



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: August 20, 2019

Subject

Adopt the City of Cupertino Annex to the Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as the City of Cupertino Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Recommended Action

Adopt Resolution No. 19-___ which adopts the City of Cupertino Annex to the Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan as the City of Cupertino's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Background

In recent years, wildfires have become an increasing concern for communities across the United States. California, in particular, has seen significant fires that have resulted in the loss of life and millions of dollars in property damage. Not only do wildfires represent a safety risk, the cost to suppress wildfires in the United States typically exceeds one billion dollars every year.

Cupertino is listed as a Community at Risk from wildfires on the Federal and/or California Fire Alliance list of Communities at Risk in Santa Clara County. Wildfires occur in the vicinity of Cupertino and present a danger to people and properties within the City.

In an effort to address wildfire concerns, the Santa Clara County Fire Department (County Fire) developed a Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)¹. The Santa Clara County CWPP includes annexes for the different jurisdictions in its service area that address specific issues and mitigation measures in those communities. These annexes may serve as CWPPs for these different jurisdictions.

¹ Santa Clara County. (2016). *Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan*. http://www.sccfd.org/images/documents/fire_prevention/CWPP/CWPP_Strategic_Countywide_Document_08_29_16.pdf

Discussion

County Fire prepared a Cupertino Annex to the Santa Clara County CWPP to serve as the City of Cupertino CWPP. County Fire is requesting City Council consideration and adoption of the City of Cupertino CWPP.

CWPPs serve to identify wildfire risks in communities that are most likely to see wildfires and options for mitigating those hazards. Mitigation measures can reduce the risk of injury and damage. The CWPP is an initial step in educating the public and treating areas of concern. County Fire will be responsible for most of the mitigation measures. For example, some of the mitigation measures that County Fire will take on include engaging our community members in public education and outreach projects, as well as potentially installing Fire Detection Robots to alert departments of a fire start in remote areas.

Some mitigation measures included in the proposed City of Cupertino CWPP require City action such as creating sustainable programs for creating defensible space and road width trails for better access. The City of Cupertino will also be responsible for considering policy, codes, and ordinance changes, as well as looking at City parks and streets where fuel mitigation may reduce the intensity of fires. County Fire will advise the City on any policy, code, or ordinance changes that should be considered.

County Fire conducted significant public outreach and sought involvement from the jurisdictions in the County Fire service area as well as other wildfire professionals and non-profit organizations during the development of the CWPP. Outreach efforts included a series of community workshops to create awareness of the CWPP, identify hazards, and solicit input on proposed mitigation measures. Two rounds of community workshops were held in Cupertino in February and May of 2016.

Other cities in the Santa Clara County operational area are in the process of adopting the CWPP or have already adopted the CWPP. Since CWPPs only apply to jurisdictions with Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), not all cities will participate.

Jurisdiction	Status
Campbell	N/A - No WUI areas
Gilroy	In progress
Los Altos	N/A - No WUI areas
Los Altos Hills	In progress
Los Gatos	Adopted
Monte Sereno	Adopted
Morgan Hill	In progress
Palo Alto	Adopted
San Jose	In progress
Santa Clara County	In progress
Saratoga	Adopted

The City of Cupertino CWPP was brought to the Public Safety Commission on Thursday June 13th, 2019. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend that Council adopt the CWPP. The City of Cupertino CWPP will be presented to the Disaster Council on August 15th, 2019.

Sustainability Impact

None anticipated.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact from adopting the City of Cupertino CWPP. If initiatives within the plan require funding from the City, those requests will be brought before the Council at that time.

Prepared by: Clare Francavilla, Emergency Services Coordinator

Reviewed by: Katy Nomura, Assistant to the City Manager
Dianne Thompson, Assistant City Manager

Approved for Submission by: Deb Feng, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Resolution Adopting the City of Cupertino Community Wildfire Protection Plan

B – City of Cupertino Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Annex 7