



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: August 31, 2021
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Carpinteria-Summerland Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Consider, adopt, and authorize the Chair to sign the Carpinteria- Summerland Community Wildfire Protection Plan;
- B. Determine that adopting the Carpinteria- Summerland Community Wildfire Protection Plan is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) because it consists of organizational or administrative activities of governments which do not involve a commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment as discussed in the attached Notice of Exemption and approve the filing of such Notice of Exemption.

Summary:

The Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District (“District”) has completed their 2021 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (“CWPP”), which replaces the 2013 CWPP. This CWPP provides a science and

engineering-based assessment of the wildfire threat in the wildland urban interface (WUI) of Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District in Santa Barbara County, California. The CWPP was developed through a collaborative process involving the Fire District, surrounding fire agencies, county officials, state and federal land management agencies, and community members. It meets the CWPP requirements set forth in the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act which include:

- Identifying and prioritizing areas for fuel reduction activities;
- Stakeholder collaboration; and
- Addressing structural ignitability.

Background:

On April 19, 2011, the Board of Supervisors directed the County Executive Office, Fire and the Planning and Development Departments to develop a County-wide process for the creation, review, approval and monitoring of CWPPs. Staff brought forth a CWPP development process which was approved by the Board on August 2, 2011. This development process was used as the Carpinteria- Summerland Fire Protection District prepared their updated plan. CWPPs are developed through a collaborative process that identifies and assesses fire risks and identifies and recommends best practices for eliminating or mitigating fire risks and structural ignitability.

The Board is asked to approve the Carpinteria-Summerland CWPP that will identify and prioritize fire hazard risks and recommend best practices to eliminate or mitigate the risks and structural ignitability. We will also be asking the Board to determine that adopting this CWPP is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under CEQA since it does not commit the entity to any specific actions. The Carpinteria-Summerland CWPP makes clear that any necessary environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) shall be completed prior to commencement of any recommended hazardous fuel reduction.

Discussion:

Wildfire poses one of the greatest risks to human life, property, environment, and local economies along this portion of the Central Coast. Both Carpinteria and Summerland are identified as Communities at Risk by CALFIRE, with approximately 84% of the total land area in the District designated as having a moderate to very high fire hazard severity rating. Santa Barbara County has a long history of large wildfires, with many of these fires burning into the local communities along the Highway 101 corridor of southern Santa Barbara County. While frequent large fires have consumed much of the heavy fuels adjacent to Carpinteria and Summerland, rapid post-fire vegetation recovery and lengthening fire seasons associated with climatic change sets the stage for future wildfires to impact the local communities.

A science and engineering-based hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment was performed using high resolution topography, fuels, weather and ‘values at risk’ data. The assessment was focused on identifying areas of concern throughout the District and prioritizing areas where wildfire threat and hazard potentials create the greatest risk to the community. Hazard mitigation efforts and other action items were specifically tailored to address the unique issues in the areas of greatest concern.

The Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, in collaboration with local, state and federal partners, will work to reduce wildland fire hazards and associated risks through the use of strategies that include:

- Pre-fire planning
- Public education and outreach to promote and implement fire adapted community practices
- Vegetation management and fuel reduction at the community level, including the enforcement of defensible space standards on private lands
- Reducing structure ignitability by promoting and enforcing building codes, ordinances, and statutes

The CWPP provides a framework that can be used to identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor hazard and risk reduction activities throughout the District. It is intended to be a living document that will be updated periodically by the CSFPD in collaboration with public and private stakeholders in the District and adjacent fire agencies.

This document is also intended to support the California Fire Plan and CAL FIRE's Unit Strategic Fire Plan. While this CWPP covers the entire District, this plan supports and encourages focused wildfire protection actions at the city, community, and neighborhood scales. Staff respectfully recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the 2021 Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District Community Wildfire Protection Plan and authorize the Chair to sign and approve the plan.

To date, the Carpinteria- Summerland Fire Chief, Carpinteria City Manager, Santa Barbara County Chief, Montecito Fire District Chief, Ventura County, Los Padres National Forest (USFS) and the Cal Fire Unit Chief have approved and signed the CWPP. The final signature needed is the Chair of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None. There are no current budget impacts associated with this report.

Special Instructions:

A fully executed signature page will be provided to Clerk of the Board upon finalization.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Carpinteria- Summerland Wildfire Protection Plan

Attachment B – Proposed CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachment C – Signature Page

Authored by:

Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst, County Executive Office