



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/16/2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

5:00 p.m. Special Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Mueller, Nash, Taylor

Absent: Wolosin

Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, City Attorney Nira Doherty, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Consent Calendar

- C1. Adopt Resolution No. 6685, adopting amendments to Resolution No. 6682 to continue conducting the City's Council and advisory body meetings remotely due to health and safety concerns for the public and to authorize the use of hybrid meetings (Staff Report #21-222-CC)

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Combs), to approve the consent calendar, passed 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

D. Public Hearing

- D1. Consider the Planning Commission's Recommendation and approve a general plan amendment and rezoning for a City stormwater pump station project at 1395 Chrysler Drive and 105-155 Constitution Drive (Staff Report #21-229-CC)

Acting Principal Planner Tom Smith made the presentation (Attachment).

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing.

Mayor Combs closed the public hearing.

The City Council received clarification on the new parcel and public right of way access.

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Combs), to approve the following entitlements related to a new City stormwater pump station to replace an existing pump station located at 1395 Chrysler Drive (formerly addressed 1221 Chrysler Drive):

1. General plan amendment to change the land use designation of an approximately 3,600 square-foot portion of an existing approximately 8.9-acre parcel at 105-155 Constitution Drive from Commercial Business Park to Public/Quasi-Public and to change the land use designation of an approximately 3,600 square-foot portion of an existing approximately 5,000 square-foot parcel at 1395 Chrysler Drive from Public/Quasi-Public to Commercial Business Park; and
2. Rezoning to change the zoning of a portion of the parcel with a resulting Public/Quasi-Public land use designation from M-3-X (Commercial Business Park, Conditional Development District) to the P-F

(Public Facilities) district and to change the zoning of a portion of the parcel with a resulting Commercial Business Park land use designation from P-F to M-3-X zoning, passed 4-0 (Wolosin absent)

Closed Session

E. Closed Session

- E1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (One case)

F. Adjournment

Mayor Combs adjourned to the regular session at 6:17 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Regular Session

G. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

H. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Mueller, Nash, Taylor
Absent: Wolosin
Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, City Attorney Nira Doherty, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

I. Agenda Review

None.

J. Report from Closed Session

City Attorney Nira Doherty report out from the November 9, 2021 closed session on an approved settlement with Save Our Menlo Park Neighborhood Case # 20-CIV-01717.

K. Study Session

- K1. Provide direction on development of an ordinance to regulate wireless facilities on private property and in the public right-of-way (Staff Report #21-221-CC) (Presentation)

Public Works Director Nikki Nagaya and Assistant City Attorney Denise Bazzano made the presentation (Attachment).

- AT&T representative Richard Hackman spoke in support of wireless facilities on private property and in the public right-of-way.
- Crown Castle representative Michael Cintron spoke in support development of an ordinance to regulate wireless facilities.

The City Council received clarification on ability to regulate locations so that wireless facilities are not immediately adjacent to homes, City authority of wireless facilities placement, City preferences

versus regulation, and next steps of ordinance drafting and review.

The City Council discussed commercial area options for wireless facilities, equitable placement, including best practices from neighboring cities, and balancing being aggressive and consideration of staff resources.

The City Council directed staff to begin developing an ordinance to regulate wireless facilities on private property and in the public right-of-way.

L. Public Comment

None.

M. Consent Calendar

~~M1. Adopt Resolution No. 6687 to approve the through and left turn restrictions from southbound Garwood Way and northbound Merrill Street at Oak Grove Avenue (Staff Report #21-224-CC)~~

M2. Waive second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 1079, enacting Chapter 7.04 [Solid Waste, Recyclables and Organic Waste Disposal] of Title 7 [Health and Sanitation] (Staff Report #21-230-CC)

ACTION: Motion and second (Taylor/ Combs), to approve consent calendar, passed 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

N. Regular Business

N1. Receive annual report from Environmental Quality Commission, approve the commission's annual year work plan, and provide direction on the commission's recommendation regarding banning gas powered leaf blowers (Staff Report #21-225-CC)

Web form public comment on item N1.

Sustainability manager Rebecca Lucky made the presentation (Attachment).

- Amy Roleder spoke in support of the ban of gas powered leaf blowers (GLBs).
- David Axelrod spoke in support of the ban of GLBs and provided information on air and noise pollutions cause by GLBs.
- Jeffrey Hook spoke in support of the ban of GLBs.
- Elliot Krane spoke in support of the ban of GLBs and provided information on the effects to health from GLBs.
- Carlos Myers-Ascencio spoke in support of the ban of GLBs.
- Kathleen Daly spoke in support of the ban of GLBs.
- Shaun Maguire spoke in support of the ban of GLBs and considerations to other gas powered gardening equipment.
- Lisa Williams spoke in support of the ban of GLBs and provided examples of the climate impact of GLBs.

The City Council bifurcated the item for discussion.

Work plan:

The City Council received clarification on urban canopy related to the heritage tree ordinance and creating a baseline of tree canopy across the City.

Gas powered leaf blower ban:

The City Council received clarification on the recent State legislation related to the future ban of GLBs, engagement with the Gardeners Association, and GLB buyback program options.

The City Council discussed reaching out to the stakeholders impacted, implementing the ban immediately and delaying enforcement for one year, enforcement and implementation approach, possible next steps and timeline.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Mueller), to

1. Receive the annual report from the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC),
2. Approve the Commission's annual work plan, and
3. Direct staff to engage with landscaping stakeholders, and return to city council as a study session with how enforcement, implementation, and staff resources regarding an ordinance banning gas powered leaf blowers in early 2022, passed 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

- N2. Introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 1080 amending Ordinance No. 1074, modifying the City Council's regular meeting schedule (Staff Report #21-226-CC)

City Clerk Judi Herren introduced the item.

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Combs), to waive the first reading and introduce Ordinance No. 1080 amending Ordinance No. 1074, modifying the City Council's regular meeting schedule, passed 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

- N3. Adopt Resolution No. 6686 approving the 2021 San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Staff Report #21-223-CC) (Presentation)

Public Works Director Nikki Nagaya, Assistant Public Works Director Brian Henry, and Management Analyst Joanna Chen made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council received clarification on the safety element and environmental justice element incorporation and options related to communication and infrastructure funding, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for hazard mitigation.

The City Council discussed the importance of CalEnviroScreen incorporation and printing the approved plan for public viewing at City libraries.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Nash), to adopt Resolution No. 6686 approving the 2021 San Mateo County Multijurisdictional local hazard mitigation plan:

- Volume 1: Planning area wide elements; and
- Volume 2: City of Menlo Park annex plan; and

direct staff to provide annual reporting to the City Council and increased public engagement and outreach, passed 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

- N4. Consideration of a City Council meeting date to discuss the composition of the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee and future charge (Staff Report #21-227-CC)

City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson introduced the item.

- Dan McMahon spoke in support of the City Council discussing the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee (CEOC).

The City Council discussed the current purview of the CEOC limited to outreach and engagement, establishing best practices, District 1 representation, meeting on a Saturday to increase community participation to discuss CEOC and the housing element, the housing element notice of preparation (NOP), and bringing in additional resources (e.g., community organizations) to assist with building best practices for the CEOC.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Nash), to direct staff to prioritize scheduling a housing element, if possible combined with CEOC discussion, or, add CEOC to a future agenda as soon as possible, passed 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

O. Informational Items

- O1. City Council agenda topics: December 7 – 14, 2021 (Staff Report #21-231-CC)
- O2. Response to Questions from City Councilmembers on housing element update (Staff Report #21-228-CC)

P. City Manager's Report

City Manager Jerome-Robinson announced the cancellation of the Rail Subcommittee.

Q. City Councilmember Reports

Mayor Combs reported out on State of the City on November 30, 2021, upcoming tree lightening ceremony, housing element subcommittee meeting, and requested Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) update added to a future City Council meeting.

City Councilmember Mueller reported out on the convention center COVID-19 booster shot availability and booster shots provided to District 1.

City Councilmember Taylor reported out on the Ruby Bridges walk to school day on November 17, 2021 and on locations to receive the COVID-19 booster.

R. Adjournment

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of January 11, 2022.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

Consistent with Government Code section 54953(e), and in light of the declared state of emergency, the meeting will not be physically open to the public and all members will be teleconferencing into the meeting via a virtual platform. To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can listen to the meeting and participate using the following methods.

- How to participate in the meeting
 - Submit a written comment online up to 1-hour before the meeting start time:
jaherren@menlopark.org *
Please include the agenda item number you are commenting on.
 - Access the meeting real-time online at:
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – Meeting ID 998 8073 4930
 - Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:
(669) 900-6833
Meeting ID 998 8073 4930
Press *9 to raise hand to speak

*Written public comments are accepted up to 1-hour before the meeting start time. Written messages are provided to the City Council at the appropriate time in their meeting.

- Watch meeting:
 - Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Palo Alto:
Channel 26
 - Online:
menlopark.org/streaming

Note: City Council closed sessions are not broadcast online or on television and public participation is limited to the beginning of closed session.

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website www.menlopark.org. The instructions for logging on to the webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information (menlopark.org/agenda).

According to City Council policy, all meetings of the City Council are to end by midnight unless there is a super majority vote taken by 11:00 p.m. to extend the meeting and identify the items to be considered after 11:00 p.m.

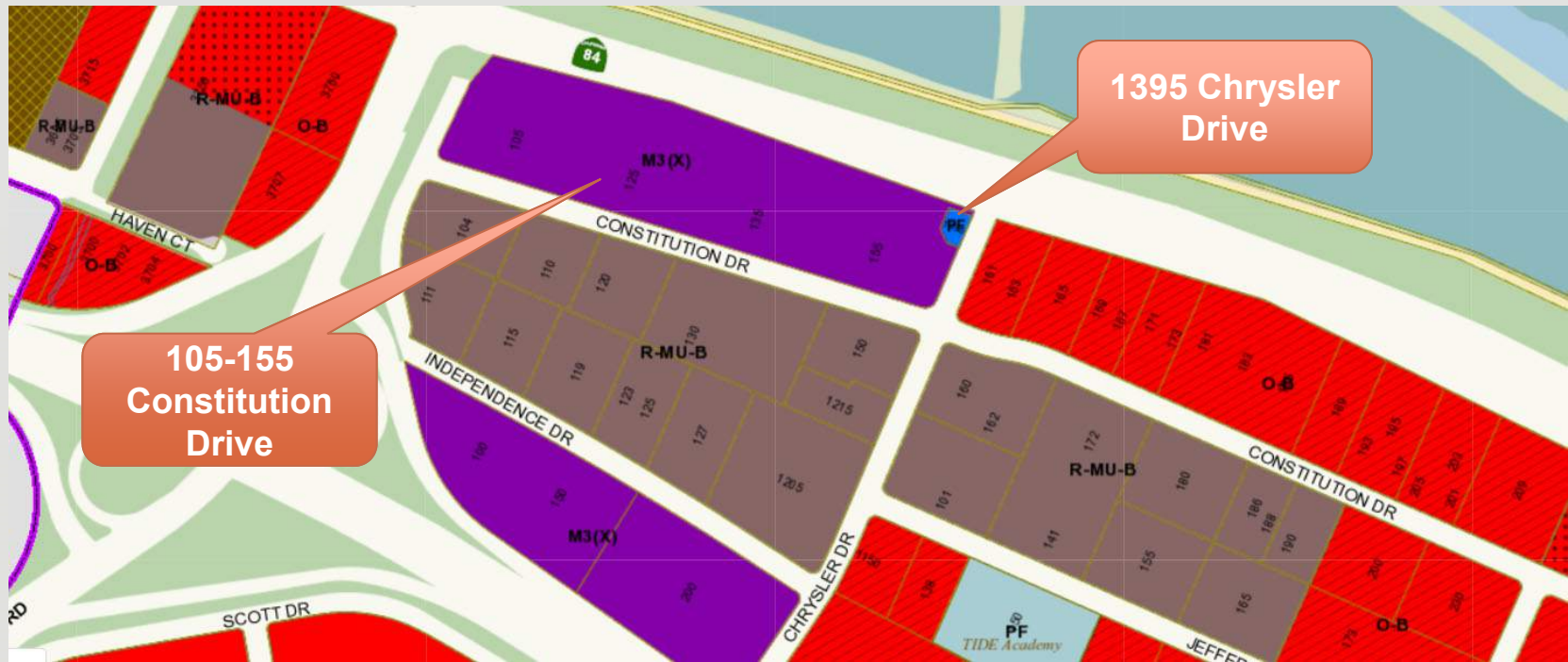


1395 CHRYSLER DRIVE & 105-155 CONSTITUTION DRIVE
General Plan Amendment and Rezoning
November 16, 2021 Staff Presentation to City Council





PROJECT LOCATION

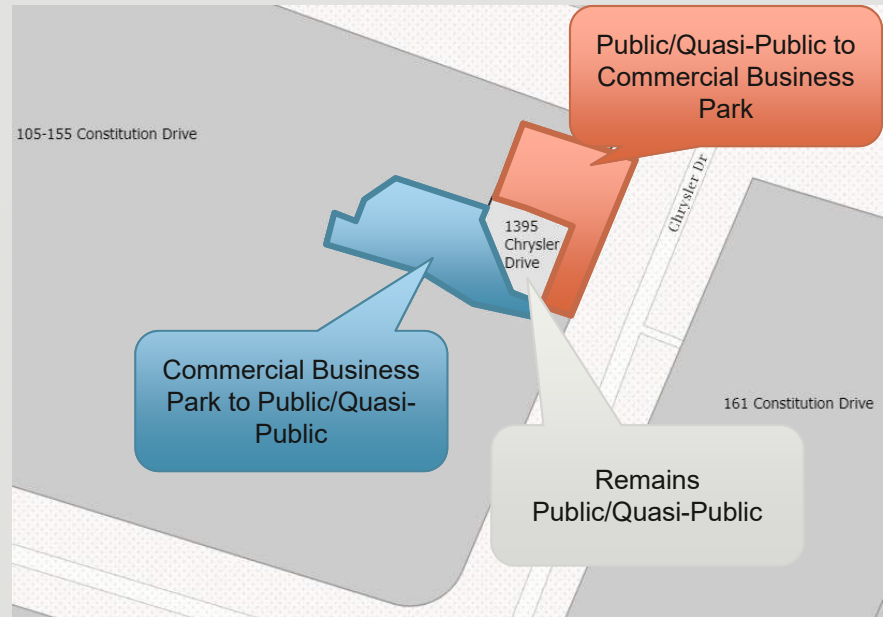




GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT REQUEST



- General plan amendment request
 - Change land use designation of approximately 3,600 square feet of parcel at 105-155 Constitution Drive from Commercial Business Park to Public/Quasi-Public and change land use designation of an approximately 3,600 square-foot portion parcel at 1395 Chrysler Drive from Public/Quasi-Public to Commercial Business Park
- Planning Commission recommended approval on November 1, 2021

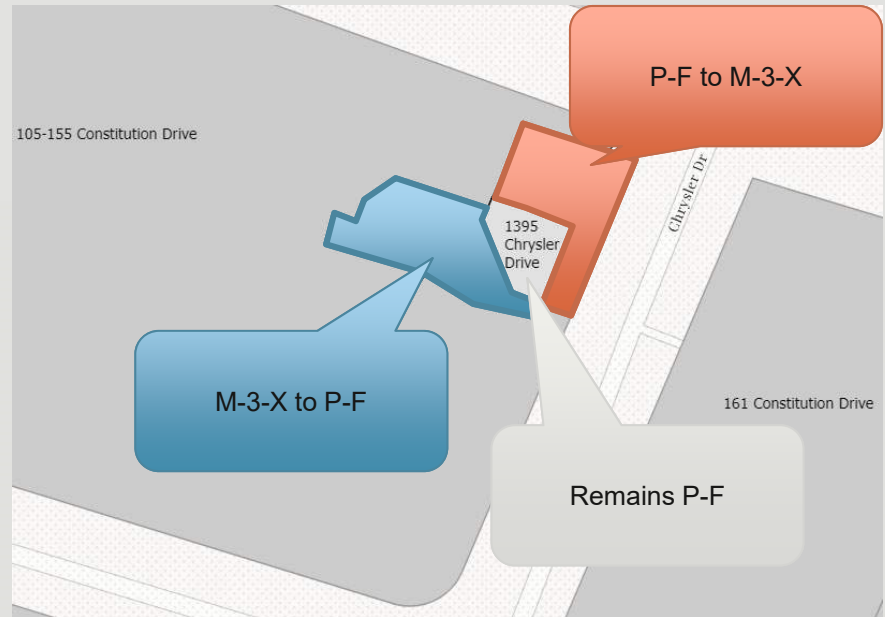




REZONING REQUEST

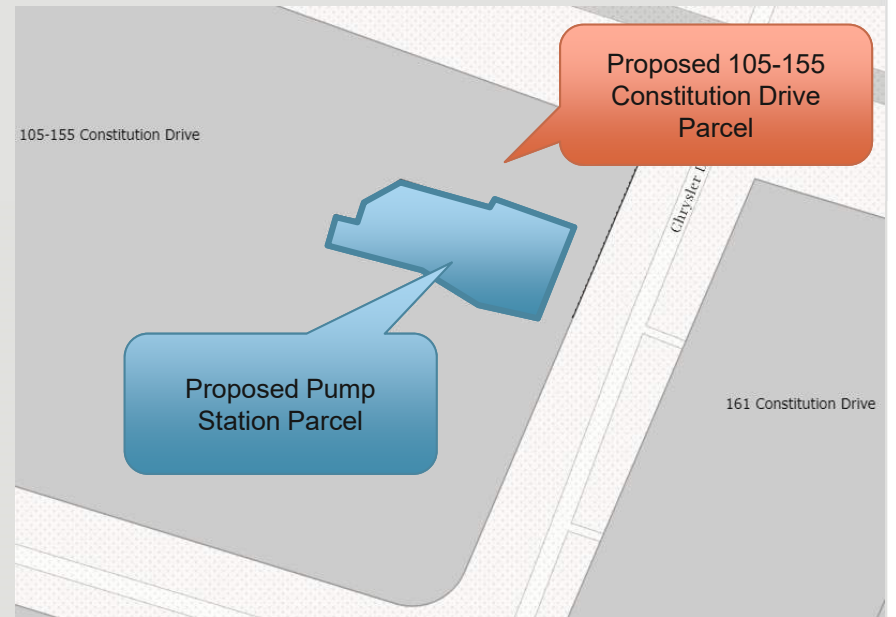
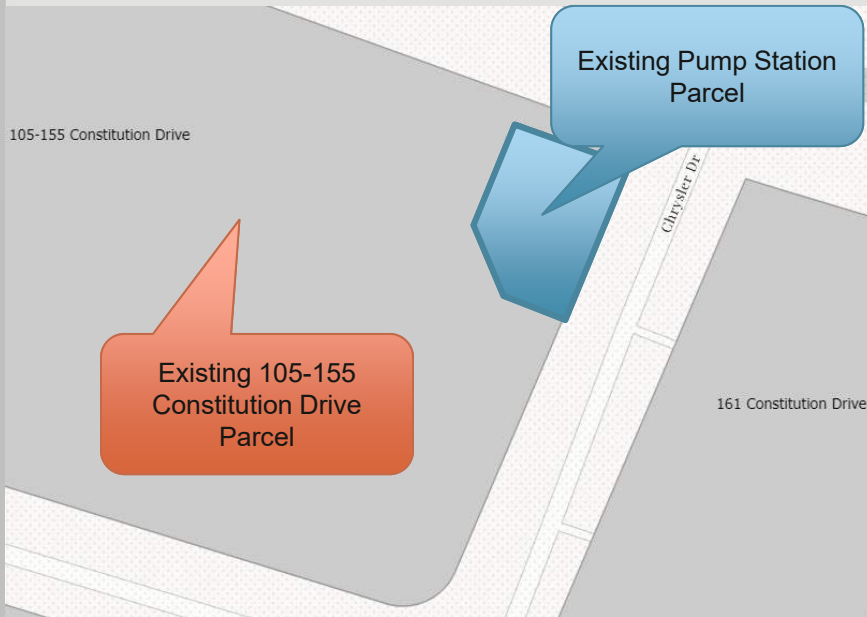


- Rezoning request
 - Change zoning of the portion of the parcel with a resulting Public/Quasi-Public land use designation from M-3-X to the P-F district and change zoning of the portion of the parcel with a resulting Commercial Business Park land use designation from P-F to M-3-X
- Planning Commission recommended approval on November 1, 2021





EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARCELS





EXISTING AND PROPOSED PUMP STATION BUILDINGS

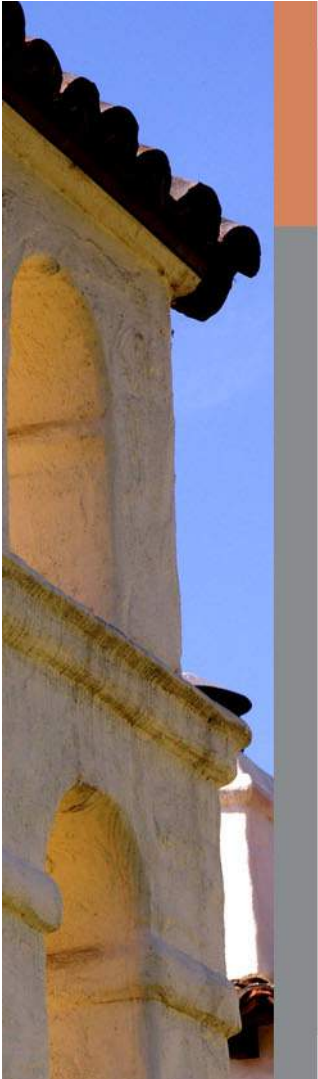


EXISTING



PROPOSED





RECOMMENDATION

- Recommended actions
 - Adopt resolution to:
 - Approve the general plan land use amendment
 - Adopt ordinance to:
 - Approve the rezoning
 - Would allow for a new pump station with the following features:
 - Capable of handling 100-year storm event
 - Set back farther from Chrysler Drive for improved safety and access
 - Better aesthetics at major entrance to Bayfront area



THANK YOU



Wireless Communication Facilities

Study Session – November 16, 2021



Recommendation

- Direct staff to develop an ordinance regulating wireless communication facilities





Purpose and Need

- City Municipal Code sections
 - 16.76: private property
 - 13.18: public right-of-way and City-owned property
- Regulations do not currently include development or aesthetic regulations or application procedures



Wireless Regulations

- Federal regulations preempt the City's control on a number of topics
- Radio frequency (RF) emissions
- Effective prohibition
- Time limits for processing applications, or “shot clocks”
- Consistent treatment of all carriers



Options for Consideration

- Template Master License Agreement with carriers
- Adopt an ordinance with objective criteria
 - Application procedure
 - Permitting process
 - Aesthetic and design criteria
- Resource needs:
 - Budget for consultant support of \$25,000



Recommendation

- Direct staff to develop an ordinance regulating wireless communication facilities





THANK YOU

Agenda item N1
Jill Morgan

Hi,

I am writing to express my support for a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers in Menlo Park.

Thanks,

Jill Morgan

Agenda item N1 Francesca Segre

I support the Environmental Quality Commission's unanimous recommendation that the Council direct staff to prepare a report on a gas leaf blower ban.

It's well past time to ban gas leaf blowers for our air, our ears, our lungs, our future.

Thank you,

Francesca Segre

Agenda item N1 Shaun Maguire

Here is my comment on the Gas Leaf Blower item for advice to the Council.

I strongly support the banning of all gasoline powered leaf blowing activity in the City of Menlo Park.

I have read the report from the EQC sub-committee and I am appalled by the reporting that a half-hour use of a two stroke engine leaf blower creates as much pollution as driving an F150 truck 3,900 miles.

In a time when as a community we are striving to change building codes and buying electric vehicles for the city this seems to me to be "low-hanging fruit" to achieve a reduction in pollution and greenhouse gases while at the same time creating health benefits for the users of the GLBs and the public at large.

I own a powerful electric blower which works very well, and I understand there are commercial versions with larger battery capacities that provide an alternative to the GLBs.

I would go further than just GLBs. I would ban all garden maintenance machinery that have similar emissions characteristics as the GLBs.

I think there should be a six month adoption period and there should also be some type of help given to those making the switch. There will need to be enforcement of the new requirement.

Right now there are cases in my neighborhood where GLBs are blithely used on Saturdays by commercial gardeners.

Sincerely,

--

Shaun Maguire

Agenda item N1 Karen Rohlf

I'm a Menlo Park homeowner and support the ban on gas powered leaf blowers. They pose a significant threat to our environment as well as a health hazard for the people operating them as well as to the neighbors who are exposed to their noise and fumes.

With the improvement in the quality of electric leaf blowers/batteries (performance as well as cost), it seems that there are very few instances in which the increased power of gas leaf blowers is actually needed.

My concern is about the enforcement of this regulation. Palo Alto has a ban on gas powered leaf blowers and yet the problem persists. I do not know if Los Altos has been any more successful in enforcing their ban.

I do not believe the financial burden should fall on the shoulders of individual gardeners nor do I think it is an effective use of police resources to enforce an ordinance like this (by the time the police get to the scene of any violation, the gardener is long gone). However, given the divisiveness and anger that already exists in the world today, we do not need individuals deputizing themselves and confronting gardeners who are using the gas blowers.

Before we put any more regulations on the books, we have to have an effective implementation plan for the enforcement of that regulation. I believe that putting regulations on the books that are not consistently enforced is a recipe for disaster. Whatever implementation plan is devised, there needs to be an education campaign for homeowners, landscape companies and individual gardeners as well as monetary penalties to those hiring people who use gas blowers.

Sincerely,

.

Karen Rohlf

Agenda item N1
Clint Gilliland

Please vote to accept the EQC recommendation.

I am annoyed mostly by the noise from gasoline powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers. The fumes are not pleasant but are bad for the environment.

The noise level is quite high even indoors. The duration of the use in one yard may be up to an hour. Then an adjacent yard for another hour.

High Decibel Noise

Even electric blowers emit an annoying noise but at a lower level. The problem with electric blowers is the job duration which makes them annoying, too. The rules should not only have noise level limits but some form of noise level/duration limits.

Thank you,

Clint Gilliland

Agenda item N1
Richard Recht

City Council,

Please make a contribution to lessening degradation of the natural environment, as well as the sound environment, by setting Menlo Park on the path to elimination of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Thank you,

Richard Recht

Agenda item N1 Lisa Williams

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for addressing the matter of gas leaf blowers in our city.

In addition to adapting to climate change, society is adapting to COVID. COVID has changed where people elect to work. More and more companies are giving their employees the permanent option of working remotely from home. So, the impacts of Gas Leaf Blowers (GLBs) on those working from home will continue to affect many more people.

Our current city ordinance Chp 8.07 states, "Certified leaf blower" means only those leaf blowers measured at sixty-five (65) dB(a) or less at a distance of fifty feet ...

Most residential buildings in Menlo Park are closer than 50 feet apart. This means GLBs are being operated closer than 50 feet from one's neighbor subjecting neighbors to greater than the permitted 65 dB(a) at 50 feet. This makes the existing ordinance virtually impossible to comply with.

The study done by J Banks*, in Support of Bill 22-234, District of Columbia, City of Washington, 7/16/18 reported how one GLB can affect multiple surrounding households at various dB levels. The study found that 90 plus surrounding households can be impacted by one GLB.

*Citing: J Banks, statement in support of Bill 22-234, DC COW, 7/16/18

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57e80a57414fb52bddd431f1/t/5b50edab575d1ff383c36b99/1532031883098/2018.07.16_DC+COW+Bill+22-234+Report_Final.pdf page 6 of 12

The study scientifically tested the impact of three popular GLBs manufacture's models.

- Echo PB760 at 65 dB at 50 feet affect 23 homes
- Redmax EBZ8500 and Stihl BR700x at 77 and 75 dB at 50 feet affects 91 homes

In comparison, the study shows an equivalent battery powered leaf blower impacts between 1 and 6 neighboring homes. This difference is due to the physics related to the noise waves generated by the 2-stroke engine versus a battery.

The passage of AB 1346 will move CA one step closer to phasing out Small Off-Road Engines. GLBs fall into this category of engines. However, this bill will not prevent the use of GLBs until well beyond Jan 2024 (the projected date this bill goes into effect).

Respectfully I urge the Council to support the EQC recommendation to direct staff to prepare a report on a gas leaf blower ban. Such a ban will demonstrate that the Council is in tune with what residents have asked for. A ban will effectively remove an environmentally polluting tool with a zero emissions equivalent, thus reducing pollution and health risks to both gardeners and the public, and improve the general quality of life.

Sincerely,
Lisa Williams, Menlo Park resident (Linfield Oaks)

Agenda item N1
Mary Kenney

Dear Menlo Park City Council,

I am writing to strongly urge you to accept the EQC recommendation to direct staff to prepare a report on a gas leaf blower ban at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2021..

Compared to many other local cities, Menlo Park has remained behind the curve on this issue for far too long. Allowing their continued use is embarrassing and befuddling given our parallel efforts to become an environmentally conscious community and green city. The daily assault on our neighborhoods from the egregious noise and pollution not to mention the health of the workers who use them demands a strong message from you against their use.

This is a community day-to-day, quality-of-life and health issue that far outweighs the individual benefits. Again, please vote to allow the City staff to explore a permanent and meaningful ban on these blowers. The future will thank you, as do I, for your consideration.

Mary Kenney

Agenda item N1 Elliot J. Krane

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a proposed ban of gas-powered leaf blowers (GLBs) in Menlo Park.

The annoyance of hearing GLBs near and far at virtually any time of the day in virtually every community in Menlo Park is well known to every citizen of our city. As a faculty physician at Stanford I would like to share my personal views on the health related hazards of GLBs and advocate for their ban. These views are my own and do not represent the views of Stanford University.

Noise Pollution: My views on noise pollution were made known during public comment regarding the declaration of Caltrain quiet zones in Menlo Park, but bear repeating here: GLBs emit approximately 100dB of largely low-frequency noise that remains at deleterious levels of 60 - 70dB even as much as 100 feet away, and penetrates readily through walls and windows.

Environmental noise pollution produces many adverse health effects to children and adults alike, including increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality (such as increased blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes), learning impairment and attention disabilities in children, and even an increase in the community rate of diabetes. It increases stress as many of you must have experienced, with downstream cardiovascular, neurological and psychological adverse effects of that stress. And it must be highlighted that the citizens who are most at risk for adverse health effects are the landscapers and gardeners themselves who operate the equipment for hour upon hour every day of the week.

Chemical Air Pollution: GLBs use 2-stroke engines, which are an important cause of air pollution in our community. Combusting a mixture of oil and gasoline and lacking exhaust filtration and catalytic converters, they emit a toxic mixture of partially and wholly uncombusted gasoline, benzene, butadiene, acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, NOx and ozone, most or all of which are known carcinogens. And in addition to the composition of the exhaust, the amount of exhaust is nontrivial. A 2011 study widely cited by the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal compared a 50cc 2-stroke leaf blower and Ford F-150 Raptor with a 6 liter 411 horsepower engine. Each were each run for 30 minutes while measuring the pollutant output.

The hydrocarbon emissions from operating the GLB for only 30 minutes were the equivalent of driving the Ford 150 3,887 miles. Other studies have found less impressive but no less important results: GLBs release 300x the levels of hydrocarbons as vehicles, and running one for 1 hour is equivalent to the pollution of an auto driving 1,100 miles.

Particulate Air Pollution: Furthermore, leaf blowers (gas-powered and electric alike) create a jet of wind approaching an air speed of 200mph, a tornado of wind that propels particulate pollution of all sizes into the air, from micrometer to millimeter, including dust containing brake lining powder that has settled on road surfaces, pathogens such as fungi and their spores, landscaping chemicals such as herbicides, and microscopic particles of soil. These small particulates provoke asthma and other respiratory disease in children and increase the severity of chronic lung diseases in the elderly. Additionally, a larger particle propelled into the air can damage or even destroy the eye of a nearby child or pet. The air around a GLB contains carcinogens and particulates that damage the health of the landscape workers who breathe the particulates during their workday.

Children are the most vulnerable to the exposures because of their more rapid respiratory rate, greater volume of inhaled air per pound of body weight, proximity to the ground, and because their organs are still developing and are more vulnerable to toxins.

The City has a duty to protect the health of its residents, workforce and visitors, and a pernicious phenomena that damages everyone's health today is noise, chemical pollution and dust created by gas-powered leaf blowers.

Banning GLBs and returning to rake and broom will certainly increase the cost to homeowners paying landscaping crews to groom their property by increasing the time required to complete the job, but the community cost pales in comparison to the societal cost of the mental and physical health effects of exposure to the noise and air pollution of GLBs.

I join my fellow citizens in urging a GLB ban in Menlo Park.

Sincerely

Elliot J. Krane, MD

Agenda item N1 Janet Gilmore

I urge the Council to accept the Environmental Quality Commission's recommendation regarding the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. The blowers are unhealthy to the individuals using them and to those in the vicinity of where they are used. In addition, gas blowers contribute to air and noise pollution. Climate change is real and we must do everything we can to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of this ban, I also strongly support the EQC's recommendations to implement an educational campaign for both property owners and landscape companies as well as to fund a trade-in program for landscapers. We shouldn't place the burden of converting to electric blowers on those who are maintaining our landscape.

Thank you,
Janet Gilmore

Agenda item N1 Pat Walker

Although my husband and I live in the Menlo Oaks unincorporated area, our property borders on Menlo Park (Vintage Oaks) neighbors. All three properties that straddle our fence line have weekly landscaping services that use gas-powered leaf blowers (GLBs). As such, we suffer the direct effects of GLBs that would be alleviated, in part, by a Menlo Park ban on the use of GLBs. We would still be exposed to the particulate matter in the dust clouds that leaf blowers raise, but we would be spared the hydrocarbon fumes and the intense noise.

I urge the City Council to pass this ban, which is important for our health and that of other neighbors who are home during the day (retirees, pre-school-age kids, after-school kids, home office workers, caregivers). Also, it is a matter of environmental justice for the employees of the landscaping services who have no say in what equipment their employers tell them to use. If all landscaping services must use electric blowers, then no employer can cut costs by insisting their employees use GLBs.

Thank you.

Pat Walker

Agenda item N1

Amy Lupo

I am emailing to urge you to support the Environmental Quality Commission's unanimous recommendation that the Council direct staff to prepare a report on a gas leaf blower ban. This is item N.1 on the 11/16/21 council meeting agenda.

It is time these loud smelly blowers be banned in Menlo Park. Please show the people of this city that you are serious about reducing carbon emissions in Menlo Park. These are heavily polluting, and the work can easily be done instead with electric blowers, as shown by our neighboring city of Palo Alto.

I urge you to support a ban on gas powered leaf blowers.

Thank you,

Amy Lupo

Agenda item N1 Geoff McCavitt

I am a long term resident of MP who is in favor of a ban on all gas-powered gardening equipment (especially leaf blowers).

As someone who frequently works from home, and walks my neighborhood daily, I am regularly assaulted by the noise and air pollution associated with the use of these so called labor-saving tools. My preference is for an outright ban, but appreciate the need for a transition period, to allow gradual elimination of gas-powered blowers, and conversion to electric blowers (or, heaven forbid the use of a rake and broom!). Further, I support creation and administration of a city-run “blower replacement fund”, to provide a voucher (or money) to professional gardeners and homeowners alike, to defer at least a portion of the costs associated with switching to electric.

At a minimum, Council should consider a plan like the one in place in Burlingame, where blower use is limited to one day per week in each neighborhood.

Thank you.

Geoff McCavitt

Agenda item N1
Mary Hofstedt

I'm writing briefly to express my support for the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers in our city. Other local communities have made this important change to curb emissions, and the state as a whole is working on this issue - and I strongly encourage Menlo Park to follow suit.

Thank you,

Mary Hofstedt

Agenda item N1
Ritu Asija, M.D.

Please vote to accept the EQC recommendation

The noise and air pollution are harmful to us, our children and our pets. It is particularly important given the worsening air quality we are experiencing on a yearly basis. Any additional air pollution can worsen the harm we are already experiencing.

Thank you,
Ritu Asija, M.D.
Department of Pediatrics
Stanford School of Medicine

Agenda item N1 David Axelrod MD

Mayor, City Councilmembers, and Environmental Quality Commission of Menlo Park

Re: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower (GPLB) Ban (Agenda Item N1., 11-16-2021)

Dear Menlo Park City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a proposed ban of the use of gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) in Menlo Park. I am a faculty pediatrician (specifically a pediatric cardiologist) at Stanford's Children's Hospital, and I will offer my personal views on the health-related hazards of GPLBs for all Menlo Park citizens, but especially for our kids. I will briefly discuss views that are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of Stanford University.

Decades of rigorous scientific research have taught us that pollution and environmental exposures disproportionately affect our children. My training in pediatrics and my current practice in the pediatric intensive care unit provides me a constant reminder of why this is the case: babies and children breathe faster than adults, they inhale a larger volume of air when indexed to their body weight, and they spend more time at ground level--crawling, walking, or sitting where many environmental toxins settle. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, children's developing lungs, hearts, and brains are uniquely sensitive to environmental exposures as they mature. An important principle in my daily practice in the intensive care unit is that children's lungs continue to develop and grow alveoli (the gas-exchanging sacs of the lung) at least through the ninth year of life – therefore any toxic exposure experienced today will be amplified on a logarithmic scale in the future.

There are two negative health effects of the use of GPLBs that I would like to highlight: air pollution (both from dust/particulate matter and chemicals) and noise pollution. These concepts have been very well summarized by Leah Elkins in the Environmental Quality Commission agenda item C-2 document from September 22, 2021.

Air Pollution: GPLBs combust a mixture of oil and gasoline, and unlike cars they have no exhaust filter or catalytic converters. The emissions contain carcinogens such as uncombusted gasoline, benzene, formaldehyde, and ozone. For reference, GPLBs release three hundred times as much hydrocarbon as most cars and trucks.

Particulate Air Pollution: All leaf blowers (both gas-powered and electric alike) work by propelling particulate matter into the air. With air speeds as high as 200 miles per hour, they send dust into the air – and into kids' lungs—that contains everything from brake lining powder that has settled on road surfaces, to chemicals such as herbicides, and microscopic particles of soil. This particulate matter damages lungs – it's harmful for everyone today and deleterious for decades for the developing lungs of our kids.

Noise Pollution: The motors in GPLBs emit approximately 100 decibels of low-frequency noise (greater than 85 decibels is considered dangerous). Research demonstrates that this noise increases blood pressure and the risk of heart attack and stroke, it impairs development and learning in children, and increases stress hormones like cortisol. It also disrupts critically important sleep as it passes through windows and walls, even at a distance of 100 feet away. You may ask: "Who sleeps at 10 in the morning, as our laws require leaf blowers to be used during daytime?" Our most vulnerable – our babies and small children – rely on this sleep during the day for brain development and growth.

I appreciate that there are important economic, political, and societal implications of imposing an immediate ban on GPLB use. I will trust experts in these respective fields to offer a creative and equitable proposal that addresses the needs of the workforce using the GPLBs and the community who needs their yards and fields kept tidy. I am not an expert in these areas, but I will submit that this ban will also help protect the health of the gardeners, workers, and citizens using GPLBs and inhaling the gas and particulate matter as they work. They, too, deserve protection from these environmental toxins.

I am proud to support the submitted written commentary of my fellow citizens – many of them physicians and experts in child health -- in urging us to lead an immediate ban on the use (not just the sale) of GPLBs in Menlo Park. It is our duty—in fact a mandate for our city-- to protect our children and banning the use of GPLBs is one small step that will put us on the right side of history.

Sincerely,
David Axelrod MD
Menlo Park resident
Clinical Professor, Pediatrics (Cardiology)
Stanford University School of Medicine



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND LEAF BLOWER POLICY ADVICE

Rebecca Lucky, Sustainability Manager





ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

- Seven members, appointed by the city council, serve a four year term up to two terms

- Advise the city council on environmental sustainability topics:
 - As referred by the city council to the commission
 - Through the commission annual work plan approved by the city council

- Make determinations on heritage tree appeals

- Supported by a staff liaison, Sustainability Manager



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2022 WORK PLAN FOR APPROVAL



- Providing support on six climate action plan strategy goals as well as future goals to reach carbon neutrality by 2030
- Urban canopy preservation
- Green and sustainable initiatives (e.g. pollutants, water conservation, waste management)
- Considering a gas powered leaf blower ordinance as referred by city council in early 2021



2021 PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- **February-** reviewed the EV infrastructure gap analysis and recommended additional outreach to multifamily property owners
- **May (updated in September)-** Advised on additional Climate Action Plan goals and strategies
- **August-** reviewed cost effectiveness and policy options analysis for existing building electrification policy and programs
- **September:** advising on a ban on gas powered leaf blowers
- **October:**
 - Recommended approval of vehicle purchases that included a patrol Tesla pilot program
 - Recommended approval of a climate resiliency/adaptation position for this fiscal year



SUMMARY OF COMMISSION'S ADVICE REGARDING LEAF BLOWERS



- EQC recommends that City Council consider bans on gas powered leaf blowers done by neighboring cities to avoid reinventing the wheel
- Time and resources spent on this issue by staff and City Council should not detract from those resources already dedicated to Climate Action Plan implementation
- Passed 5-0 (London and Price absent)



RECOMMENDATION



1. Receive and file the annual report from the Commission included in the staff report analysis section
2. Approve the commissions annual work plan for 2022
3. Provide direction on the commission's recommendation regarding banning gas powered leaf blowers



A large, horizontal orange banner is positioned across the middle of the page. The banner contains the text "THANK YOU" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within the banner. The background behind the banner is a light blue color with a subtle, geometric pattern of overlapping shapes. To the left of the banner, there is a vertical strip of a photograph showing green and yellow plant leaves.



2021 SMC MULTIJURISDICTIONAL LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

City Council Meeting – November 16



TEAM MEMBERS

Department	Name
Administrative Services	Whitney Loy
City Manager's Office	Rebecca Lucky
Community Development	Chuck Andrews Calvin Chen
Police	Scott Mackdanz
Public Works	Joanna Chen Brian Henry Chris Lamm Nicole Nagaya Justin Murphy
Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Ryan Zollicoffer

MULTIJURISDICTIONAL LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (LHMP)



- Identifies strategies that would reduce risk or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event
- Describes a systematic process of learning about the hazards that could affect the community, setting clear goals, identifying appropriate actions, and following through with an effective mitigation strategy
- Outlines various strategies to reduce vulnerability and exposure to future events



MULTIJURISDICTIONAL LHMP (CONT'D)

- Goals include:
 - Protect health and safety
 - Promote hazard mitigation
 - Integrate climate change strategies to increase resiliency
 - Improve community emergency management capability



MULTIJURISDICTIONAL LHMP (CONT'D)

- Updated comprehensively every 5 years
- Minor revisions may be made through annual updates
- Adoption allows the City to be eligible for FEMA and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) grants
 - One hazard mitigation grant underway and one Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant pending approval totaling \$55 million.
- 2-volume Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plan
 - Volume 1: An overview of the planning process, risk assessment, goals and objectives, countywide actions and plan maintenance strategy;
 - Volume 2: Background information of each jurisdiction-specific mitigation action plan.



MENLO PARK ANNEX PLAN

- Phase 1
 - Develop City of Menlo Park profile, analyze the current trends, and review the previous 2016 multijurisdictional LHMP

- Phase 2
 - Examine existing capabilities for implementing hazard mitigation strategies
 - Review existing integration between LHMP and City plans/programs and identify opportunities for future integration

- Phase 3
 - Analyze and review risk assessment and outline hazard mitigation action plan



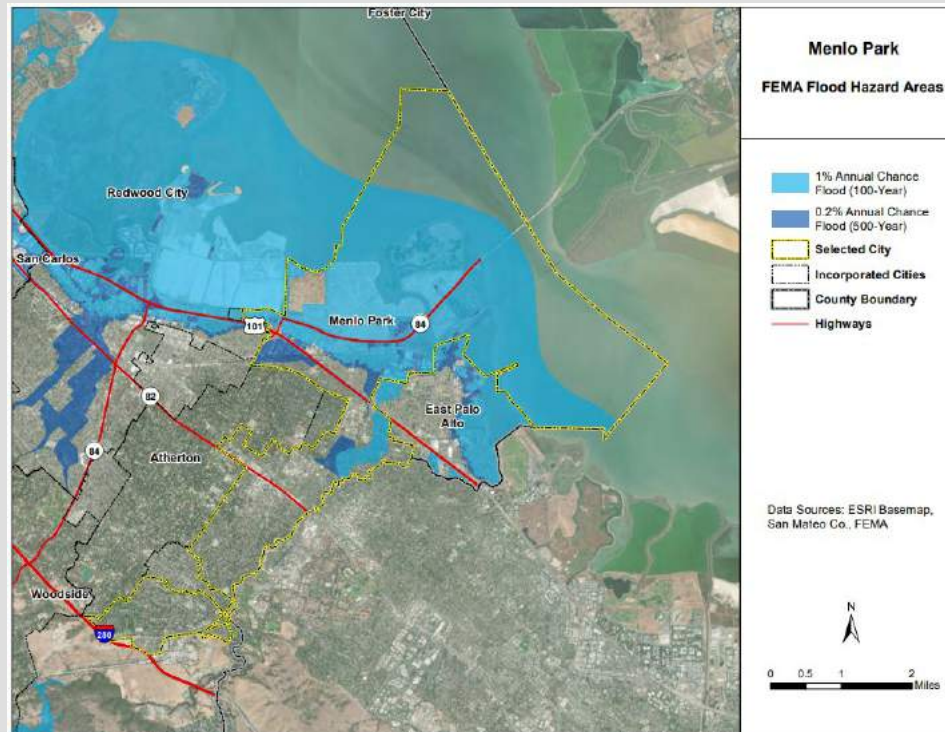
PROJECT TIMELINE

	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Nov
Project milestones	Identify planning partners	Submit Phase 1, 2, and 3 assignments and host six steering committee meetings					Review draft Plan review and submit to Cal OES and FEMA	Receive results from Cal OES and FEMA	Conduct a SMC Board meeting
Outreach and engagement (O&E) milestones	Develop O&E plan and launch project website	Post media release #1 to announce survey #1 and public workshop #1			Post media release #2 to announce survey #2 and Climate Resilient Communities public meeting		Post media release #3 to announce public workshop #2 and release draft Plan for public comment		
City's O&E milestones		Promote through weekly digest newsletter, social media posts, and email blast					Conduct City Council meeting		Conduct City Council meeting



MENLO PARK ANNEX PLAN

- Equity screening tool
- 34 action items
- Focus on actions to mitigate flood, earthquake, and sea level rise/climate change





PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Update the Chrysler Pump Station to improve flood protection in the Bayfront Area;
- Update the City's stormwater master plan to identify areas vulnerable to localized flooding and identify capital projects to mitigate those areas;
- Implement the City's 2030 climate action plan goals and present strategies to achieve those goals; and
- Implement the Water System Master Plan to meet the fire flow demand and provide alternative emergency water supply.



RECOMMENDED ACTION & NEXT STEPS

- Adopt Resolution No. 6686 approving the 2021 San Mateo County multijurisdictional LHMP
- Once all participating agencies in San Mateo County adopt the Plan, will be finalized and submitted to FEMA and CalOES
- Annual updates would begin in fall 2022



THANK YOU