



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 12/01/2020

ITEM NO: 11

DATE: November 20, 2020
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Accept the Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Report and Direct Staff to Return to Council in One Year with an Action Item Progress Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Report and direct staff to return to Council in one year with an action item progress report.

BACKGROUND:

On October 6, 2020, the Town Council approved the creation of a Town Council Ad Hoc Committee to study wildfire mitigation in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The Council confirmed that the Committee should study a broad variety of wildfire mitigation policy and project options to improve the Town's wildfire resiliency and return to Council with a report of their findings. The Committee examined best practices of similar WUI communities, lessons learned from recent fires, and other relevant areas of wildfire science. The Committee was directed to complete the report in time for Council consideration on December 1, 2020 to align with the annual Strategic Priority and budget development process.

The Committee was comprised of the following members:

- Mayor Marcia Jensen
- Vice Mayor Barbara Spector
- Assistant Town Manager Arn Andrews
- Director of Parks and Public Works Matt Morley
- Assistant Santa Clara County Fire Chief Brian Glass
- Resident member Rob Stump
- Resident member Brad Gordon

PREPARED BY: Arn Andrews
Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Director of Parks and Public Works

BACKGROUND (Continued):

The Ad Hoc Committee met on October 21, 2020, October 29, 2020, November 9, 2020, and November 16, 2020. The elements and findings of the report are described in the Discussion section below.

DISCUSSION:

The Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Report (Attachment 1) is the culmination of peer reviewed best practices, lessons learned from recent statewide fires, mitigation characteristics unique to Los Gatos, and significant input from the Santa Clara County Assistant Fire Chief. The Committee Report is structured around five primary strategic goals accompanied by relevant action items. The identified goals in the report appear sequentially in their order of initial priority focus. Goal sequencing is not intended to reflect attainment of one goal prior to initiating another but rather a function of prioritizing protection of life followed by property and the environment. It should be noted that goals and many action items are anticipated to often be addressed concurrently. Following are the identified goals of the Committee:

- Emergency Communication
- Emergency Evacuation
- Roadside Fuel Reduction
- Open Space and Residential Land Management
- Emergency Partnerships

In addition to the sequencing of goals, action items have been individually ranked into either Priority 1 (within 2 years) or Priority 2 (within 3 to 5 years). The priority ranking of action items is a byproduct of establishing reasonable and attainable actions as opposed to signifying certain action items are less important than others. The report also establishes quantifiable metrics for each goal to measure progress of goal/action item attainment.

And lastly, the report identifies additional action items for consideration which include potential for legislative engagement and potential mitigation funding strategies.

CONCLUSION:

The Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Report establishes a roadmap for concrete action items that mitigate the risks associated with wildfire in the WUI and the community consequences associated with those risks.

PAGE 3 OF 3

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Report

DATE: November 19, 2020

COORDINATION:

This staff report was coordinated with the Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Director of Parks and Public Works.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact with acceptance of report

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachment:

1. Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Report