surfaces on their site, rather than further impact the storm drain system which drains to natural waterways.

In order to ensure that best management practices (BMP) are implemented at each stage of development, preconstruction meetings are held with design and construction teams to discuss methods of controlling dust and silt runoff. During the rainy season routine inspections are performed by City staff to insure that erosion control methods are in place. At the completion of a project onsite meetings are held to ensure that the design measures for the safeguarding of water quality have been implemented and are consistent with generally accepted post-construction BMPs.