

STUDY SESSION OF THE FOSTER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Council Chambers – 620 Foster City Boulevard – Foster City

MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Williams

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Avram, Dyckman, Pattum, Wykoff and Chairman Williams

Staff Present: Curtis Banks, Community Development Director; Leslie Carmichael, Consultant Planner;

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. TO REVIEW A DRAFT SAFETY ELEMENT/LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Leslie Carmichael & Jenelle Masterson gave the staff report.

Wykoff: Have we done recent studies to determine potential for liquefaction?

Carmichael: The data we've used is from the ABAG Open Data source, which used the latest information available as of 2015.

Wykoff: I think in about 1983 we had soils testing done throughout the City and only an area near the Lutheran Church was found to be susceptible to liquefaction. Then in 1989 we had some small areas of liquefaction. I just don't agree with the data on the maps. The City is on engineered fill.

Carmichael: We could add information about the local experience and soils testing but we can't ignore the published USGS data.

Dyckman: The map data from USGS is based on soil type criteria and therefore we have a high potential for liquefaction. It's a rather poor blanket statement by USGS that is overly conservative. What's more important to me is that we go from the maps to the tables on page 3.102-103 and the tables show zero acres subject to liquefaction. The document needs to be consistent. The document should show data to support the conclusions. We should look back at the soils reports and cite those results.

Moneda: Being a former geotechnical engineer, this language is typical. We have a very high ground water table. Combining that with the engineered fill, the blow counts for soils investigations, the counts are very low due to the high groundwater table.

This language is typical for cities with this condition. We can review recent studies and review the language and provide an update.

Dyckman: The plan needs a discussion of lateral spreading and lurching added. A description of what they are and whether they affect the City would be appropriate.

Wykoff: In the presentation of the information, it should be emphasized that we attempt to mitigate hazards prior to any event. Rather than just address what we do when we respond, it should be stressed that we try to mitigate the hazards prior to having to respond.

Dyckman: Can you explain seclusion?

Moneda: The FEMA Coastal Study found that our levees are not sufficient and don't meet FEMA's current standards. We have asked FEMA to give us a Seclusion Mapping Zone temporarily so that as long as we are making progress toward raising the levee, they will not require flood hazard insurance.

Avram: I'm glad that the outreach took place, but there's still a lot to do to prepare for events.

Williams: It really brought a lot of things together regarding looking at hazards. I looked at other jurisdictions and found that some have different hazards like wildfires. It's an education process for our residents and we need to help with that education process.

Banks: We will address your comments. The next step is to take it to the City Council. Then it will be reviewed by other agencies. Then it will come back to you for final review.

4. STATEMENTS AND REQUESTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:55p.m. to a Regular Meeting, February 4, 2016, Council Chambers, 620 Foster City Boulevard, Foster City, California.

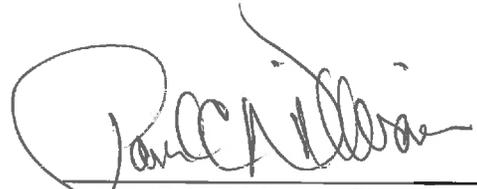
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Planning Commission of the City of Foster City at a Regular Meeting thereof held on February 4, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES, COMMISSIONERS:

NOES, COMMISSIONERS:

ABSTAIN, COMMISSIONERS:

ABSENT, COMMISSIONERS:



PAUL C. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



CURTIS BANKS, SECRETARY