

ORDINANCE NO 1 – 2025

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE SARATOGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND EVACUATION ROUTES
AND RELATED STANDARDS FOR THEIR OPERATION AND
IMPROVEMENT IN THOSE PARTS OF THE DISTRICT SUSCEPTIBLE TO
VERY HIGH FIRE DANGER AND DESCRIBED AS THE WILDLAND
URBAN INTERFACE AREA**

RECITALS:

- A. The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Saratoga Fire Protection District (“District”) is an independent Special District Operating under the provisions of California Health and Safety Code, Division 12 and specifically Parts 2.7, the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 sections 13800 – 13970.
- B. The District has conducted several public meetings at which it has heard and considered testimony and reports from members of the public, representatives and employees of the Santa Clara County Fire Department with which District contracts for fire protection services, and professional traffic consultants retained by District regarding the designation of emergency response and evacuation routes in the district with related standards for their operation and physical improvement of such routes;
- C. Section 13801 of the California Health and Safety Code declares that District may provide fire protection services, rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services, ambulance services, and other services related to the protection of lives and property, a function critical to the public peace, health, and safety of the residents and citizens of the State of California;
- D. Section 13861 of the California Health and Safety Code states that a district may exercise all rights and powers, expressed or implied, including but not limited to establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations for the administration, operation, and maintenance of services listed in section 13862 which are: fire protection services, rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services, ambulance services, and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.
- E. The District Board in the exercise of these powers by this ordinance

establishes emergency response and evacuation routes and related standards for their operation and improvement in those parts of the district susceptible to very high fire danger and described as the wildland urban interface area (WUI.)

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Saratoga Fire Protection District ordains as follows:

SECTION 1: Findings

The Board of Fire Commissioners finds and determines as follows:

- A. Certain areas of the District, generally the area to the west of Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and south of the Saratoga-Los Gatos Road have been designated as the Wildland – Urban Interface Fire Area (WUI.) This includes areas designated as WUI on the City of Saratoga’s Wildland – Urban Interface Fire Area Map defined as any land covered with grass, grain, brush or forest which is so situated or is of such inaccessible location, that a fire originating upon such land would present an abnormally difficult job of suppression or would result in great and unusual damage through fire or resulting erosion. Response time is a crucial life safety issue for safety personnel responding to fires and/or medical emergencies. The response time of emergency equipment to calls for aid in the WUI is impaired due to the (1) nonavailability of access to some portions of such areas; (2) steep, narrow streets, bridges and roadways located in such areas, some with traffic calming improvements known as speed bumps; (3) lack of connecting streets and roadways in such areas; and (4) the unusual topography of such areas. Further, the presence of heavy vegetation in the WUI increases the potential for the rapid spread of any fire started in such areas particularly during seasonal dry spells.
- B. The City of Saratoga in its 2013 Safety Element identified the main evacuation routes within and surrounding the city. Although the Safety Element has been superseded by the city’s General Plan 2040, that element does not identify evacuation routes.

- C. The following roadways are identified as primary emergency response and evacuation routes in the district's WUI;
1. Big Basin Way (State Route 9)
 2. Mount Eden Road
 3. Pierce Road
 4. Prospect Road
 5. Sara Hills Drive/Verde Vista Lane
 6. Saratoga Sunnyvale Road/Saratoga Los Gatos Road (State Route 9)
 7. Sixth Street/Bohlman Road
- D. The WUI includes many developed areas that have only single ingress/egress roadways. Parcels of property that rely on these roadways to access the transportation network are constrained to one emergency evacuation route. These roadways are considered "single access roadways", and parcels along these roadways are considered "constrained access parcels."
- E. The WUI presently has four public roadways with existing traffic calming devices known as "speed humps" which have been installed for the purpose of slowing down speeding vehicles and discouraging regional traffic from cutting through residential neighborhoods:
1. Reid Lane
 2. Elva Avenue
 3. Lomita Avenue
 4. Mendelsohn Lane
- F. Speed humps are a type of vertical deflection device that raises the pavement, forcing vehicles to drive over them at slower speed. As reported in the Emergency Response Analysis for the Saratoga Fire Protection District, California dated October 7, 2024, prepared by Hexagon Transportation Consultants, Inc., speed humps can delay fire trucks by up to three (3) to five (5) seconds. Delays on an ambulance with a patient can be as much as ten (10) seconds.
- G. The Guidelines for the Design and Application of Speed Humps published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers recommends not installing speed humps on roadways that are primary or routine emergency vehicle routes. The International Fire Code section 503.4.1 states the traffic calming measures placed on fire apparatus access roads "shall be prohibited unless approved by the fire code official"
- H. Based upon a review of benchmarks for response times adopted by the SCCFD the Hexagon Analysis calculated a benchmark travel time of six (6) minutes for an emergency response vehicle to drive to an incident

requiring emergency services.

- I. Since traffic calming devices such as speed humps could potentially slow down emergency response vehicles, and multiple speed humps are typically installed along the roadway to ensure their effectiveness, the Hexagon Analysis reduced the benchmark travel time by one minute to a five- (5) minute travel time threshold for its analysis. The Hexagon Analysis concludes that streets with response times greater than 5 minutes should not have traffic calming installed. This is the five (5) minute standard.
- J. The Santa Clara County Fire Department (SCCFD) has adopted Standard Details and Specifications on speed humps and speed tables (the latter being longer versions of speed humps.) The Standard Details and specifications, A-2, effective 12/12/18 and revised 07/0/20 state that Speed humps/Speed Tables shall not be installed along primary emergency response routes as determined by the SCCFD.
- K. The district contracts with the SCCFD for fire and emergency medical services. Section 4.2 entitled Emergency Operations Services in the Fire and Emergency Medical Services agreement provides, in section 4.2.2, that SCCFD and District shall cooperate in the preparation, maintenance, and execution of civil defense and disaster plans for emergency operations.
- L. The public safety and welfare necessitate the designation of certain roadways as primary emergency response and evacuation routes along with the confirmation that speed humps and speed tables shall not be permitted in those roadways. Notwithstanding any conclusions based upon sections I and J above, the Board finds and determines that speed humps, speed tables and related traffic calming devices shall be prohibited as described below.

SECTION 2: Roadway Restrictions for Traffic Calming- Primary Emergency Evacuation routes

A. The following roads are designated as primary emergency response and evacuation routes:

- 1. Big Basin Way (State Route 9)
- 2. Mount Eden Road
- 3. Pierce Road
- 4. Prospect Road
- 5. Sara Hills Drive/Verde Vista Lane
- 6. Saratoga Sunnyvale Road/Saratoga Los Gatos Road (State Route 9)
- 7. Sixth Street/Bohlman Road
- 8. The foregoing roadways may be shown in green on a map to be

- made available for public inspection
- B. Traffic calming devices such as speed humps or speed tables are prohibited on these roadways

SECTION 3: Roadway Restrictions for Traffic Calming-Single Access Roadways Outside 5 Minute Standard

The following roads are designated as single access roadways outside of an area for which an emergency response travel time is five (5) minutes or less:

- A. 1. Albar Court
2. Apollo Hills Court
3. Archibald Drive
4. Bay Springs Road
5. Belnap Way
6. Chiquita Way-Chadwick Court
7. Deer Trail Court
8. Dorene Court
9. Edencrest Lane
10. Garrod Drive
11. Heber Way
12. Kittridge Road
13. Masson Court
14. Montevina Road
15. Mount Eden Court
16. Mountain Winery Road
17. McGill Road
18. Old Oak Way
19. Palomino Way
20. Picea Court
21. Pike Road
22. Quarry Road
23. Toll Gate Road
24. Vaquero Court
25. Via Regina
26. Villa Oaks Lane
27. Wild Cat Road

(21) The foregoing roadways may be shown in purple on a map to be made available for public inspection.

-
- B. Traffic calming devices such as speed humps or speed tables are prohibited on these roadways.

SECTION 4: Roadway Restrictions for Traffic Calming-Roadways Providing Direct Access to Single Access Roadways Set forth in Section 3 Above

The following roads provide direct access to the roads designated in section 3 above:

- A. 1. Comer Drive-Star Ridge Court-Palmer Ranch Court
 - 2. Damon Lane
 - 3. Norton Road-Quickert Road-On Orbit Lane
 - 4. The foregoing roadways may be shown in red on a map to be made available for public inspection.
- B. Traffic Calming devices such as speed humps or speed tables are prohibited on these roadways.

SECTION 5: Roadways identified as falling within the findings set out in Section 1 paragraph L Above

The following roads shall be restricted as set forth herein:

- A. 1. Canyon View Drive-Reid Lane to the Gate
 - 2. Fourth (4th) Street to State Route 9
 - 3. Hakone Estate and Gardens access Road
 - 4. Hidden View Lane-Gate to Bohlman Road\
 - 5. Mendelsohn Lane
 - 6. Montalvo Road-State Route 9 to Montalvo arts Center
 - 7. Piedmont Road-Montalvo Aarts center to Mendelsohn Lane
 - 8. Reid Lane-Canyon View Drive to Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road
 - 9. Springer Avenue-4th Street to State Route 9
 - 10. The foregoing roadways ay be shown in blue on a map to be made available for public inspection.
- B. Traffic calming devices such as speed humps or speed tables are prohibited on these roadways.

SECTION 6 :Fire Gates

- A. Fire gates are located on the following streets:
 - 1. Between shopping center at 12870 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and the end of Pierce Road.
 - 2. Between Odd Fellows Drive and Chester Avenue (near the Saratoga Retirement Community.)
 - 3. Between the parking lot of Fellowship Plaza Building B (14520 Fruitvale Avenue) and Chester Avenue.

4. Between Crips Avenue and Via De Marcos.
5. Between Vila Oaks Lane and Quarry Road.
6. At the end of Piek Road east of Perata Court.
7. Between Toll Gate Road and Canyon View Drive.
8. Between Hakone Gardens parking lot and Hidden View Lane.
9. Between Saratoga Elementary School and Forrest Hills Drive.
10. At the southern end of Bohlman Road near the Montevina Ridge

Trailhead.

B. Fire gates shall be inspected annually.

C. Regulations for maintenance and operation shall be developed by the Chief of the SCCFD or the Chief's designate.

SECTION 7: Administration and Enforcement

A. Enforcement Officer. The Chief of the SCCFD or authorized representative shall have authority to administer and enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

B. Infraction Offense. Any violation of this Ordinance shall constitute an infraction for public nuisance for which penalties may be imposed and sought by the district as provided by law.

SECTION 8: Partial Invalidity

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Saratoga Fire Protection District hereby declares it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be held invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 9: Effective date.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its passage and adoption.

SECTION 10: Posting and Publication.

The full text of this Ordinance shall be posted in the office of the Clerk of the District for at least five (5) days prior to the date of adoption. The District Clerk is instructed to publish a summary of this Ordinance within fifteen (15) days after the date of adoption and to post the full text of this Ordinance in the Clerk's office, along with the names of the Fire Commissioners voting for and against the Ordinance.

The above Ordinance was regularly introduced and after the waiting time required by law, was thereafter passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Saratoga Fire Protection District held on the ____ day of _____, by the following vote:

AYES;

NOES;

ABSENT;

7

Ernest Kraule, Board chair

ATTEST

Trina Whitley, District Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM;

Marc Hynes, District Counsel

