

**MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

**SARATOGA SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SAFETY ELEMENT UPDATE STUDY SESSION
SARATOGA CITY HALL – ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Hunter called the Special Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. in the City Hall Administrative Conference at 13777 Fruitvale Avenue.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Council Members Chuck Page, Manny Cappello, Howard Miller,
Vice Mayor Emily Lo, Mayor Jill Hunter

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dave Anderson, City Manager
Crystal Bothelio, City Clerk
John Cherbone, Public Works Director
James Lindsay, Community Development Director
Cynthia McCormick, Planner
Aaron Pfannenstiel, RBF Consulting Project Manager
Jim Yoke, Santa Clara County Fire Department Emergency
Services Coordinator

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Crystal Bothelio reported that pursuant to Gov't. Code 54954.2, the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on January 31, 2013.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMISSIONS & PUBLIC

Oral Communications on Non-Agendized Items

None

Council Direction to Staff

None

1. City of Saratoga General Plan Safety Element Update

Recommended Action:

Review, consider, ask questions, and discuss the proposed update to the Safety Element of the City of Saratoga General Plan.

City Clerk Crystal Bothelio introduced Aaron Pfannenstiel, Project Manager with RBF Consulting.

Aaron Pfannenstiel provided a presentation on the proposed update to the Safety Element of the City's General Plan, including an overview of the update process and proposed changes.

Council Member Miller asked that the area of potential inundation near Highway 85 on Exhibit 5 – Dam Failure Inundation Areas be confirmed. The exhibit shows potential inundation in the northeast portion of the map ending at Highway 85, even though Saratoga Creek continues past Highway 85.

Council Member Miller asked that Exhibit 8 – Evacuation Routes be updated to include Mount Eden Road be included as an evacuation route.

Council Member Cappello also requested that Mount Eden Road be added as an evacuation route.

Council Member Miller observed that there are a high number of trees within the City, creating a greater amount of fuel load. He asked that fuel load, in terms of number of trees, be addressed in the policy statements of the Safety Element. The language on fuel load should address both mitigation and response components.

City Manager Dave Anderson proposed including language on partnership with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council to reduce fire load in the City's Wildland-Urban Interface and prepare Community Wildfire Protection Plan for hillside areas that are most vulnerable to wildfires.

Council Member Miller moved to remove Policy SAF-4.3. There was no second to the motion. Council Member Miller withdrew his motion.

PAGE/MILLER MOVED TO **DISCUSS REMOVAL OF POLICY SAF-4.3 WITH THE SARATOGA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS AND REMOVE THIS SECTION IF THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS ARE AMENABLE TO IT.** MOTION PASSED. AYES: PAGE, CAPPELLO, MILLER, LO, HUNTER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE.

COUNCIL DIRECTION:

The City Council directed staff to make the following changes to the draft Safety Element:

- Remove directional arrows Exhibit 8 – Evacuation Routes
- Remove removal of primary and secondary route distinctions on Exhibit 8 – Evacuation Routes
- Add Mount Eden Road and Norton Road as evacuation routes on Exhibit 8 – Evacuation Routes

Add language to the policy section of the Safety Element that indicates that the City will work with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council to reduce of fuel load in the City's Wildland-Urban Interface and Community Wildfire Protection Plan to address concerns regarding fire mitigation and response.

ADJOURNMENT

Page/Lo moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Motion passed. AYES: PAGE, CAPPELLO, MILLER, LO, HUNTER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Crystal Bothelio, City Clerk