



MEMORANDUM

TO: Sebastopol General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)

FROM: Ben Ritchie and Beth Thompson, De Novo Planning Group

SUBJECT: September 10, 2014 Meeting - Safety and Noise

DATE: September 2, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The September 10th 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, farming operations, 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. Police protection and fire protection are topics that will be primarily addressed during the discussion of community services and facilities.

As part of the visioning process that occurred in April and May of this year, residents and stakeholders were asked to identify their vision and priorities for the city's future, as well as challenges and opportunities associated with the General Plan Update.

There were relatively few comments related to noise and safety received during the public visioning process, compared to other topics. With respect to noise issues and concerns, workshop participants cited the city's rural charm and small-town character as key assets of the city that needed to be preserved and protected. Maintaining an environment free of noise nuisances is a key aspect of maintaining Sebastopol's rural, small-town charm. Participants also noted the need for reduced noise level exposure from traffic in the Downtown area.

With respect to safety issues and concerns, workshop participants cited low crime rates, feelings of safety, community pride, and neighborhood camaraderie as key assets of the city that need to be

protected and preserved. Participants also noted that the recent closure of Palm Drive Hospital posed a safety concern for residents of Sebastopol in need of emergency care or immediate urgent care.

The City's existing General Plan includes goals, policies, and programs specifically related to noise and safety. It is expected and anticipated that the GPAC will review these for relevancy and scope, and if necessary, expand upon them as part of this General Plan Update.

REQUIRED READING

Prior to the meeting on September 10th meeting, please read the following items:

1. Existing Conditions Report: Chapter 7.0, Noise
2. Existing Conditions Report: Chapter 4.0, Hazards and Safety
3. Current Sebastopol General Plan: Chapter VII, Safety (which includes Section II, Noise)
4. Issues and Opportunities Report
 - a. Chapter 4 of the Issues and Opportunities Report identifies issues and opportunities related to the topics of Safety and Noise, which should be read and considered prior to the meeting.
 - b. The Issues and Opportunities Report also includes detailed information and summaries of input received from the community that should be read and considered prior to the meeting.

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 action programs related to safety:
 - a. Which existing General Plan goals, policies, and action programs best address the concerns you identified?
 - b. Which priorities are not addressed in the existing General Plan?
3. In considering the questions posed in Chapter 4 of the Issues and Opportunities Report related to safety, what 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 action programs related to noise:

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- a. Which existing General Plan goals, policies, and action programs 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. In considering the questions posed in Chapter 4 of the Issues and Opportunities Report related to noise, what input do you have that the GPAC should consider and discuss?



TO: Sebastopol General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)

FROM: Ben Ritchie and Beth Thompson, De Novo Planning Group

SUBJECT: General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Summary from July 9, 2014

DATE: September 2, 2014

This memo provides an overview and summary of the items discussed during the July 9, 2014 GPAC meeting.

- The GPAC elected Scot Stegeman as the GPAC Chair, and Linda Kelley as the Vice-Chair.
- The GPAC decided to hold regular meetings at 6:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- The GPAC received an overview of the General Plan update process and work program.
- The GPAC received a summary of the Brown Act and other legal aspects relating to the GPAC process.
- The GPAC determined that the alternates appointed by the City Council should act as participating members of the GPAC and be included in all GPAC discussions, but would not vote on issues brought before the GPAC. This discussion was based on public comment received from Alternates in attendance.
- It was decided that De Novo Planning Group should prepare summary notes of each meeting.
- The GPAC agreed that a formal voting structure was not needed at this time, but voting and preference tools may be implemented in the future, if the GPAC determines that the need arises.
- De Novo Planning Group described the approach to preparation of a "self-mitigating" General Plan.
- The GPAC expressed a desire for alternative types of affordable housing in Sebastopol and noted that the Housing Element should reflect community and City committee input.
- It was determined that GPAC subcommittees would not be formed within the GPAC.
- The GPAC discussed appropriateness of including the "Rights of Nature" in the GP. The consultant noted that the GPAC could direct that this type of language be included in the Conservation Element.
- The GPAC recommended that a community impact report requirement be included in the GP.
- It was reiterated by GPAC members, staff, and the consultant team that the public is encouraged to participate in the GP Update process.