



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting: February 14, 2019

Subject

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

Recommended Action

Recommend that City Council adopt the resolution to adopt 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 developed a [Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Santa Clara County \(CWPP\)](#). 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.

Discussion

The Santa Clara County Fire Department 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. 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. As part of the plan, Santa Clara County Fire Department plans to engage our community members in public education and outreach projects, and investigate and potentially install Fire Detection Robots to alert departments of a fire start in remote areas.

Santa Clara County Fire Department conducted significant public outreach and sought involvement from both 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. Cupertino participated in these workshops 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	In progress
Monte Sereno	Adopted
Morgan Hill	In progress
Palo Alto	Adopted
San Jose	In progress
Santa Clara County	In progress
Saratoga	Adopted

The CWPP identifies measures to minimize hazards and reduce risks related to wildfires. Santa Clara County Fire Department County Fire will be responsible for most of the mitigation tasks as well as the maintenance of the CWPP. The City of Cupertino will be responsible for considering policy, codes, and ordinance changes, as well as looking at City parks and streets where fuel mitigation may reduce intensity of fires. County Fire will advise the City on any policy, code, or ordinance changes that should be considered.

Sustainability Impact

None anticipated.

Fiscal Impact

None anticipated.

Prepared by: Clare Francavilla, Emergency Services Coordinator

Reviewed by: Aarti Shrivastava, Assistant City Manager

Approved for Submission by: Timm Borden, Interim City Manager

Attachments:

A – Resolution Adopting the Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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

C - Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan