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**Staff Report Summary and Recommendation for update to  
Wasatch Canyons General Plan**

**Public Body: Salt Lake County Council**

**Meeting Date: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Planner: Jake Young / Legal: Zach Shaw**

**Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission Recommendation: Approval**

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**ADDENDUM**

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This document is an addendum to the original staff report issued for the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 County Council meeting. This document includes the proposed text and map changes to the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. An additional Public Comments page is provided as a separate document.

The most recent version of the Wasatch Canyons General Plan and mentioned plans in this document (CWPP, HMP, EOP) can be found at the project webpage under plans <https://slco.org/planning-transportation/wasatch-canyons-general-plan-update/>

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**PLANNING STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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After public input, Council discussion, comments and questions, and follow up discussion between legal counsel, UFA and the Mayor's office, the following text and map changes are recommended by Staff.

General Plan Text Recommendations

**Topic Environment/ Natural Hazard Preparation**

- 1) It is recommended that the following strategies be added or revised under the Environment section goals of chapters 2-6 under "PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS IN THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS."

Text addition/strategy - "The County supports the study of reasonably viable emergency egress, shelter in place alternatives, and other mitigation tactics in the Canyons in the event of natural hazards, which could include fires, flooding, avalanches, landslides and earthquakes." This would be added on pages 47, 71, 98, 125, 150.

- 2) Existing text "The County supports the preparation of Emergency Operations Plans ~~and will assist in preparation of plans, which should consider shelter, food, water, medical care, communication, transportation and other essential items."~~

Proposed new text - "The County supports the following existing emergency plans: the Salt Lake County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and the Salt Lake County Multi-Hazard Multi-Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan (HMP). In addition, the County supports the development of a

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Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for Salt Lake County that will assist in preparation of county-wide emergency plans through collaboration with UFA, County Emergency Management, and other government agencies. Such plans do and will consider hazard mitigation, shelter, food, water, medical care, communication, transportation, post incident mitigation and other essential items needed for emergencies.” This would be added on pages 47, 71, 98, 125, 150.

- 3) Existing text “The County supports a ~~Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to ensure adequate emergency preparedness plans and supplies and will assist in preparing the Canyons in the event a wildfire should occur.~~”

Proposed new text - “The County supports the Salt Lake **County** Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that addresses wildfire issues, including fuels reduction strategies. The County anticipates regular coordination with UFA and other state, local and federal agencies in reviewing the CWPP.” This would be added on pages 47, 71, 98, 125, 150.

- 4) Text addition/strategy “In case of wildfire incidents, the County will work with partner agencies (e.g., Forest Service, State of Utah, water agencies) to ensure that grant monies are pursued for post fire recovery, including watershed recovery issues, to the extent reasonably feasible.” This would be added on pages 47, 71, 98, 125, 150.
- 5) Text addition/strategy “The County supports the continuing assessment by the UFA of current water supply capacity in the Canyons for fire protection.” This would be added on pages 47, 71, 98, 125, 150.

**Topic Land Use**

- 6) GOAL: REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS NEEDED, TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES OF THE GENERAL PLAN

Existing Text - “The County will review the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ) and Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) to compare goal and strategy alignments or conflicts with the General Plan.”

Proposed text “The County will review the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ), Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) and other related Canyon ordinances to compare goals and strategies alignments or conflicts with the General Plan. This shall include a review of defensible spaces and other best practices to reduce wildfire risk. In connection with any potential update of such ordinances, the County intends to solicit public input and work with partner agencies (which may include the Forest Service, SLCPU, the MSD, Town of Brighton and Town of Alta) and property owners.” This would be revised on pages 42, 67, 93, 120, 145.

- 7) Map Change – On Land Use Maps replace U.S. Forest Service land use designation with “Forestry” this matches County zoning and uses found in Chapter one. These maps are found on pages 38, 64, 87, 116 and 142.

## Topic Water Background

- 8) Staff recommends the removal of the following statements found on pages 94 and 121 “~~By ordinance, Salt Lake City is prohibited from entering into additional surplus water agreements to allow additional development~~” and replace with “**Salt Lake City is not authorized to enter into additional or expanded water agreements in the watershed areas except as allowed under the City’s code 17.04.020.**”

## Topic Recreation

- 9) GOAL: IMPROVE THE RECREATION USER EXPERIENCE WHILE PREPARING FOR FUTURE DEMAND

Text addition/strategy - “**The County to consider the usage of visitor studies through collaboration and support of partner agencies, which may include Forest Service, SLCPU, UDOT, UTA, CWC, Town of Brighton, and Town of Alta. Visitor study assessments shall involve the public and support by partner agencies with jurisdictional authority.**” This would be added on pages 53, 77, 105, 133, 156.

- 10) Map Change - Recreation Sections from the Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood chapters include a Destination Nodes map. These maps are found on pages 74, 100 and 127.

~~Removal of specific items for nodes “Primary Nodes—anticipated to provide restrooms, public transportation stops, parking, and trash receptacles Secondary Nodes —anticipated to provide designated parking and trash receptacles~~

We proposed changing destinations maps to say “**Primary Nodes with parking and needed amenities. Secondary nodes with parking and fewer amenities. Actual node designs will be according to jurisdictional authority, with input from landowners. Potential amenities could include transit stops, parking, restrooms, potable water, secure trash/recycle, bicycle stations and trail signs/maps.**”

- 11) Chapter One - Under other OTHER PLANS AND STUDIES on page 8 add “**Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan (2019)**” <https://www.cottonwoodheights.utah.gov/home/showdocument?id=1824>
- 12) Action Item Change - On pages 111, 138 action item states “Parking Management Plan - Encourage and support the Forest Service, UDOT, Ski Resorts, CWC, and others with the development of a parking management plan. Plan Near (0-5 years) Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Ski Resorts/ **CWC/local municipalities, UTA, public and landowners**”

Suggested change to include “**local municipalities, UTA, public and landowners**” to list of participants.

## **Topic Introduction**

13) Near beginning of Chapter One add the following.

Text addition/strategy - “If the County receives any formal proposal that requires a planning-related decision but is not specifically mentioned in this General Plan, it is generally understood that the applicable County authority should consider the vision statements, goals and strategies set forth in this General Plan in a holistic manner in connection with any formal recommendation or final action regarding such matter.”

This would be added on page 1.

It is Staff’s opinion that this General Plan meets all the requirements of State Code for General Plans. It is also Staff’s opinion that the plan has gone through a rigorous public process with significant involvement by partner agencies and key stakeholders. The plan provides general goals with strategies, policies, and actions to provide the County with guidance for planning and managing the Canyons.

It is Staff’s recommendation that the plan be adopted with proposed text changes (listed above) after hearing public comments, discussion and vetting any concerns.