

**Title:** Sustainability Subcommittee Discussion

**From:** Elena Lee, Interim Advance Planning Manager, Planning and Community Environment Department

### **Background**

At their August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Palo Alto City Council directed that the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) form subcommittees to assist the CAC and staff with a “deeper dive” into the subject matter of each element of the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan). The subcommittee meetings are to be fully noticed and publicly available, but they are not required to be Brown Act-regulated bodies. The CAC voted to adopt a subcommittee process and appointed members as proposed by the co-chairs at the October 20, 2015 CAC meeting. This memo provides instructions and background material to facilitate the discussion for the Sustainability Subcommittee.

### **What to Expect at the Meeting:**

The role of the Sustainability Subcommittee will be different from that of the other subcommittees because this topic will be incorporated through almost all, if not all, of the elements. The process for each element would be for the subcommittee to meet before a draft is completed to identify the key issues and implications. The subcommittee will then provide a summary of their discussion to the CAC. Following the completion of a draft element, the subcommittee would provide feedback and/or edits on the policies and programs based on those previously identified issues and to ensure that sustainability concepts are adequately represented. The process would be different from the Transportation and Community Services and Facilities Elements as they are already drafted. However, your feedback is still requested from the sustainability perspective. The draft Community Services and Facilities Element is currently being revised per direction from the City Council and the Community Services and Facilities Subcommittee. Sustainability concepts have been incorporated based on discussions with the CAC in 2015.

The purpose of this subcommittee meeting is to identify the key issues of the Land Use and Community Design Element for the CAC’s consideration at the March 15, 2016 meeting. Because land use and transportation element are so interlinked, you may want to review the draft Transportation Element as you consider land use. Staff also requests that the Subcommittee also review and provide feedback on the draft Transportation and Element. You may also want to review the December 15 CAC staff report for background information the existing Land Use and Community Design Element. This subcommittee’s comments will inform the subcommittee’s work for each element. Gil Friend, the Chief Sustainability Officer, will also be available to attend a portion of the meeting and can answer questions about the Sustainable Climate Adaptation Plan (SCAP) status and schedule as well as the annual Earth Day update to the City Council.

Staff requests at March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting that the subcommittee discuss the following:

1. Discuss what the concept of sustainability is and what the key issues are generally for the overall Comprehensive Plan.
2. Discuss what the key issues of sustainability are in the Land Use and Community Design Element
  - a. Noting concepts that need further CAC discussion
  - b. Drafting a framework for CAC discussion
3. Review and provide feedback on policies and/or programs that are related to sustainability in the draft Transportation Element

### **Attachments**

- A. Draft Transportation Element (February 9, 2016)
- B. December 15, 2016 CAC Staff Report on Land Use Element