

From: [Piu Ghosh \(she/her\) \(Cupertino Planning Department\)](#)
To: [Lindsay Nelson](#)
Subject: Fwd: City General Plan Feedback-Health and Safety Element of the General Plan
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 5:24:36 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jiwoo [REDACTED]
Date: 3/6/2026, 11:11:14 PM

Dear Cupertino Planning Division,

My name is Jiwoo Kim, and I am a student at Cupertino High School. I am interested in biological sciences and public health, and I have been reviewing the new Health and Safety Element draft.

I would like to share two suggestions based on the "Climate Change Resilience" to help protect our community from extreme heat.

1. Utilize Public Facilities as Cooling Centers

I suggest that the City officially designate more public buildings as cooling centers during heat waves, near areas in crowded public places where many residents of Cupertino tend to stay out in the open for long periods of time. It would also help to extend their operating hours on very hot days. Heat can seriously affect people's health, especially during extreme temperatures, so having accessible air conditioned spaces is important for community safety.

2. I suggest installing a cooling fog system combined with large sunshades in crowded, public areas for people to cool off during the hot days.

3. Nature Based Cooling Solutions (Policy 9.9)

I support adding more green roofs and living walls to reduce heat in the city. I hope the City sets clear goals to add these features in areas where students and residents walk or gather. These natural solutions, together with cooling centers, can make our city more prepared for rising temperatures.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share feedback. I hope my suggestions are

helpful for improving the final plan.

I would appreciate it if you could confirm that my feedback has been received.

Sincerely,
Jiwoo Kim


From: [Lauren Sapudar](#)
To: [Luke Connolly](#); [Michael Woo](#)
Cc: [Lindsay Nelson](#)
Subject: FW: Written Communications PC Meeting Cupertino Health and Safety Element Item 2 and Include as Comments to the Draft
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026 8:17:57 PM


Hi Luke and Michael,

Did this email go to the Planning Commission email address?

Lindsay – Please include in the PC written comms.

Thank you,

 **Lauren Sapudar**
Acting City Clerk
City Manager's Office
LaurenS@cupertino.gov
(408) 777-1312



From: Kitty Moore <ckittymoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 8:13 PM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@cupertino.org>; lsapuder@cupertino.gov
Subject: Written Communications PC Meeting Cupertino Health and Safety Element Item 2 and Include as Comments to the Draft

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Honorable Chair Kosolcharoen, Vice Chair Scharf, and Commissioners Fung, Lindskog, and Rao,

As a resident of Cupertino, I am writing to share observations regarding the Draft Health and Safety Element. This element, as you know, was supposed to be adopted concurrently with the Housing Element.

To ensure this document provides a "safe harbor" for our community against the loss of local control, I recommend the Commission transition from discretionary goals to **objective, non-discretionary standards**.

I respectfully suggest the following specific refinements:

1. Wildfire & Evacuation (Objective Safety Standards)

The Commission should consider moving beyond "encouraging" safety to requiring it:

- **Dual Ingress/Egress:** To prevent entrapment, could the element require that all new residential developments of 5+ units in High/Very High Fire Hazard zones **must** provide at least two independent, paved points of access with a **minimum 20-foot width along with mandatory evacuation plans?**
- **Zone 0 Perimeters:** To align with current wildfire science, should we mandate a **5-foot non-combustible "Zone 0"** for all new construction in these hazard areas? Are there further enhancements to this section?

2. Environmental Health & Hazardous Materials (PFAS/PCE)

To protect our groundwater, the element needs automatic, numeric triggers:

- **Mandatory Phase I/II ESAs:** Could the policy state that a **Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)** is mandatory for any development application on a parcel with a historical industrial or commercial land use?
- **Numeric Cleanup Targets:** Should the draft explicitly reference Bay Area or **California EPA (CHHSL) residential screening levels** for contaminants like **PCE and PFAS** as the mandatory threshold for occupancy permits?

3. Noise & Public Health (Nighttime Industrial Traffic)

The 4 AM truck traffic from local industrial operations is a significant health concern.

- **Lmax Thresholds:** Our 24-hour averages (CNEL) do not address sleep disturbance. Could the element include a strict **Maximum Noise Level (Lmax) cap of 65 decibel** for industrial trucks in residential zones between 10 PM and 6 AM

4. Seismic Resilience: City Hall and EOC Status

- **EOC Retrofit:** Our emergency response capability is only as strong as our infrastructure. It has been noted in city records (1985, 2005, 2014) that the **City Hall** still requires a full seismic retrofit to meet modern **Essential Facility safety standards**. Could the Commission add an objective goal to complete this upgrade and the Torre Annex within the next five years?

By codifying these objective requirements now, we ensure Cupertino retains the power to enforce its safety and health standards regardless of future state-level streamlining. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kitty Moore

From: [Jean Bedord](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Planning Dept.](#)
Subject: Feedback on Health and Safety Element - Evacuations
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:42:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

HI,

Overall, this was an excellent document - I didn't realize there were so many plans. The one concern was the evacuation maps. They need to be more user friendly. There are PDF maps for CUP-E001 to CUP-E034, but no labels to identify the areas. <https://www.cupertino.gov/evacuation> Evacuations continue to be a concern to residents so this area could be expanded.

Warm regards,
Jean Bedord

From: [DerChang Kau](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Planning Commission](#)
Subject: Fw: Presentation materials to comment on Agenda #2 planning commission meeting today
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 7:34:37 PM
Attachments: [20260309 - Feedback to PC March 9 2026 meeting.pptx](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From: DerChang Kau [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 7:33:35 PM
To: Cupertino Planning Department <planning@cupertino.gov>
Subject: Fw: Presentation materials to comment on Agenda #2 planning commission meeting today

From: DerChang Kau [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 2:53:36 PM
To: Cupertino Planning Department <planning@cupertino.gov>
Cc: Alice Lin [REDACTED]
Subject: Presentation materials to comment on Agenda #2 planning commission meeting today

Dear planning staff,

Please see "20260309 - Feedback to PC March 9 2026 meeting.pptx", attached.
The presentation slides will be used for oral comment to Agenda #2 of today's Planning Commission's meeting.

The presenters are DerChang Kau and Alice Lin.

Thank you

DerChang Kau

**OUTDATED INPUTS
PLANNING-LEVEL METHODS ARE NOT ENOUGH
HIGH-RISK ZONES REQUIRE STREET-LEVEL MODELING
BEYOND V/C RATIOS: A TOTAL EVACUATION-TO-SAFETY FRAMEWORK**

DerChang Kau
A resident of the City of Cupertino

Outdated Inputs

The City's evacuation analysis is built on pre-rezoning data and cannot support long-range planning.

- Uses 2023 ACS, 2025 Genasys, and 2024 StreetLight data
 - *“Primarily reflects existing households”* — not future density
- Fails to identify parcels with single ingress/egress as required by California Government Code Section 65302(g)(5)[¶]
 - Evulich Ct. modeled as 4 units, not 51 units allowed under rezoning
- A 2040 General Plan cannot rely on 2023 conditions

The analysis is outdated the moment it is published.



Beyond V/C Ratios: A Total Evacuation-to-Safety Framework

V/C ratios hide the true danger.

Cupertino needs a Total Evacuation-to-Safety model.

- $V/C > 1$ means **oversaturation** — “*the system fails*”
- Current study uses **planning-level capacities** from year 2000
- Missing adjustments:
 - Spatial (density, terrain, visibility), Temporal (school pickup, curbside parking), Operational (signal outages, red-flash mode)
- Real evacuation requires modeling:
 - Queuing delays, Merging delays, Human behavior, Departure lag

Residents need to know time to safety, not just where bottlenecks occur.

Planning-Level Methods Are Not Enough

Cupertino must move beyond broad, planning-level assessments to dynamic, high-resolution evacuation modeling.

- Current method is a “broad evaluation,” not a plan
 - Fehr & Peers: constrained areas require dynamic traffic assignment (DTA)
- DTA has been adopted widely
 - National guidance exists: ISO 22315, NIST ESCAPE
 - Peer jurisdictions (e.g., Marin County) already use advanced modeling
- Needed tools:
 - Scenario-based simulations, Evacuation time analysis, Departure-behavior modeling, Redundant route & shelter analysis, Quantitative performance metrics

Cupertino should be a leader—not a laggard—in evacuation planning.

High-Risk Zones Require Street-Level Modeling

Four evacuation zones lie within Fire Hazard Severity Zones, yet the City has not modeled their street-level evacuation behavior.

- All designated evacuation routes lie outside FHSZ
- But CUP016, CUP017, CUP029, CUP032 lie inside Moderate–Very High FHSZ
 - CUP029 alone = 38% of all evacuation trips
 - McClellan Road V/C = 4.2; Foothill Blvd V/C = 4.0
 - These are not “constraints” —they are system failures
- City must adopt:
 - Street-level DTA, Real-time traffic management, Phased evacuation strategies for FHSZ zone

Thousands of residents remain exposed until Cupertino models evacuation where the risk actually exists.



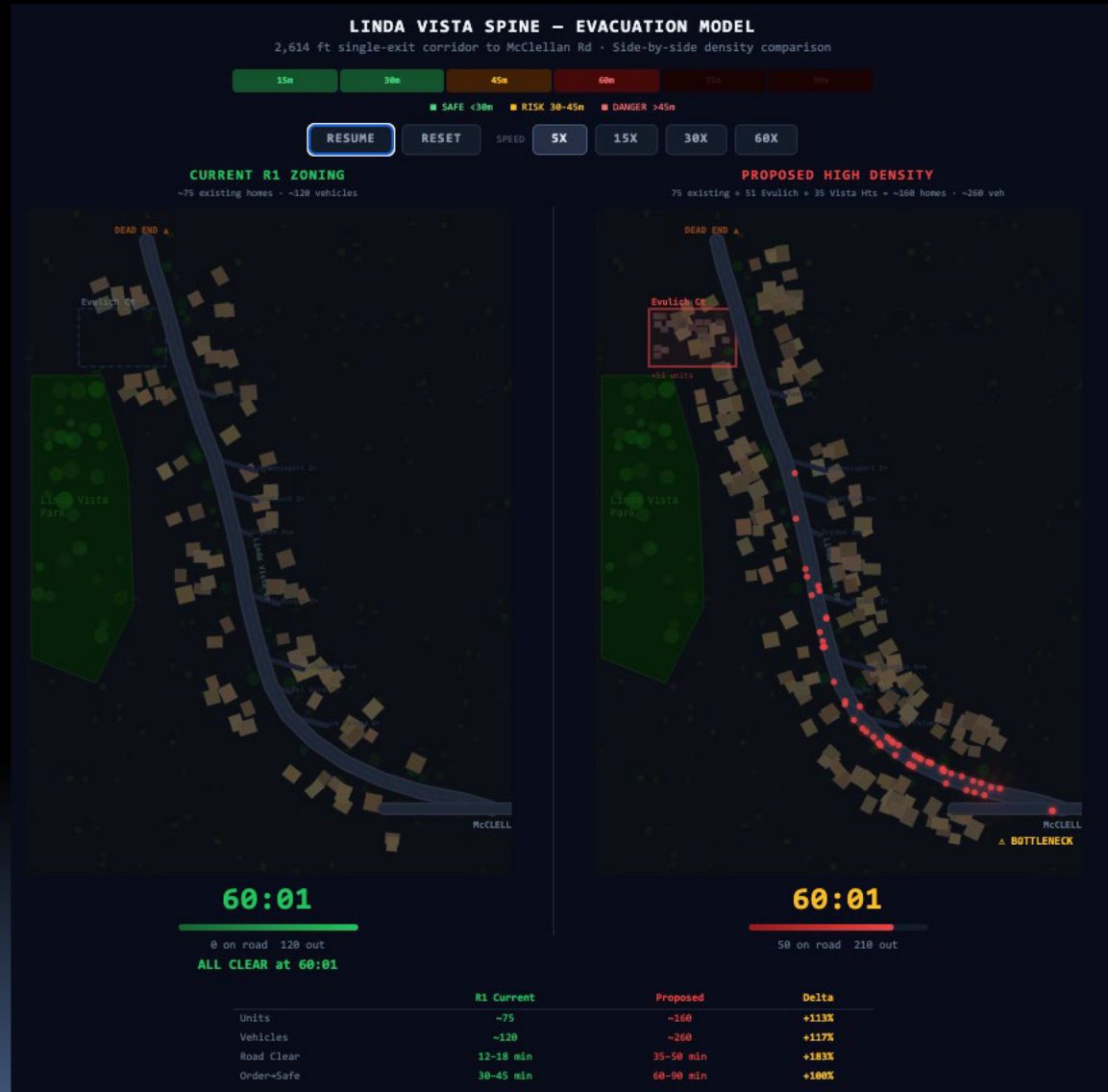
5' after Red Flag Warning issued

15' after Red Flag Warning issued



30' after Red Flag Warning issued

45' after Red Flag Warning issued



60' after Red Flag Warning issued

Summary: Cupertino Must Elevate Its Evacuation Planning

The current evacuation analysis is not sufficient for a wildfire-exposed, rapidly densifying Cupertino.

The City must adopt modern, data-driven methods to meet 2040 safety needs.

- Dated data source
- Over simplified methods despite known constraints and consultant guidance
- High-risk zones (CUP016, 17, 29, 32) require street-level modeling
- V/C ratios mask true danger — oversaturation means system failure, not delay
- Residents need time-to-safety modeling, not bottleneck identification
- Peer jurisdictions already use dynamic traffic assignment & scenario-based tools

To protect residents and meet the intent of the Health & Safety Element, Cupertino must move beyond planning-level assumptions and commit to advanced, future-oriented evacuation modeling now.

To: Cupertino Planning Department
From: Steve Hill, Cupertino resident
Subject: Feedback on the Draft Health and Safety Element
Date March 10, 2026

Artificial turf falls into multiple hazardous materials categories

Artificial turf's negative effect on human and environmental health

1. Artificial turf contains a class of chemicals called PFAS.

The F stands for fluorine. Fluorine atoms combine with carbon atoms in the polyethylene grass blades to create carcinogenic forever chemicals harmful to humans.

2. Negative health effects from PFAS chemicals (NIH).

Epidemiological studies have revealed associations between exposure to specific PFAS and a variety of health effects, including:

- Liver disease
- Kidney disease
- Cancer
- Adverse reproductive and developmental outcomes
- Altered immune and thyroid function
- Lipid and insulin dysregulation

3. Plastic grass carpets are hardscapes.

Plastic grass is an **impervious surface**: it blocks infiltration, prevents aquifer recharge, and accelerates polluted runoff. Even artificial turf that claims to allow water to filtrate through pollutes our watershed and ocean with microplastics that will never break down from the turf. Natural turf and native groundcovers, on the other hand, absorb and filter water, turning stormwater from a liability into a resource.

- Rainwater runs off artificial turf and the biome in soil beneath dies.
- Artificial turf does not sequester carbon like natural grass.
- Plastic 'blades' degrade into microplastics that infiltrate sources of drinking water and are washed into the Bay where they can be consumed by aquatic life thinking its food.

Cupertino has approximately 18 acres of artificial turf at its three high schools, and residents are using artificial turf in lieu of real grass for landscaping.

4. Artificial turf emits climate warming gases methane and ethylene.

5. Artificial turf cannot be recycled.

There are large piles of rolled up worn turf in California and other states. It is a growing problem in the United States and in Europe.

6. Last month, California’s Department of Toxic Substances released a Technical Document for Artificial Turf Containing Perfluoroalkyl or Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.

DTSC determined that artificial turf containing per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) meets the Priority Product identification and prioritization criteria outlined in the SCP Regulations: (1) there is potential for exposure to PFASs in artificial turf; and (2) the exposure has the potential to cause or contribute to significant or widespread adverse impacts. Additionally, artificial turf containing PFASs relates to all of the priorities and considerations for implementation identified in our 2024-2026 Priority Product Work Plan.

Artificial turf’s negative effect on public safety

1. Excessively hot on warm days

On hot summer days, the temperature of an artificial turf can reach 160–180°F, hotter than asphalt. It causes heat stress and can burn skin (table below).

Surface Temperature	2 nd Degree Burn No Irreversible Damage	3 rd Degree Burn Full Thickness Injury
120°	8 minutes	10 minutes
124°	2 minutes	4.2 minutes
131°	17 seconds	30 seconds
140°	3 seconds	5 seconds

2. Artificial turf can burn

While petroleum-based artificial turf contains a fire resistant chemical, it can still burn if it is hot enough.

Palisades Fire

Plastic grass melted into toxic waste in the flames. That plastic is now part of the soil and air pollution burden.

Examples of fires occurring in piles of discarded worn artificial turf in the Sacramento Valley

Both videos show plumes of toxic black smoke coming off artificial turf fires.

KOVR Sacramento, **Artificial Turf Fire Sending Off Dark Smoke Near Highway 99**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK_BDvmQ1WU

KCRA Sacramento, **Knocked-down power lines ignite turf in Woodland**

<https://www.kcra.com/article/fire-burns-field-near-woodland/29197985>

From: [Andrea Wald](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Planning Dept.](#)
Subject: Feedback on the Draft Health and Safety Element
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 8:57:34 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Following are my comments regarding the Draft General Plan Health and Safety Element. It is my understanding that this plan is being based upon/linked to Cupertino's Climate Action Plan from August 16, 2022.

Both documents contain a broad range of issues that Cupertino is addressing such that you will become more resilient to earthquakes, flooding, wildfires, extreme heat, and other hazards. I'd like to specifically comment on the areas of CLIMATE CHANGE, HEAT, WASTE, WATER and CARBON SEQUESTRATION.

The City of Cupertino's vulnerability assessment as summarized in Table 2 (page 23 of the Climate Action Plan) says that Cupertino is extremely susceptible to extreme heat and specifically says young children, seniors, people with pre-existing conditions and low income communities are at risk. It also mentions that there is a predicted increase in extreme heat days by year 2050 and even more by 2100.

Page 112 – table 22 has some action items to help mitigate the extreme heat that Cupertino will experience. Understanding that planting trees is helpful but also keeping in mind that ALL installations of artificial turf and PIP (poured-in-place) rubberized surfaces are counter to combating the heat island effect whether those installations are on Cupertino owned land (including parks and athletic fields), residential or commercial properties or on school grounds.

And on Pages 69 & 70 from the Draft Plan Policy HS-9.4 says:

Recognize extreme heat as a significant hazard in Cupertino, integrating extreme heat into emergency preparedness and response procedures.

Then under Strategies there is mention of shade, vegetation and trees and natural resources – all in an effort to absorb/mitigate climate-related hazards.

Having a formal plan is great, however, all the verbiage used in these documents is rather vague and broad. **What I want to point out is that one thing the city can and should do to address some of these issues is to look into a ban of artificial turf.** Artificial turf only exacerbates all the issues that this report is supposed to be addressing. It creates heat islands, is impacting climate change, releases carbon instead of absorbing it (which natural plants – grasses, trees, shrubs do), is not recyclable and therefore ends up in landfill or is shipped far off to be burned, and is poisoning the environment and water with the toxic chemicals (PFAS) it is made with and the microplastics that shed off.

In addition to mentioning things that the city should do – it behooves you to mention things the city should NOT DO – and that is to not install any artificial turf, encourage residents to not use in their own landscaping (I've seen way too much as I walk the neighborhoods) and to never again install any PIP in your playgrounds. I tried to get the city to not install it at the

Magical Bridges playground at Jollyman Park. I was told by the time I brought this up it was too late to change plans. What a shame. The PIP and artificial turf surfaces get very hot – and just wait til summer time when those days of extreme heat that are predicted do happen. These surfaces also wear out and will end up shedding toxic materials into the environment. They are simply unnatural and unhealthy!

Thank you for considering my input to your document/report.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wald

Co-Founder, Community for Natural Play Surfaces

From: [Linda Liu](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Planning Dept.](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Draft Health and Safety Element — Freeway Noise
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 8:01:41 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Cupertino Planning Division,

I am submitting this comment during the public review period for the Draft Health and Safety Element. I am a resident of Cupertino living in the Homestead Villa neighborhood near the Interstate 280 / Foothill Expressway / State Route 85 interchange, and I am writing to urge the City to strengthen the updated Element's noise policies with specific reference to the I-280 corridor and the noise pollution that it is generating for Cupertino residents.

Current Situation

Measured noise levels in my neighborhood can reach 70 dB — exceeding the U.S. EPA's residential daytime limit of 65 dB and the WHO's daytime safe threshold of 40 dB. The existing Health and Safety Element already acknowledges that "Interstate 280 and Highway 85" are among the greatest contributors to noise pollution in Cupertino (Chapter 7, Noise section). While this issue has been acknowledged by the City, the Interstate 280 corridor has not received adequate noise mitigation and conditions have worsened in recent years due to increased traffic volumes, deteriorating pavement, heavier vehicles with wider tires (e.g., EVs with heavy batteries), and aging or absent soundwall infrastructure.

Additionally, the 2020 VTA off-ramp widening project added northbound Interstate 280 capacity without a corresponding noise mitigation component, leaving residents on both sides of Foothill Expressway near the interchange with little or no acoustic protection. There are also structural gaps in soundwall coverage on both sides of the off- and on-ramps.

Requested Changes to the Draft Element

I respectfully request the following additions in the updated Health and Safety Element:

1. Soundwall Eligibility Review

Include a strategy for the City to formally request that Caltrans evaluate the Interstate 280 and State Route 85 corridor for eligibility under the Caltrans Retrofit Noise Barrier Program. Where soundwalls are not possible, request to evaluate other options such as a sound-attenuating fence.

2. Rubberized Asphalt Advocacy

Add language to advocate with VTA for noise-reducing pavement (rubberized asphalt) on Interstate 280 within Cupertino's jurisdiction. Rubberized asphalt can reduce noise by 4–6 dB.

3. City-led Noise Abatement

While the City has limited jurisdiction in areas controlled by Caltrans, California Water Service, and other agencies, it can advocate in those areas, and/or take action on city property to introduce noise abatement solutions including acoustic blocking panels on chain-link and other fences along the freeway and planting more noise-reducing trees.

4. Interchange Noise Gaps

Add language recognizing that freeway interchange zones — where soundwalls cannot run continuously due to ramp geometry — constitute a distinct and underaddressed category of residential noise exposure. Policy should require that any future interchange improvement project include noise impact analysis and mitigation as a condition of approval.

The updated Health and Safety Element represents an opportunity to specify goals, policies, and strategies to address the traffic noise pollution coming from Interstate 280 and State Route 85. These improvements will ensure that residents will continue to enjoy a high quality of life living in Cupertino. I respectfully ask the Planning Division and Planning Commission to review and incorporate this feedback into the final adopted document.

Thank you for accepting public comments and for your work on this important update.

Best regards,
Linda Liu



From: [Jean Bedord](#)
To: [City of Cupertino Planning Dept.](#)
Subject: Feedback on Health and Safety Element - Evacuations
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:42:24 PM

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Warm regards,
Jean Bedord