



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AD HOC WILDFIRE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 10/21/2020

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: October 14, 2020
TO: Council Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Commence Initial Meeting of the Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee Including the Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

RECOMMENDATION:

Commence initial meeting of the Ad Hoc Wildfire Committee (Committee) including the selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

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. The Committee should examine best practices of similar WUI communities, lessons learned from recent fires, and other relevant areas of wildfire science.

In addition, the Committee should compile a report which lists short, medium, and long-range mitigation options. The timeline for the Committee will be completion of the report in November 2020 with Council consideration on December 1, 2020 to align with the annual Strategic Priority and budget development process. The composition of the Committee is:

- 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

PREPARED BY: Arn Andrews
Assistant Town Manager

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

BACKGROUND (continued):

- Resident member Brad Gordon

DISCUSSION:

At the first Committee meeting, the Committee will

- Select a Chair and Vice Chair
- Discuss the schedule and expected product of the Committee
- Begin to brainstorm mitigation and resiliency tactics, actions, and strategies for potential inclusion in the Committee's report to Council

To assist Committee members to prepare for its initial meeting, below is a list of reference materials and resources the Committee may find useful for discussion purposes. The summary includes recent policy and budgetary actions taken by Council to address the Town's risk of wildfire and corresponding links to materials.

- April 2019: Town adopts Annex 9 of the Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).
https://www.sccfd.org/images/documents/fire_prevention/CWPP/CWPP_Strategic_Countywide_Document_08_29_16.pdf

https://www.sccfd.org/images/documents/fire_prevention/CWPP/Annex_9_Town_of_Los_Gatos_2019.pdf
- October 2019: Town Council accepts Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Evacuation Assessment Report. (Council Meeting 10/15/2019 Agenda Item 7)
<http://weblink.losgatosca.gov/Weblink/Browse.aspx?startid=275983&dbid=0>
- November 2019: Town Council amends Chapter 11 (Garbage, Refuse, and Weeds) of the Town Code, expanding the definition of weeds. (Council Meeting 11/5/2019 Agenda Item 4)
<https://meetings.municode.com/PublishPage/index?cid=LOSGATOS&ppid=a7cef0f9-a4a2-40e7-a6e3-056a78898413&p=1>
- January 2020: Town Council takes several actions:
 - Amends Chapter 9 (Fire Protection and Protection) of the Town Code and adopts a 5-foot nonflammable zone requirement around new structures in the WUI. Council also adopts language which require defensible space beyond property lines in certain circumstances.

DISCUSSION (continued):

<https://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24284/Ord-2301---Amend-Chapter-9-Fire-Prevention--Protection-regarding-Weed-Ab>

- Amends Chapter 11 of the Town Code (Garbage, Refuse, and Weeds) and increases required weed abatement along roadways from 5 feet to 10 feet. (Council Meeting 1/21/2020 Agenda Item 10)
<https://meetings.municode.com/PublishPage/index?cid=LOSGATOS&ppid=a7cef0f9-a4a2-40e7-a6e3-056a78898413&p=1>
- Amends Chapter 29 of the Town Code (Tree Protection) and categorizes trees removed or maintained in the furtherance of defensible space as exceptions to tree protections. (Council Meeting 1/21/2020 Agenda Item 10)
<https://meetings.municode.com/PublishPage/index?cid=LOSGATOS&ppid=a7cef0f9-a4a2-40e7-a6e3-056a78898413&p=1>
- April 2020: Council authorizes the sale of property at Winchester and Lark to the Santa Clara County Fire District. Transaction sets the stage for County Fire to build a state-of-art fire station at the location and house significant wildfire fighting equipment in Town.
- June 2020: Council budget actions include:
 - \$250,000 toward 11 miles of roadside fuel reduction in the WUI
 - \$1.5 million toward rehabilitating portions of Shannon Road
 - \$500,000 toward ecological assessment and first year of fuel removal in Town owned open space

In addition, the following reference materials may be of interest to the Committee:

Town of Los Gatos Roadway Vegetation Management Plan

<https://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25236/Los-Gatos-Roadside-Vegetation-Management-Plan?bidId=>

Map of the Los Gatos WUI

<https://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24122/Los-Gatos-WUI-and-State-VHFHA-Map?bidId=>

Retrospective Study of Montecito Fire Protection District's Wildland Fire Program during the 2017 Thomas Fire

<https://www.montecitofire.com/retrospect-report-draft-october-9-2018>

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DISCUSSION (continued):

City of Berkeley Recommendation to Install an Outdoor Public Warning System

(Agenda Item 27)

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2019/05_May/City_Council_05-14-2019_-_Regular_Meeting_Agenda.aspx

City of Mill Valley Hazardous Fuel Reduction Ordinance

https://cityofmillvalley.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=1404&meta_id=66063

Santa Clara County Firesafe Council

<https://sccfiresafe.org/>