



## AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** May 21, 2019

**Subject:** Community Wildfire Protection Plan Report, Revised Annex 4 and Addendum

**Prepared by:** J. Logan, General Manager

**Attachment(s):**

1. 2016 Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
2. Revised Annex 4
3. Addendum

**Initiated by:**

Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) subcommittee and the LAHCFD Board of Commissioners (Board)

**Previous Commission Consideration:**

- April 16, 2019; CWPP subcommittee Report
- March 19, 2019; Fire Chief Report; Appointment of CWPP subcommittee
- November 13, 2019, Introduction of CWPP in General Manager Report

**Fiscal Impact:** None at this time

**Policy Question(s) for Fire Commission Consideration:**

- Will the Board of the LAHCFD accept the 2016 CWPP Report, Revised Annex 4 and Addendum, and
- Provide direction for future adoption of revised Annex 4 and Addendum as the LAHCFD CWPP?

**Summary:**

- Santa Clara County Fire Department commenced a study resulting in the 2016 CWPP Report
- The 2016 CWPP Report contains Annex Reports for each local jurisdiction
- Local jurisdictions are being encouraged to adopt its Annex with any needed revisions as its jurisdiction's CWPP
- LAHCFD CWPP subcommittee has meet, studied and discussed the CWPP, revised Annex 4 to reflect its local jurisdiction and, in addition, added an Addendum to Annex 4
- CWPP subcommittee recommends the Board accept the reports and provide direction
- If so directed, adoption of the LAHCFD CWPP will return to the Board at a future meeting

**Staff Recommendation:**

Accept 2016 Santa Clara County Fire Department CWPP Report, revised Annex 4 and Addendum and provide direction for future adoption of revised Annex 4 and Addendum as the LAHCFD CWPP

**Purpose:**

Provide 2016 CWPP Report, revised Annex 4 and Addendum for Board and public review prior to consideration of adoption.

**Background**

In 2003 the U.S. Congress recognized the widespread decline in forest health and the increased incidence of wildfire risk nationwide by passing the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). In 2009, HFRA was revised with a renewed focus on wildfire mitigation. HFRA expedites the development and implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects on federal land and emphasizes the need for federal agencies to work collaboratively with local communities. A key component of the HFRA is the recommended development of CWPPs, to facilitate the collaboration between federal agencies and local communities, to develop hazardous fuels reduction projects and place priority on treatment areas identified by communities in a CWPP. In addition, communities with an established CWPP are given priority for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out in accordance with the HFRA.

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments, and
- Recommends the types and methods of treatment on that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure, and
- Recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.
- Address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection, or all of the above.

Santa Clara County Fire Department contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants to conduct a study, meet with stakeholders and hold public forums that resulted in the 2016 Santa Clara County CWPP, Attachment 1. The 2016 CWPP is a countywide strategic plan with goals for creating a safer wildland urban interface community and is accompanied by report annexes that address specific issues and projects by jurisdiction and stakeholder organizations to meet the strategic goals.

These annexes provide more specific wildfire mitigation projects that were developed through collaboration with the Core Team and the public. These annexes form the legs of the strategic document and provide projects that could be implemented at the community level, but that are tiered to the countywide strategic goals. The annexes can be updated separately from the main document providing greater utility for agencies to make changes to their project lists. Annex 4 presents a CWPP for LAHCFD and is intended for adoption with revisions as determined by the Board, Attachment 2.

The CWPP adoption is important to the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs' Association and Santa Clara County agencies. This year the Fire Chiefs are planning to review each community's annex in a public forum and make modifications that the citizens and officials desires.

**Discussion/Analysis**

The CWPP subcommittee met to discuss LAHCFD programs that address basic principles of the 2016 Santa Clara County CWPP and to discuss next steps for adoption Annex 4 by the Board as the LAHCFD's CWPP. The subcommittee's second meeting was with Fire Capt. Denise Gluhan, Ret. who provided an overview of the 2016 CWPP, Annex 4 and discussion of factors that contribute to wildfire and prevention and self-reliance measures for residents. Subsequent to the subcommittee

meeting, Capt. Gluhan developed a summary of the discussion that developed into an Addendum to Annex 4. The Addendum, Attachment 3, is written for residents and the community to educate them on wildfire risks, mitigation and encourage specific pre-planning actions for resiliency of property in wildfire and for self-reliance in event of disaster for residents and the community.

Annex 4 and Addendum are designed to be dynamic documents that will be revisited and revised as fire science and wildfire experiences dictate new approaches and best practices. LAHCFD, in partnership with the Santa Clara Fire Department, will assess its practices and programs and makes changes in its policies to ensure continuous improvement for wildfire preparedness and protection. LAHCFD programs will be supported by the LAHCFD budget and in collaboration and partnership with other stakeholders and agencies.

## **Options**

1. Accept 2016 Santa Clara County Fire Department CWPP Report, revised Annex 4 and Addendum; provide direction for future adoption of revised Annex 4 and Addendum as the LAHCFD CWPP

**Advantages:** Ensures a well-developed community plan that addresses threats from wildfires and actions for preparation; promotes education, communication and public outreach to residents to promote more resilient communities and resident's self-reliance. LAHCFD programs would follow recommended fuel reduction and vegetation mitigation principles based on the 2016 CWPP Report.

**Disadvantages:** None identified

2. Delay acceptance of or decide to not accept the CWPP Report, Annex 4, Addendum and take no further action

**Advantages:** None identified

**Disadvantages:** Delay to accept or no action to adopt CWPP Report, Annex 4, and Addendum would preclude LAHCFD from utilizing the tools, program development and resources available by adoption of these program. As a result, wildfire protection policies, programs and opportunity for regional and local partnership with stakeholders and the community would be adversely affected.

## **Recommendation:**

Accept 2016 Santa Clara County Fire Department CWPP Report, revised Annex 4 and Addendum and provide direction for future adoption of revised Annex 4 and Addendum as the LAHCFD CWPP