Memo

To: Residents of, and Applicants to, the Town of Woodside

From: Jackie Young, AICP CEP, Planning Director

Date: January 27, 2022

Re: SB 9 Projects in the Town of Woodside & the Petition to List the Southern California/Central Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) of Mountain Lions as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), currently under review by the California Department of Fish and Game Commission

The Town Council adopted an Urgency Ordinance on December 14, 2021, and a regular, mirrored Ordinance on January 11, 2022, which amended Chapter 151, Subdivisions, and Chapter 153, Zoning, to implement SB 9 in Woodside. The Town Council also adopted a Resolution on December 14, 2021, approving Objective Design Standards for SB 9 projects.

On January 25, 2022, the Town Council considered public testimony concerning the Petition (Petition) to List the Southern California/Central Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) of Mountain Lions as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), which is currently under review by the California Department of Fish and Game Commission; and its relationship to SB 9, Atkins.

The full Petition can be viewed at:

The Petition was accepted by the California Department of Fish and Game Commission, and the Commission declared the identified mountain lion species as a candidate species on April 21, 2020:
Under CESA, candidate species are afforded the same protection as listed species. The Petition includes six subpopulations, one of which is the Central Coast North (Santa Cruz Mountains), also known as CC-N. Page 3 of the Petition, Figure ES-1, shows the habitat range of the CC-N population, which includes the entire Town of Woodside.

Woodside Municipal Code Section 153.983.A.5, responsive to and compliant with SB 9, excludes SB 9 projects from:

“land identified as habitat for protected species identified as candidate, sensitive, or species of special status by state or federal agencies, fully protected species, or species protected by the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), or the Native Plant Protection Act (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 1900) of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code).”

Given that Woodside – in its entirety – is habitat for a candidate species, no parcel within Woodside is currently eligible for an SB 9 project.

The Town is currently awaiting a final determination on the Petition by the California Fish and Game Commission. Additional memorandums will be posted to the Town website as the review of the Petition progresses.