



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 12/17/2024

ITEM NO: 15

DATE: December 12, 2024
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Adopt the Town of Los Gatos Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Annex 9 of the Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan)

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Town of Los Gatos Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Annex 9 of the Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan)(Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

In 2003 the U.S. Congress recognized the widespread decline in forest health and the increased incidence of wildfire risk nationwide by passing the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). The HFRA was revised in 2009 to address changes to funding and provide a renewed focus on wildfire mitigation.

The HFRA expedites the development and implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects on federal land and emphasizes the need for federal agencies to work collaboratively with local communities. A key component of the HFRA is the recommended development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), to facilitate the collaboration between federal agencies and local communities to develop hazardous fuels reduction projects and place priority on treatment areas identified by communities in a CWPP.

In addition, communities with an established CWPP are given priority for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out in accordance with the HFRA.

PREPARED BY: Paul Horvat
Emergency Services Coordinator

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

DISCUSSION:

In 2023, Santa Clara County completed the preparation of the [Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#).¹ The CWPP document is intended to identify wildfire risks in communities that are most likely to see wildfires and present options for mitigating those hazards. It is a tool designed for identifying, prioritizing, and tracking wildland fire mitigation measures across complex jurisdictional boundaries. The Santa Clara County CWPP includes a series of annexes for the jurisdictions in its service area that address specific issues and mitigation measures unique to those communities. Since Los Gatos is served by the Santa Clara County Fire Department, a CWPP annex to (Annex 9) was prepared for the Town (Attachment 1).

Community wildfire protection planning is the basis for a community's long-term strategy to reduce wildland fire risk through the ongoing evaluation and analysis of an ever-changing environment. This CWPP annex identifies the Town's wildland fire risks and provides a plan for departments, stakeholders, and the community to reduce those risks through various mitigation and educational outreach efforts.

The Town's comprehensive approach to wildland fire mitigation employs the following varied techniques:

- **Prevention:** the Town utilizes administrative and regulatory actions, such as planning and zoning requirements, that influence the way land and buildings are developed to reduce wildfire risks.
- **Natural Resource Protection:** actions minimize wildfire risk and preserve or restore the functions of natural systems via vegetation management and post-wildfire watershed management.
- **Property Protection:** vegetation management projects are implemented to reduce the risk of life and property.
- **Public Education and Awareness:** informing the public, residents and businesses about wildland fire hazards and ways to reduce their own loss and to lower risk in the community.

This CWPP Annex is designed to be used as a hazard identification and analysis reference document that is part of the overall County of Santa Clara Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

CONCLUSION:

This CWPP Annex is a vital component of the Town's emergency management goals. Staff recommends adoption of the Town of Los Gatos CWPP.

¹ <https://santa-clara-cwpp-sccfc.hub.arcgis.com/>

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COORDINATION:

This CWPP Annex has been coordinated with the Parks and Public Works Department, Town Manager's Office, Santa Clara County Fire Department, County of Santa Clara Department of Emergency Management, and the County Fire Safe Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting the Town's CWPP annex. Fire mitigation efforts are ongoing and any additional funding required will be requested as part of the Town's budgeting process.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

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

Attachments:

1. Town of Los Gatos Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Annex 9 of the Countywide CWPP)