

Cyrah Caburian

From: Rhoda Fry <fryhouse@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 2:51 PM
To: City of Cupertino Planning Commission
Cc: City Clerk
Subject: RE: Planning Commission 10/11/22 Agenda Item #2 Not in Favor of Sign Exemption

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.

I have additional comments pertaining to this item. I am concerned that these signs will be distracting to motorists, particularly on Highway 280 after dark. This issue is addressed twice within the municipal code that applies to signage as follows:

19.104.050 Sign Permit Application–Review Criteria.

B. The proposed sign's color and illumination is not in conflict with the safe flow of traffic on the City streets.

19.104.220 Design Criteria–Permanent Signs.

G. The sign's color and illumination shall not produce distraction to motorists or nearby residents.

Sincerely,
Rhoda Fry

Cyrah Caburian

From: Rani Fischer <ranif@scvas.org>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 4:58 PM
To: City of Cupertino Planning Commission
Cc: Shani Kleinhaus
Subject: Item 2 on the October 11 Agenda- illuminated Signs at 20565 Valley Green Drive
Attachments: Cupertino Illuminated Signs.pdf

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 Cahar Scharf and Planning Commissioners,

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is an environmental organization based in Cupertino. We have engaged in many Cupertino planning efforts over the past twenty years, and write today to express our opposition to freeway- facing illuminated signs. Please see our letter attached.

Thank you,

Rani Fischer
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Environmental Advocacy Assistant



October 10, 2022

Cupertino Planning Commission
planningcommission@cupertino.org

Re: Item 2 on the October 11 Agenda:

Please do not allow illuminated Signs at 20565 Valley Green Drive

Dear Chair Scharf and Planning Commissioners,

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society is an environmental organization based in Cupertino. We have engaged in many Cupertino planning efforts over the past 20 years, and write today to express our concern regarding freeway facing illuminated signs. We ask:

- Please do not approve a Sign Exception to allow any illuminated/electronic wall signs on the storage facility buildings.
- If illuminated/electronic signs are considered, please:
 - Conduct a public survey to gauge community support
 - Require CEQA analysis to study the impact on aesthetic, driver safety, and biological resources.

Previous Approval On June 18, 2019, City Council approved a Development Permit (DP-2018-03), Architectural Site Approval (ASA-2018-04), Fence Exception (EXC-2018-01), and Tree Removal Permit (TR-2019-11) to allow the construction of a new storage facility consisting of two (2) four (4) story buildings. Signage details were excluded from those permit applications. Staff has now evaluated signage proposals. Our concerns are focused on the lighting of the proposed signs, and we ask the commission not to approve lighting on any sign.

1. City Code

City code section 19.104.220 Design Criteria–Permanent Signs, G. provides, “The sign's color and illumination shall not produce distraction to motorists or nearby residents.” (Ord. 21-2234, Att. A (§ 9, part), 2021; Ord. 2085, § 2 (part), 2011)

The intent of freeway facing signs is clearly to distract motorists and draw their attention. Thus, freeway facing signs, especially illuminated signs, are not consistent with Cupertino's design criteria.

2. CEQA

We believe that the proposed freeway facing illuminated signs must require CEQA review and public outreach to analyze and mitigate impacts to the scenic quality of the I-280 corridor.

Interstate 280 in Santa Clara County, including the section along Cupertino, is eligible for Scenic Highway designation (see Figure 1). Electronic, digital and illuminated signs clutter and degrade visual quality and aesthetic resources. I-280 in this section has wide shoulders, berms and trees all intended to create a visual buffer along the freeway, and limit visual interference from businesses and urban activities (see Figure 2). The impacts of I-280 facing illuminated signs should be analyzed in a public CEQA process.

Figure 1:

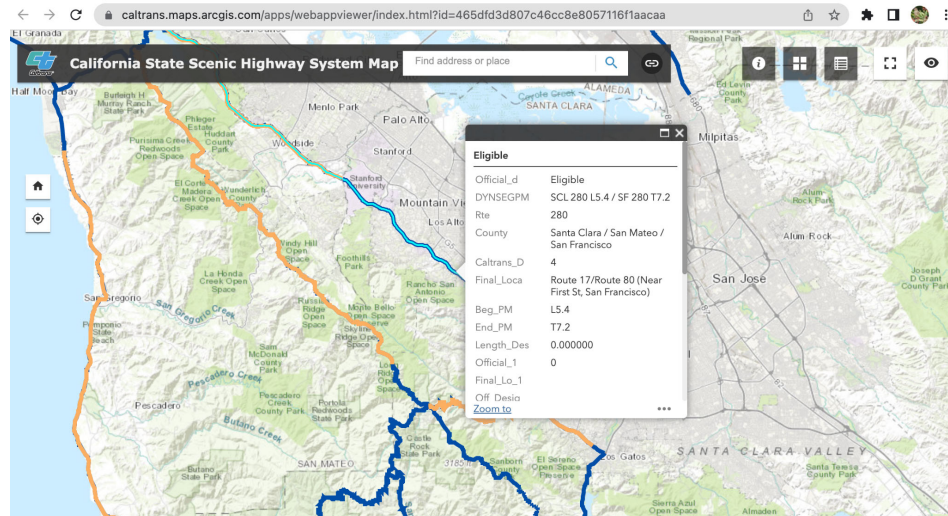


Figure 2:



Thank you for your attention,

Rani Fischer
 Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
 Environmental Advocacy Assistant

Cyrah Caburian

Subject: FW: Planning Commission Meeting

From: Cathy Helgersen <cathyhelger@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 7:03 AM

To: Darcy Paul <DPaul@cupertino.org>; Liang Chao <LiangChao@cupertino.org>; Kitty Moore <Kmoore@cupertino.org>; Hung Wei <HWei@cupertino.org>; Jon Robert Willey <JWilley@cupertino.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@cupertino.org>

Subject: Fwd: Planning Commission Meeting

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.

Hello All especially City Clerk,

Please forward this e-mail message to the Planning Commission, City Council and to any one else that is involved with these matters it seems that this is the only way to contact everyone.

Thanks,

Cathy Helgersen - 408-253-0490

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

From: **Cathy Helgersen** <cathyhelger@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Oct 8, 2022 at 6:12 AM

Subject: Re: Planning Commission Meeting

To: <cupertino@public.govdelivery.com>

Hello,

It is time to put all commissions and meetings Cupertino has at the City Hall for all people to come to the meeting. I ask that you change your meeting over to accommodate those who wish to attend in-house meetings.

I am against signs being put up at the storage units near the 280 freeway. It is bad enough that the storage units are there and that the public can see them from the freeway and now you want to put up signs to please stop this allowance from taking place.

I think it is fine to have more than one unit on a very large piece of the single family home plots but under certain circumstances as long as it does not interfere with the neighboring properties this should be really observed case by case. I would also like to see tiny houses put on the property but there are restrictions with the footage from the fence line and the house in place this may need to be adjusted on another piece of ordinance in the future please see that it happens.

I also have issues and have had issues about the Apple Computer R & D facility next to my home for years they have been polluting the homes nearby and I would like to see them moved this building is zoned for commercial and residential it is not zoned for industrial and that is what this R & D Facility is so please see what you can do about this my family and I have suffered long enough from their pollution to the Air, Water and Soil. Apple installed a massive HVAC system on top of this building so it is very evident what is going on in secret the Fire Department will not act in any way to stop this. In the past the BAAQMD and the EPA have done nothing to correct this problem so I will be bringing this before the City of Cupertino's City Council.

Please provide my concerns to the commissions for their review meetings that need to be conducted at City Hall but if you wish to have them also on the web that is ok with me. I would also like to stress that having meeting of any kind especially the City Council meetings that last late into the evening does not accomodate all of the public's needs and views please set up a 10:00 PM limit.

I also ask that the City council old and new members coming in will receive my comments from this e-mail message. These matters are serious and I also have a great deal more issues that I have constantly been sending e-mails to the City and Council about that have not been rectified.

I ask that someone get back to me ASAP!

Thanks,
Cathy Helgersen - Environmental Enforcement Advocate
CAP-Citizens Against Pollution
408-253-0490

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 5:00 PM City of Cupertino <cupertino@public.govdelivery.com> wrote:

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



**CITY OF
CUPERTINO**

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 11 at 6:45 p.m.

To register for this teleconference meeting, please refer to the agenda linked below.

View agenda:

[Agenda](#)

[Live Webcast](#)

To view the past minutes and webcast archives visit:

[Agenda, Minutes & Webcast Archives](#)

Contact Phone: (408) 777-3308



cupertino.org



**CITY OF
CUPERTINO**

City of Cupertino, California

Website | 408.777.3200

10300 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014-3202



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This email was sent to cathyhelger@gmail.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud, on behalf of: City of Cupertino, CA · 10300 Torre Avenue · Cupertino, CA 95014-3202

govDELIVERY

Cyrah Caburian

From: Brian Schmidt <brian@greenfoothills.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 5:58 PM
To: City of Cupertino Planning Commission; City Clerk
Subject: Planning Commission 10/11/22 Agenda Item #2: Please do not allow illuminated signs facing Highway 280 Exemption

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 Planning Commission:

Green Foothills strongly supports the protection of the night sky and applauds Cupertino for its Dark Sky ordinance. In keeping with the spirit of protecting the night sky, we ask you not to approve any illuminated signs facing Highway 280. Besides being a distraction for drivers, they add cumulatively to the light pollution while not assisting local traffic. In the modern age of smart phone maps, people do not need these signs to find a business, and the light pollution hurts everyone.

Sincerely,
Brian Schmidt

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Brian Schmidt

Policy and Advocacy Director

(415) 994-7403 | greenfoothills.org

Celebrating 60 years of protecting local nature.

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Cyrah Caburian

From: Cyrah Caburian
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:33 AM
To: Rhoda Fry
Subject: RE: Why didn't my comments make it into the public record?

(City Clerk and Planning Commission moved to bcc)

Good morning Rhoda,

Thank you for the email and apologize that your email from Sunday evening was not included though the emails were. I just uploaded the late written communications this morning around the time of your email (which includes Brian of Greenfoothill's email); that being said, I will reupload to include your comments as submitted. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,



Cyrah Caburian

Administrative Assistant
Community Development
cyrahc@cupertino.org
(408) 777-1374



From: Rhoda Fry <fryhouse@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2022 10:04 AM
To: City Clerk <CityClerk@cupertino.org>; City of Cupertino Planning Commission <PlanningCommission@cupertino.org>
Subject: Why didn't my comments make it into the public record?

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 City Clerk,
I'm looking at the public record for this meeting and do not see my comments posted as shown below.
I understand that Greenfoothills also wrote the Planning Commission and do not see their comments either.
Can you correct the administrative record?
Thanks,
Rhoda

From: Rhoda Fry [<mailto:fryhouse@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 1:00 AM
To: 'planningcommission@cupertino.org' <planningcommission@cupertino.org>
Cc: 'City Clerk' <CityClerk@cupertino.org>
Subject: Planning Commission 10/11/22 Agenda Item #2 Not in Favor of Sign Exemption

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing you regarding the Planning Commission on 10/11/22 Agenda Item #2 for a sign exemption. I am not in favor of large illuminated signs that would face Highway 280. Two illuminated signs, totaling ~320 square feet, would directly face the freeway and a third of ~50 square feet would likely be visible from the freeway. This agenda item can be found here:

<https://cupertino.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5868412&GUID=E33E36EA-CD6C-45FE-AB5C-8114692E266E&Options=&Search=>

Concerns:

1. Has this item been reviewed by the Environmental Review Committee?
2. The City of Cupertino recently passed a Dark Sky Ordinance to protect birds and other wildlife and it is surprising to see that the City would consider approving an exemption for illuminated signage that would increase the number of allowed signs.
3. Having an illuminated sign facing Highway 280 would create a significant and unavoidable impact to a portion of Highway 280 that is eligible to be a State Scenic Highway (adjacent portions of Highway 280 are already designated as State Scenic Highways). <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways> Consequently, I do not believe that this project is not exempt from CEQA.
4. Please consider this story from KQED that explains, “Why Aren’t Any Billboards on 280?” <https://www.kqed.org/news/11805469/why-arent-any-billboards-on-280>
5. Page 5 of the Staff Report states, “This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Sections 15301: Existing Facilities.” However, this project has not even completed construction according to the building permit history. Out of 8 permits pulled, only two are finalized – for demolition and temporary power. Even more confusing, a permit was already issued for illuminated signs (it appears to have expired). All of this makes the project really look like it is piecemealing or segmenting of CEQA; this does not look good and it might not even be allowable. Consequently, this project is likely not exempt from CEQA. Please read on to find the permit history.
6. According to the staff report, “The City’s Building Division, Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division, and the Santa Clara County Fire Department have reviewed the project and have no objections.” How about the California Department of Transportation / Caltrans?
7. If you absolutely must approve signs facing 280, please do not allow them to be illuminated.
8. Does the City of Cupertino want to be known for defiling one of California’s eligible State Scenic Highways?

Please find below a permit history (extracted from the database on 10/09/2022):

Date: 11/18/2019

Permit #: BLD-2019-1380

Status: Issued

Description: PUBLIC STORAGE - BUILDING B - NEW 4 STORY BUILDING WITH BASEMENT (137,140 SF)REV #1- REVISED SHORING PLAN TO SHOW ONE EXCAVATION FOR BUILDINGS B IN LIEU OF SEPARATE EXCAVATIONS PER BUILDING; REVISED ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSULTANT PLANS (SEE NARRATIVE IN DOCUMENTS PORTLET/PDOX FOR COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES) - APPROVED 2/24/2021REV #2 - REVISE A FEW UTILITY ITEMS PER CALWATER AND CLEAN UP ROOF DRAINS DISCREPANCIES - CIVIL AND PLUMB BULLETIN 2; REVISE DOORS IN FARE WALL TO BE ADA COMPLIANT, REVISE DOOR HARDWARE - ACRH - ELEC BULLETIN 4; REVISE DIMENSIONS AND NOTING TO CLEAN UP DISCREPANCIES - STRUCT BULLETIN 4; ADD EXHAUST FAN FRO FIRE PUMP ROOM - MECH BULLETIN 4 - APPROVED 7/21/2021REV # 3 - REVISED DISCREPANCIES ON ROOF DRAINS (CIVIL & PLUMBING - BULLETIN 7); REVISED METAL PANEL AND SOME PAINT CALL OUT THE ELEVATION AND SECTIONS - BULLETIN 7. UPDATED THE SOLAR PANEL SPECIFICATIONSREV #4 - ADD TWO HOUR RATED SHAFT AROUND FIRE SPRINKLE PIPING BEHIND ELEVATORS - APPROVED 7/1/2022REV#5 - SEE NARRATIVE - DEF#1 - ELEVATOR PACKAGE - APPROVED 5/26/21DEF#2 - REVISED ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM-APPROVED 4/21/2021DEF#3 - EXTERIOR METAL CANOPY - APPROVED 11/9/21DEF#4 - UNIT STORAGE LOCKERS - APPROVED 07/28/2021-DEF#5 - EXTERIOR PANELS - APPROVED 04/05/2022DEF#4 REV#1 - LOCKER DOORS ADJUSTED (9)-

Date: 11/18/2019
Permit #: BLD-2019-1381

Status: Issued

PUBLIC STORAGE - SITE IMPROVEMENTS REV # 1 - REVISED A FEW UTILITY ITEMS PER CAL WATER AND CLEANED UP A FEW DISCREPANCIES ON ROOF DRAINS (CIVIL AND PLUMBING - BULLETIN 2 & 5); REVISED WATER SERVICE FOR LANDSCAPE - BULLETIN 5; SHIFTED DRAINS - BULLETIN 7

Date: 11/18/2019
Permit #: BLD-2019-1385

Status: Issued

PUBLIC STORAGE - BUILDING A - NEW 4-STORY BUILDING WITH BASEMENT (134,358 SF) REV #1 - REVISED SHORING PLAN TO SHOW ONE EXCAVATION FOR BUILDING A IN LIEU OF SEPARATE EXCAVATIONS PER BUILDING; REVISED ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSULTANT PLANS (SEE NARRATIVE IN DOCUMENTS PORTLET/PDOX FOR DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES.) - APPROVED 02/24/2021 REV #2 - REVISE A FEW UTILITY ITEMS PER CAL WATER AND CLEAN UP ROOF DRAINS DISCREPANCIES - CIVIL AND PLUM - BULLETIN 2; REVISE DOORS IN FARE WALL TO BE ADA COMPLIANT, REVISE DOOR HARDWARE - ACRH -ELEC BULLETIN 4; REVISE DIMENSIONS AND NOTING TO CLEAN UP DISCREPANCIES - STRUCT BULLETIN 4; ADD EXHAUST FAN FOR FIRE PUMP ROOM - MECH BULLETIN 4 - APPROVED 09/27/2021 REV # 3 - REVISED DISCREPANCIES ON ROOF DRAINS (CIVIL & PLUMBING - BULLETIN 7); REVISED METAL PANEL AND SOME PAINT CALL OUT THE ELEVATION AND SECTIONS REV # 4 - REVISED OFFICE PLAN AND ADDED A UNISEX RESTROOM BESIDE OFFICE - (BULLETIN 8) REV#5 - SEE NARRATIVE-DEF#1 - ELEVATOR PACKAGE-APPROVED 5/25/2021 DEF#2 - REVISED ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM-APPROVED 4/21/2021 DEF # 3 - EXTERIOR METAL CANOPY - APPROVED 09/28/2021 DEF#4 - UNIT STORAGE LOCKERS - APPROVED 07/28/21 DEF# 4 - REV # 1 - REVISE LOCKERS FOR BUILDING (A) - APPROVED 07/13/2022 DEF#5 - EXTERIOR PANELS - APPROVED 07/13/2022

Date: 12/4/2019
Permit #: BLD-2019-1495

Status: Finaled

DEMO (9) ONE STORY STORAGE BUILDINGS AND SITE WORK (54,186 SF).

Date: 11/20/2020
Permit #: BLD-2020-1945

Status: Issued

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION TRAILER (480 SF).

Date: 1/5/2021
Permit #: BLD-2021-0020

Status: Issued

PUBLIC STORAGE (N) 306-PANEL ROOF MOUNTED PV SYSTEM (100 kW); (N) SOLAR PANELBOARD (200 AMP); (N) FUSED AC DISCONNECT. REV#1 - UPDATED THE SOLAR PANEL SPECIFICATIONS-APPROVED 8/3/2021

Date: 1/28/2021
Permit #: BLD-2021-0191

Status: Finaled

PUBLIC STORAGE - TEMP POWER FOR CONSTRUCTION SITE (2) 100 AMP SUB-PANELS; AND (1) 100 AMP SUB-PANEL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION TRAILER.

Date: 7/6/2021
Permit #: BLD-2021-1294

Status: Issued

PUBLIC STORAGE - INSTALL (7) (N) SIGNS (648 SF) TOTAL : - (3) ILLUMINATED CHANNEL LETTER WALL SIGNS: SIGN #1 (82 SF), SIGN #3 (265 SF) , SIGN #6 (265 SF) - (3) DIRECTIONAL SIGNS NON ILLUMINATED: SIGN #2 (3 SF), SIGN #4 (2 SF), SIGN #5 (2 SF)- (1) GROUND LED ILLUMINATED MONUMENT SIGN: SIGN # 7 (30 SF)

Thank You for your consideration.

Warm Regards,
Rhoda Fry

CC: Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Greenfoothills, City Council