



PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

STAFF REPORT

TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: Roland Rivera
Senior Planner **DEPARTMENT:** Planning &
Community Environment

DATE: May 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Community Services and Sustainability Background Reports: Study Session to provide information on existing levels of Community Services in Palo Alto and existing programs, policies and initiatives addressing Sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with the Planning and Transportation Commission background reports providing information on Community Services and Sustainability in the City. The Community Services report describes the existing level of services relative to current and projected population in the City of Palo Alto's neighborhoods. The Sustainability report addresses programs, policies and initiatives addressing Sustainability in the City of Palo Alto. This meeting provides an opportunity for both the Planning and Transportation Commission and the public to develop a better understanding of the City's Community Services needs and Sustainability efforts in relation to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process.

BACKGROUND

As part of a series of background information discussions for the Comprehensive Plan amendment process, the Community Services and Sustainability Background Reports were drafted by the Comprehensive Plan Amendment consultant Design, Community & Environment (DC&E) and evaluated by City staff. DC&E incorporated the comments provided by City staff into the final background reports. One additional background report will be discussed at a future Planning and Transportation Commission meeting covering background information on the City's transportation system.

DISCUSSION

The Community Services Background Report (Attachment A) details the existing level of services relative to current and projected population in the City's neighborhoods. By comparing

the existing service levels for public schools; public parks, open spaces and trails; public libraries; solid waste collection services, and City-owned utility services with standards for those services, the report identifies possible gaps in community services that could arise between now and 2020 and will also serve as the basis for the service needs analysis to be included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The Sustainability Background Report summarizes existing programs, policies and initiatives addressing sustainability specific and related to the City of Palo Alto and highlights ways in which they can be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Residents, businesses, government and non-profit organizations are all major stakeholders in the City's sustainability efforts and the report is organized accordingly. DC&E reviewed and utilized several City documents such as the City's Comprehensive Plan, Climate Protection Plan, Zero Waste Operational Plan and the Green Business Program, along with website information, recent analyses and local programs to identify the majority of the City's resources related to sustainability and the possible opportunities and constraints the City currently faces in achieving a more sustainable future.

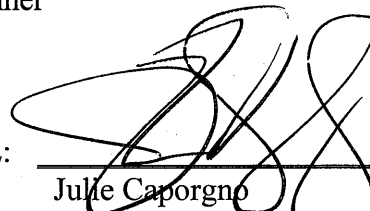
Several key City staff members from the Community Services Department, Utilities Department, City Sustainability team and Public Works Operations as well as the Palo Alto Unified School District demographer, reviewed the draft background reports and provided DC&E with additional information and analysis which was subsequently integrated into the final background report. These reports will also be used to update the background information currently found at the beginning of each chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, to guide the addition of goals and policies related to Community Services and Sustainability into the amended Comprehensive Plan, and to provide existing conditions information for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment's Environmental Impact Report. Both reports will be posted on the City's website to facilitate public access.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Community Services Background Report for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment
Attachment B – Sustainability Background Report for the Comprehensive Plan

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DEPARTMENT/DIVISION HEAD APPROVAL:



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