MEMORANDUM

July 7, 2017

TO: Milpitas General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)
FROM: Ben Ritchie, De Novo Planning Group
SUBJECT: General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #4
(Community Services and Utilities, and Energy Conservation/Air Quality)
DATE: July 19, 2017

**INTRODUCTION**

The July 19th GPAC meeting will focus on several General Plan topics, including Community Services and Utilities, and Energy Conservation/Air Quality. Given the large range of topics to be addressed at this meeting, it is particularly important that GPAC members come prepared to discuss specific thoughts and ideas. This memo provides a brief overview of these General Plan topics, summarizes public input received to date on these topics, identifies required reading materials for the next meeting, and identifies issues to consider prior to the next GPAC meeting.

The next GPAC meeting will provide the group with an opportunity to discuss these General Plan topics, and identify key issues to address, and potential policy solutions.

All of the topics to be discussed at the July 19th meeting (Community Services and Utilities, and Energy Conservation/Air Quality) are optional topics to include in the General Plan. While not required by State law, these topics are commonly addressed in General Plans, and are planned for inclusion in the Milpitas General Plan Update.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES AND UTILITIES ELEMENT OVERVIEW**

As noted above, the inclusion of community services and utilities in the General Plan is optional (i.e., not mandated by State planning law). The City of Milpitas has elected to include these important planning topics in the General Plan Update.

**Community Services** include police and fire protection; schools; civic services and libraries

- (parks and recreational facilities have already been discussed by the GPAC, and will be addressed in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element).

**Utilities** include water supplies; wastewater services (sewer); telecommunications; and drainage infrastructure.
Some of these topics are currently addressed, to a limited extent, in the existing General Plan. For example, the exiting Land Use Element includes a guiding principle and supporting policies related to schools (Guiding Principle 2.c-G-1), and a guiding principle and supporting policies related to public facilities and utilities (Guiding Principle 2.d-G-1). Water and sewer services are also addressed sporadically throughout the existing Land Use Element.

Fire safety is addressed in the existing Safety Element (Guiding Principle 5.c-G-1).

The topics of police services, libraries, and civic services are not currently addressed in the General Plan.

**Public Input Received on Community Services and Utilities**

During the initial public visioning process for the General Plan Update, community members noted the following related to these topics:

- The importance of protecting and enhancing quality schools within Milpitas
- The need to expand school capacity to ease overcrowding
- The importance of maintaining a safe community through reduced crime and rapid emergency response times
- The need for enhanced/expanded community buildings and services, particularly for the youth and senior populations
- The need to expand community cultural and public art resources
- The need to enhance civic engagement and community participation
- The City’s library was cited as a community asset

**Key Questions to Consider and Discuss**

1. Given that the City does not own or operate school sites, what policy approaches should the City include in the General Plan to ensure that residents have access to high quality educational opportunities?
2. Are there new or improved policy approaches to police and fire protection that should be included in the General Plan Update?
3. Are improvements in governmental services, including civic buildings and facilities, needed? If so, what improvements should be considered in the General Plan?
4. How can Milpitas enhance civic engagement and improve public participation in local government?
5. Given that services such as high-speed internet access are provided by the private sector, are there any notable deficiencies in local services that should be addressed in the General Plan?
6. Do you agree with the approach that the existing General Plan takes with respect to water and sewer services?
7. Are there any other specific topics or ideas related to community services and utilities that you would like to discuss, or feel should be addressed in the General Plan Update?
ENERGY CONSERVATION AND AIR QUALITY OVERVIEW

The General Plan topics of energy conservation and air quality are typically included in the Conservation Element. It is anticipated that this is the approach and organization that will be taken for the Milpitas General Plan Update.

Air Quality emissions are strictly regulated through various regulatory mechanisms and governmental agencies, including the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).

The BAAQMD attains and maintains air quality conditions in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB) through a comprehensive program of planning, regulation, enforcement, technical innovation, and promotion of the understanding of air quality issues. The clean air strategy of the BAAQMD includes the preparation of plans for the attainment of ambient air quality standards, adoption and enforcement of rules and regulations concerning sources of air pollution, and issuance of permits for stationary sources of air pollution. The BAAQMD also inspects stationary sources of air pollution and responds to citizen complaints, monitors ambient air quality and meteorological conditions, and implements programs and regulations required by the FCAA and the California Clean Air Act (CCAA).

Energy Conservation is one of the primary strategies available to local governments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which contribute to global climate change. In order to provide a comprehensive and cohesive policy approach to reduce GHG emissions, the City of Milpitas has adopted a Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan (CAP), which was adopted on May 7, 2013, is designed to streamline environmental review of future development projects in the City of Milpitas consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15183.5(b) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) CEQA Air Quality Guidelines. The CAP identifies a strategy, reduction measures, and implementation strategies the City will use to achieve the State-recommended greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 15% below 2005 emissions levels by 2020.

The City has a long-standing commitment to achieving environmental stewardship. The CAP allows City decision-makers and the broader community to understand the sources and magnitude of local GHG emissions, establish goals to reduce GHG emissions, and prioritize steps to achieve emissions reduction targets. The CAP establishes goals, measures, and actions in the energy, water, transportation, solid waste, and off-road equipment sectors. It also establishes implementation programs and a framework to monitor and report progress.

Public Input Received on Energy Conservation and Air Quality

During the initial public visioning process for the General Plan Update, community members noted the following related to these topics:

- Address odors from the Newby Island Landfill
- Strive to achieve net zero energy generation
- Improve local air quality
- Enhance the use of bicycle and pedestrian transportation to reduce vehicle emissions
- Improve “smart growth” and mixed use areas within the City to make Milpitas more walkable (and decrease the use of vehicles)

**Key Questions to Consider and Discuss**

1. The General Plan Update work program does not include an update to the City’s 2013 Climate Action Plan. However, the General Plan can include policies and action items that call for targeted changes or revisions to this document. After reviewing the range of approaches and methodologies included in the Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions, are there new, or more robust approaches that should be considered? Are there any voluntary programs in the Climate Action Plan that should be mandatory?

2. How aggressive should Milpitas be in terms of requiring energy efficiency in new building construction?
   a. The benefits of more robust energy efficiency requirements are rather obvious- they reduce energy usage and consumption in new development. This often translates into lower utility bills for owners and tenants.
   b. The downside of more robust energy efficiency requirements in new development are increased construction costs, which usually translates into higher home and building prices, and increased rents and mortgages.

3. In general, what strategies and approaches should the General Plan consider in order to improve energy efficiency and decrease GHG and air quality emissions?

**Required Readings**

1. **Existing Conditions Report, Section 3.0: Utilities and Community Services**
   a. Please read sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.4
   b. Section 3.3, Parks and Recreation, was discussed during our last meeting

2. **General Plan Land Use Element, pages 2-37 and 2-38**
   a. These pages include the existing policy guidance on schools and public facilities/utilities

3. **Existing Conditions Report, Sections 5.3 and 5.4: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases**

4. **Milpitas Climate Action Plan**
   a. This is a long document, and you do not need to read the entire thing. Please review the Introduction Chapter, and the GHG Reduction Measures in Chapter 4.
   b. This document is available online at: