

ANNEX 6. CITY OF SARATOGA

The City of Saratoga is located on the west side of the Santa Clara Valley directly west of San Jose, bordered to the east by Los Gatos and Monte Sereno to the southeast (Figure 6.1). The population in 2010 was 29,926 with a population density of 2,416.9 people per square mile (U.S. Census Bureau 2010).

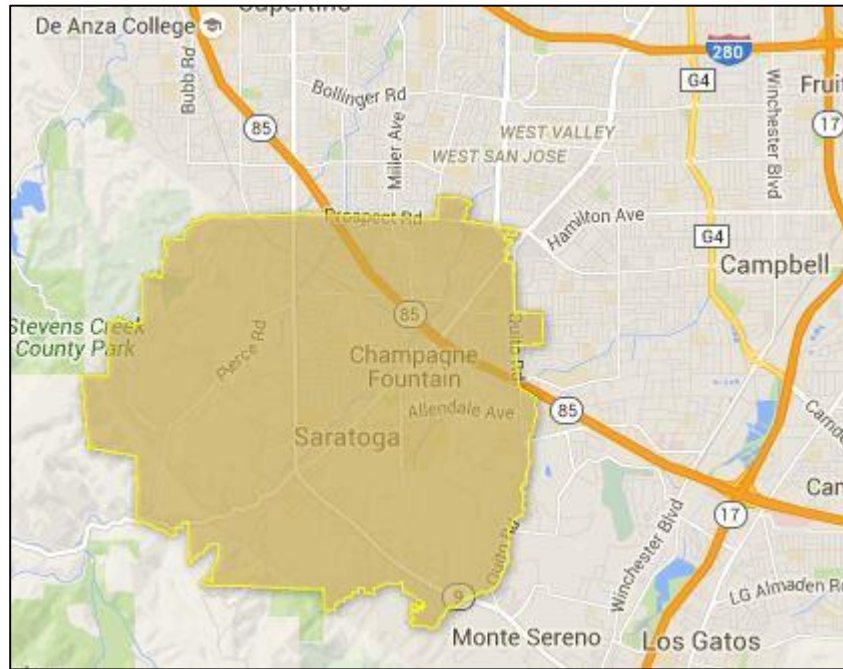


Figure 6.1. City of Saratoga.

ORGANIZATION AND JURISDICTION

The City of Saratoga is governed by a publicly elected city council and has authority for General Plan-land use planning, code adoption and permit processing. The City of Saratoga does not have a city fire department; services are provided through two fire districts.

State law designates all lands within the city limits of Saratoga as Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for purposes of wildland fire protection. Most state fire prevention and defensible space laws do not apply within LRA. Recent legislation requires State review and input on General Plan Safety Element updates where wildland fire is a hazard (Government Code Section 65040.20).

Fire Protection services for the City of Saratoga is split jurisdictionally between the two fire protection districts. The Saratoga Fire Protection District (Annex 5), an independent special district encompasses the western half of the City of Saratoga. The eastern half of the city is within the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (a Board of Supervisors governed dependent special district) that also provides fire protection to other local cities and unincorporated areas (Annex 1 - Chapter 3).

The planning area is best described as a wildland urban interface (WUI) with homes scattered among wildland fuels, although Saratoga Old Town is also considered a WUI designation. The City of Saratoga WUI planning area includes designated and adopted very high fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ) areas in the LRA. Structures that fall within the City of Saratoga are subject to the City planning ordinances:

Designated WUI areas require application of Chapter 7A WUI regulations of the City's adopted Building Code.

Saratoga WUI Requirements under the Municipal Code, Sections 4902, 4906, and 4907 can be viewed here:

https://www2.municode.com/library/ca/saratoga/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH16BUR E ART16-20FICO 16-20.150AMCH49FICOREWIBAINFIAR

Tree Information and Permits: <http://saratoga.ca.us/cityhall/cd/trees/default.asp>

LAND USE PLANNING, GENERAL PLAN, BUILDING CODES, AND LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Authority and jurisdiction for approving the General Plan and elements, determining land use, community design and building code adoption rests with the Saratoga City Council. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) identifies hazards that exist in Saratoga that create risk to citizens and properties in Saratoga. WUI fires are a real and present danger to the western portions of Saratoga. This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies several goals related to functions the City of Saratoga has the authority to undertake.

This CWPP may serve as basis for the WUI fire component for LHMP, General Plan, or General Plan element updates.

MITIGATION PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATIONS

The following project matrixes have been developed by the community and Core Team to direct specific project implementation for communities in the City of Saratoga WUI (Table 6.1 through Table 6.5). The matrixes below are tiered to the strategic goals presented in the body of the countywide CWPP through project IDs in the first column of each matrix.

Table 6.1. Recommendations for Public Outreach and Education in the City of Saratoga

ID (S)	Project	Presented by	Target Date	Priority (1,2,3)	Resources Needed	Serves to
Strategic Goal: EO1- Educate citizens on how to achieve contemporary WUI code compliance in retrofits/cost: benefit ratio. Provide workshops and/or demonstration site. and EO5- Emergency preparedness meetings. Use American Red Cross volunteers and other preparedness experts. Attend community functions and hold special meetings to provide guidance for creating household emergency plans. Use Ready, Set, Go! program.						
S-EO1.1	Wildfire Preparedness and WUI Code workshops.	Fire Safe Councils, County Fire	Within 2 years.	1	Workshop expenses, personnel. Workshop venues. Demonstration site. Strategize on avenues for engaging the public.	Increase compliance with County code. Reduce fire risk level for individual parcels and community as a whole.
Strategic Goal: EO3- Organize a community group made up of residents and agency personnel to develop materials and communicate relevant defensible space messages. Could coordinate with fire departments or Fire Safe Council.						
S-EO3.1	Form community working group for defensible space outreach.	Fire Safe Council, fire departments, local residents, Eagle Scouts, High School Community Volunteer Program	Within 1 year.	1	Funding to help cover costs of materials (green waste removal or chipper) and participation. Hire contractor trained in defensible space practices.	Engage diverse stakeholders in reaching out to community members and encourage defensible space practices. Empower homeowners to make affordable and effective changes to reduce the vulnerability of individual homes.
Strategic Goal: EO4- Media involvement. Develop a local newspaper column that provides fire safety information, promotional information for volunteer fire departments, fire announcements, and emergency planning.						
S-EO4.1	Develop a local newspaper column or community newsletter for the Saratoga community that provides fire safety information, promotional information for fire departments, fire announcements, and emergency planning.	City of Saratoga, County Fire	Within 1 year.	1	Columns, information, and articles to be provided by fire departments, local residents, Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council (SCCFSC).	Protect communities and infrastructure through increasing public awareness and providing a channel for information regarding emergency fire response.
Strategic Goal: E10- Insurance Services informational meetings						
S-E10.1	Outreach to the community to schedule an Insurance Services informational meeting. Invite Insurance Services representatives to speak to groups regarding ways to improve WUI insurance ratings in the community.	Insurance Services in conjunction with County Fire and SCCFSC	Within 2 years.	2	Resources provided by Insurance Services.	Communities can learn how to improve their insurance ratings, which will reduce insurance costs in their community by implementing wildfire prevention measures.

*Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Annex 6. City of Saratoga*

ID (S)	Project	Presented by	Target Date	Priority (1,2,3)	Resources Needed	Serves to
Strategic Goal: EO11- Increase signage/replace or augment existing signage.						
S-EO11.1	<p>Increase signage/replace or augment existing signage. Use existing signage to spread fire prevention message along highways and in public open space areas (trailheads, info kiosks) to reduce human ignitions.</p> <p>Promote the use of existing electronic signs at firehouses and other locales to display fire prevention information, safety messages, and fire danger rating linked to safety actions.</p>	County Fire, Saratoga Fire Protection District, City of Saratoga	Within 2 years.	2	<p>Mostly existing signs and posting sites, people to post and update signs.</p> <p>Replace, or augment the existing Smokey Bear signs with electronic Fire Danger Warning Signs that are solar powered, LED displays (visible day and night), and accessible and programmable through an internet website.</p>	Protect communities and infrastructure by raising awareness of local citizens and those traveling in the area about actions that can prevent fire.

Table 6.2. Recommendations for Reducing Structural Ignitability in the City of Saratoga

ID (S)	Project	Presented by	Programs Available	Description	Priority (1,2,3)	Timeline
Strategic Goal: SI1- Retrofit/Eliminate flammable roofs						
S-SI1	Identify all wood shake roofed properties within planning area and target homeowners with outreach on retrofitting roofs.	City and County Planning in conjunction with County Fire and municipalities.	FEMA grants.	Require elimination of all flammable roofs through attrition or time deadline.	1	By 2030
Strategic Goal: SI5- Adopt landscape standards for recommended plant landscape materials.						
S-SI5.1	Adopt landscape standards for recommended plant landscape materials.	Fire Safe Councils to lead.	Research Firewise plants suitable for the region. Develop plant list, poster materials and research demonstration site. Firewise Communities USA: www.firewise.org	Educate property owners, landscape firms and landscape architects in appropriate ornamental plantings, mulches, and landscape design/ maintenance in WUI areas.	3	Next 2 years
Strategic Goal: SI6- Develop landscape contractor maintenance program for “Right Plant-- Right Place” and maintenance.						
S-SI6.1	Develop landscape contractor non-flammable plant list.	Fire Safe Councils to lead in cooperation with local homeowner association (HOA)	Firewise Communities USA: www.firewise.org	Educate property owners, landscape firms and landscape architects in appropriate ornamental plantings, mulches, and landscape design/ maintenance in WUI areas. Work with HOA.	2	Next 2 years
Strategic Goal: SI8- Interactive tool for citizens to use on line, ID their property and what hazard/risks exist and mitigations they can apply to improve their survivability.						
S-SI8.1	Work with County Fire to develop parcel level application of Community Wildfire Protection Plan risk assessment using Interra software.	Santa Clara County Fire Department with revised Interra contract	Interra	County Fire to pursue funding to increase contract provisions with Interra to provide public facing tool. Simplify tool and provide easy to follow instructions. Could develop You Tube informational video.	1	Next 3 years
Strategic Goal: SI11- Implement spring community yard clean-up days. In combination with Fire Safe Council chipper program.						
S-SI11.1	Implement community work day to encourage yard clean-up and defensible space maintenance.	County Fire, Municipal Fire Departments, CAL FIRE, Fire Safe Councils	Fire Safe Council chipping program Ready, Set, Go CAL FIRE	A community led day of yard clean-up with fire mitigation in mind would encourage large numbers within the community to carry-out mitigation measures and implementation of defensible space.	2	Next 2 years
Strategic Goal: SI12- Assess and improve accessibility to property. Weekend program to inform homeowners about emergency response access.						
S-SI12	Institute a weekend program to inform homeowners about emergency response access.	Fire departments, Fire Marshal	Firewise	Inform homeowners about the importance of keeping driveways accessible to fire trucks and emergency responders.	1	Within 1 year

Table 6.3. Recommendations for Improving Firefighting Capabilities in the City of Saratoga

ID	Project Description	Fire Department/Agency	Benefits of the Project to the community	Timeline	Priority (1.2.3)	Resources/funding sources available
Strategic Goal: FC2- Define Safe Refuge Areas and establish maintenance program in WUI areas where fire behavior and evacuation timing is problematic.						
S-FC2.1	Define and delineate spatially Safe Refuge Areas and establish maintenance program in WUI areas where fire behavior and evacuation timing is problematic. Example: Mountain Winery	County Fire/CAL FIRE/Fire Safe Councils	Provides safety measure for residents of rural areas in event that evacuation is limited. Provides for public and firefighter safety by creating escape routes.	2 years	1	Grants: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), California Fire Safe Council, Department of Homeland Security
Strategic Goal: FC5- Develop WUI preplans and accompanying evacuation plans for all WUI areas in Santa Clara County using standardized format.						
S-FC5.1	Develop WUI preplans and accompanying evacuation plans for Saratoga WUI.	County Fire/CAL FIRE/Fire Safe Councils	Helps fire response agencies pre-plan for evacuations. Helps identify areas where mitigation measures are needed to facilitate safe evacuation. Helps establish consistent model across all agencies.	1 year	1	Grants: FEMA, CA FSC, DHS
Strategic Goal: FC8: Where road systems are antiquated and do not provide for proper evacuation or two way flow, require removal of obstructions or upgrade to minimum 2 lanes road system over time.						
S-FC8.1	Address poor road access issues, develop long-term plan for road improvements and prioritized routes for evacuation.	City of Saratoga Planning	Alleviates evacuation concerns of residents living in areas with poor ingress/egress. Provides for improved response capabilities and reduces risk that responding emergency vehicles will conflict with evacuation of residents.	2 years	1	HOAs, Road Associations, City staff
Strategic Goal: FC11- Investigate and potentially install Fire Detection Robots to alert departments of a fire start in remote areas.						
S-FC11.1	Investigate installation of Fire Detection Robots on open space lands adjacent to Saratoga.	County Fire	Uses technology for single-tree wildfire detection solution that help forestry agencies and fire protection professionals manage the risks of fire damage cost-effectively.	Within 2 years	1	Private companies provide robotic technology

*Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Annex 6. City of Saratoga*

ID	Project Description	Fire Department/Agency	Benefits of the Project to the community	Timeline	Priority (1.2.3)	Resources/funding sources available
Strategic Goal: FC14- Where possible encourage sharing of water sources in areas where residential water supplies may be low or non-existent during periods of drought or when wells/springs have run dry.						
S-FC14.1	Address water shortage concerns, particularly at high elevations by following the model currently under way by Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire Company. Example: Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire Company is providing small grants to home owners to purchase and install additional water tanks on private residential lots where a reliable supply of water exists. These tanks then provide water for adjacent properties where a well or spring may be seasonal or dry.	Fire agencies, local community organizations, local water purveyors.	Encouragement and assistance from Fire Safe Council can provide a catalyst for action.	1–5 years	1	County Fire
Strategic Goal: FC15- Where Open Space and Park Agencies establish trail head parking areas, operating facilities such as horse stables and camping areas that will increase public access add large capacity water tanks and hydrants for wildfire protection.						
S-FC15.1	Installation of water tanks on Open Space property for fire suppression purposes.	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD will follow permitting requirements.); County Parks.	Alleviates public and agency concern for limited water supply in remote areas.	Within 5 years	3	This could eventually be amended into the building code.

Table 6.4. Fuel Reduction Treatment Recommendations in the City of Saratoga

ID	Project Description	Location and Responsible Party	Method	Serves to:	Timeline for Action	Priority (1,2,3)	Monitoring	Resources/funding sources available
Strategic Goal: FR1- Incorporate single track trails into fire defense system where practical								
S-FR1.1	Form a community working group to work with open space land managers to collaboratively develop fuel treatments plans on open space lands. Prioritize treatments along existing trails that could help to provide a more substantial fuel break and break up the continuity of fuels.	Open space lands: Trails that run adjacent to community.	Detailed analysis would be needed in development of treatment location to ensure protection of natural resources.	Provide access when fires occur to reduce spread. Enhance Community fire defense by breaking up fuel continuity.	Ongoing-long range	1	Regular monitoring to determine project success in reducing fuel loading and enhanced access.	Grants: California Fire Safe Council (CAFSC); California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP); Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Green House Gas Reduction Fund (GHGRF)
Strategic Goal: FR7- Develop roadside fuel treatment program, including suite of methods available and sustainability mechanism								
S-FR7.1	Implement roadside brushing/mowing throughout community to increase buffer from wildfire ignitions and provide for safe evacuation. Community members to approach SCCFSC to identify roadside fuel treatment priorities and seek funding to implement.	County and city road agencies; private road associations, PG&E, Cable and Phone companies. Led by SCCFSC.	Determine suite of treatment methods allowed and restriction for roadside hazard reduction including mowing, mastication, chemical, plantings, mulching, etc. Develop treatment plan and rotation schedule for roadside treatments, focusing of primary evacuation or access/egress corridors.	Reduce fuel loading around roads and highways to ensure safe passage of vehicles in event of evacuation and reduce unplanned ignitions from vehicles and highway users.	Within 2 years	1	Regular maintenance schedule should be implemented to ensure clearance levels are maintained. Develop standards for road crews.	Grants: CA FSC; CFIP; NRCS, FEMA, GHGRF

*Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Annex 6. City of Saratoga*

ID	Project Description	Location and Responsible Party	Method	Serves to:	Timeline for Action	Priority (1,2,3)	Monitoring	Resources/funding sources available
Strategic Goal: FR9- Establish assistance program for hazardous fuel reduction for physically or fiscally challenged parcels								
S-FR9.1	Establish assistance program for hazardous fuel reduction and defensible space for elderly or physically challenged individuals within Saratoga.	Saratoga neighborhood groups, Home Owner Association (HOA).	Identify barriers to achieving parcel level defensible space and establish assistance program of resources: education, consulting, guidance, people, funding.	Ensure that individual properties with poor property hygiene do not put adjoining properties at risk in event of wildfire. For residents who are not capable of implementing good property hygiene.	Within 2 years	2	Establish levels of participation by assistance type.	Grants: CA FSC; CFIP; NRCS, FEMA, GHGRF
Strategic Goal: FR 11- Create Sustainable programs for creating Defensible Space at the parcel Level.								
S-R11.1	Create Sustainable programs for creating Defensible Space at the parcel Level within Saratoga.	Home Owner, Fire Safe Councils, Home Owner Associations, County Fire, Administrators for SRA fee distributions.	Example projects: Curbside green waste pickup programs, community chipping piles, drive-up chipping, on site chipping.	Ensure that defensible space actions are sustained in all communities.	Within 1 year	1	Regular maintenance schedule should be implemented to ensure clearance levels are maintained.	Grants: CA FSC; CFIP; NRCS, FEMA, GHGRF

Table 6.5. Recommendations for General Planning Projects in City of Saratoga

ID	Project Description	Method	Timeline for Action	Priority (1,2,3)	Monitoring/Sustainability	Resources/Funding Sources Available
Strategic Goal GP1: Ensure project sustainability.						
S- GP1.1	The CWPP serves as the wildfire component of Saratoga LHMP and General Plan - Safety and other element amendments.	Work with city planning to identify timeline for incorporation in next LHMP update. Aim to have the strategic-level CWPP incorporated into the Safety Element of the General Plan when the safety element is next revised. Getting it into the General Plan is equivalent to getting the CWPP adopted.	Next 5 years	2	The core group of stakeholders would need to ensure that the document is kept relevant in that time and position it for incorporation.	Internal funding

*Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Annex 6. City of Saratoga*

ID	Project Description	Method	Timeline for Action	Priority (1,2,3)	Monitoring/Sustainability	Resources/Funding Sources Available
Strategic Goal GP3: Ensure project sustainability.						
S- GP3.1	Ensure project sustainability.	Have a target date for updating the datasets used in the risk assessment model and re-running the model. Establish trigger points for updating CWPP. Make contact with Santa Clara County Fire Department to note your interest in participating in the project and identify CWPP meeting schedule.	Annually	1	Establish annual oversight of the CWPP and project status. Get buy-in from Core Team members for long-term commitment to CWPP review.	Internal funding
S- GP3.2	Designate a member to the Countywide CWPP Core Team for CWPP updates.	Identify staff and convene a kickoff of the working group and identify tasks and goals for CWPP updates.	Meet quarterly	1	Commit to attendance at one CWPP meeting annually.	Internal funding
S- GP3.3	Develop methods for sustainability of hazardous fuel reduction.	Develop action for city council to adopt method to fund sustainable hazardous fuel maintenance (such as Mello-Roos Community Facility Districts for new subdivisions).	As needed	2	Enactment of policy.	Internal funding
Strategic Goal GP4: Parcel Level Defensible Space Inspection Task Force						
S-GP4.1	Join countywide task force to do parcel level inspection work to enhance model; utilize portable data collection and ArcGIS as analysis tools.	Carryout parcel level assessments to enhance risk assessment model components at a finer scale. Add data to model and re-run as necessary.	2 years	1	Set target number of parcels to be assessed each year. Review number of parcels assessed each year at annual CWPP meeting.	Internal funding
Strategic Goal GP5: Develop countywide standard and method for continued data gathering and risk analysis.						
S-GP5.1	Use a countywide standard and method for continued data gathering and risk analysis.	Conduct funding to purchase a commercial application, such as Fulcrum, that provides a standard data collection platform that could be used on a smart phone/tablet.	2 years	1	Annual review of progress as part of Core Team.	California Fire Safe Council clearinghouse grants; internal funding
Strategic Goal GP7: Add hyperspectral and LiDAR imaging to periodic aerial photography flights.						
S-GP7	Seek LiDAR and hyperspectral imagery for aerial photography of Saratoga.	Work in conjunction with the City Planning, County Assessor, or others to add additional sensing cameras to aerial photo flights. Hyperspectral and LiDAR can provide in depth identification and analysis of hazards and risks.	1–3 years	1	Periodic new flights to update data sets.	Grants: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Greenhouse Gas Reduction