



MILPITAS

General Plan Update

MEMORANDUM

May 23, 2017

TO: Milpitas General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)

FROM: Ben Ritchie, De Novo Planning Group

SUBJECT: General Plan Safety and Noise Policy Discussion

DATE: May 23, 2017

The May 23rd GPAC meeting will focus on the topics of noise and safety. This meeting packet includes specific reading materials related to noise and safety, and raises key issues to consider in preparation for the second GPAC meeting.

The Noise and Safety Elements are required elements of the General Plan. The purpose of the Noise Element is to limit the exposure of communities to excessive noise levels. The Noise Element must address noise from roadways, airports, and major stationary sources. It must also identify maximum allowable noise exposure levels to noise-sensitive land uses such as hospitals, schools, churches, residences, and sensitive habitat areas.

The Safety Element must address fire hazards, seismic/geologic hazards, flood hazards, landslides, hazardous materials, and emergency management coordination. The Safety Element will also address Police protection and fire protection.

REQUIRED READINGS

Prior to the meeting on May 23rd, please read the following items:

- Existing Conditions Report
 - Chapter 4.0 Hazards, Safety, and Noise
 - Chapter 3.0 Utilities and Community Services Subsection 3.2 Public Safety
 - Chapter 5.0 Conservation Subsection 5.5 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity(Chapters, and Chapter Subsections are included as attachments to this document)
- Current City of Milpitas General Plan Seismic and Safety Element (Chapter 5)
- Current City of Milpitas General Plan Noise Element (Chapter 6).

WORK EXERCISE

After reading the materials identified above, please consider the following questions and be prepared to discuss:

Safety:

1. In developing a goal and policy framework to address safety, what top three issues or actions should the City prioritize?
2. In reviewing the existing General Plan goals, policies, and strategies related to safety:
 - a. Which existing General Plan goals, policies, and strategies best address the concerns you identified?
 - b. Which priorities are not addressed in the existing General Plan?
3. What additional input do you have that the GPAC should consider and discuss?

Noise:

1. In developing a goal and policy framework to address noise, what top three issues or actions should the City prioritize?
2. In reviewing the existing General Plan goals, policies, and strategies related to noise:
 - a. Which existing General Plan goals, policies, and strategies best address the concerns you identified?
 - b. Which priorities are not addressed in the existing General Plan?
3. What types of measures should the City implement to reduce noise exposure to sensitive receptors?
4. What additional input do you have that the GPAC should consider and discuss?

POTENTIAL GPAC DISCUSSION TOPICS

Safety:

- How can the City prepare for climate-related hazards (increased flooding, sea level rise, extreme heat events etc.)?
- Are there opportunities to improve emergency services within the community?
- What opportunities are there within the city to increase community safety, and what measures should be taken (i.e. increased lighting, design considerations etc.)?
- Should the General Plan address emerging technology and potential safety risks?
- Should the General Plan take additional steps to reduce hazardous and toxic substances use within the community?

Noise:

- What are the major sources of community noise in Milpitas, and what types of policies might address these sources?
- Are some types of community noise nuisances acceptable (i.e. festivals, concerts, community events etc.)?
- Should the City consider natural noise abatement measures (i.e. Vegetation and Natural Treatments) rather than traditional sound walls where applicable?
- Should Milpitas pursue “quiet zones” to reduce railroad noise?