



**City of Gilroy**  
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DATE: September 10, 2014

TO: Gilroy GPAC

FROM: Stan Ketchum, Senior Planner  
General Plan Project Manager

SUBJECT: **Overview of GPAC Meeting Agenda and Packet Materials**

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This memo provides an overview of the agenda and packet materials for the September 10, 2014 GPAC meeting. The September meeting consists of two presentations which are discussed in the following agenda item descriptions. For each item, time will be allotted for Q&A and discussion by the GPAC, and specific questions will be asked of the GPAC to stimulate discussion.

This is the first of two meetings consisting of presentations and discussions on topics relating to the development of the land use alternatives for the new General Plan. The November, 2014 GPAC meeting will also consist of additional informational presentations.

**Agenda Item IV. Winds of Change: Adapting Our Communities to the Changing Realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** - Presentation by Don Weden, Retired Principal Planner, Santa Clara County

Don Weden is a retired Principal Planner from Santa Clara County Planning Department. He managed the Comprehensive Planning Section of the Santa Clara County Planning Office for many years prior to his retirement. He managed a wide array of planning studies, including the last comprehensive revision of the County's General Plan. Since his retirement, Don has taken on the role of an unpaid community advisor and educator. Through his presentations, Don encourages local communities to prepare for the significant changes and challenges that will be coming our way in the years ahead – and that will greatly impact our lives and those of our children and future generations. Don's presentation will address the differences between cyclical changes and structural changes. He will identify various changes currently underway and provide detailed comments on structural changes related to demographics, economy and the environment, among others. The changes and challenges identified by Don have significant, long-term implications and the GPAC will be asked to consider how the information may affect our new General Plan and alternatives analysis. Don has given similar presentations to many jurisdictions during their General Plan projects, including recently Morgan Hill. In 2013, he was inducted into the Planner Emeritus Network of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association.

*Agenda Item Objective: The GPAC will receive the presentation and have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topics presented. No action required.*

**Agenda Item V. Presentation of the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority Santa Clara Valley Greenprint.** Presentation by Matt Freeman, Assistant General Manager, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority. In March of this year, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (OSA) published the Santa Clara Valley Greenprint, described as a land and resource conservation vision that provides strategies for open space land acquisition and stewardship for the protection of water, wildlife, greenbelts, farms and ranchlands, and for connecting urban residents to nature.” The plan includes 10 priority Conservation Focus Areas identified to have the highest potential for return on investment in natural resources, recreation and agriculture. Two of these areas are located within the Gilroy Sphere-of-Influence.

The Gilroy 2040 General Plan Vision acknowledges Gilroy’s “excellent schools, **agriculture**, and downtown,” and the Guiding Principles include “supporting a balanced growth management strategy that protects productive agricultural lands and sensitive wildlife habitats while allowing for new economic opportunities.” With an understanding of the OSA’s Greenprint and high level objectives, the GPAC will be asked to discuss implications and trade-offs of agriculture preservation in the context of the alternatives analysis.

**Agenda Item Objective:** *The GPAC will receive the presentation and have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topics presented.*

**Packet Materials**

Hard copies of the packet materials are included for all GPAC members. This meeting’s packet materials include the following:

- August 13, 2014 GPAC Meeting Minutes with Alternatives Concept Survey Results  
Note: Surveys will be available for members who did not attend the meeting and would like to complete the survey.

**Resource Materials**

Resource materials are posted on the General Plan website under the September 10, 2014 GPAC Meeting. These are optional reading materials for the GPAC to consider should they want to gain a better understanding of the meeting topics.

- Santa Clara Valley Greenprint
- Other material to be added by the end of the day on Friday, September 5, 2014.

Should you have any questions about the packet material prior to the meeting, please contact me at (408) 846-0566 or stan.ketchum@cityofgilroy.org.