



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: CITY CLERK VÁZQUEZ FLORES

SUBJECT: WATSONVILLE PLANNED GROWTH AND FARMLAND PROTECTION INITIATIVE PETITION REPORT REGARDING CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 9212

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

On June 3, 2021, the City Clerk received a Notice of Intention to Circulate Petition entitled Watsonville Planned Growth and Farmland Protection Initiative (see attachment) to extend the existing voter approval requirement for amendments to the City's Urban Limit Line and Development Timing Initiative to November 30, 2040.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion directing the City Manager to complete a report on any or all of the following:

- Fiscal Impact
- Its effect on General and Specific Plans, Housing Element, consistency with Planning and Zoning
- Its effect on use of land; impact on the availability and location of housing, and ability of the City to meet its regional housing needs.
- Impact on funding for infrastructure of all types (transportation, schools, parks, open space)
- Impact on the community's ability to attract and retain businesses
- Impact on the use of vacant parcels
- Impact on agricultural lands, open space, traffic congestion
- Any other matters of interest to the Council

DISCUSSION:

On November 5, 2002, the voters of the City of Watsonville approved the Urban Limit Line and Development Timing Initiative to amend the Watsonville 2005 General Plan to impose certain restrictions on growth and future amendments as provided on the Initiative.

On June 3, 2021, the City Clerk received a Notice of Intention to Circulate Petition entitled Watsonville Planned Growth and Farmland Protection Initiative to extend the existing initiative.

Section 9212 of the Election Code authorizes the Council to refer the proposed initiative to a city agency for a report during circulation of the petition on any or all the above items. The report shall be presented to the Council, within a prescribed time by the Council, but no later than 30 days after the City Clerk certifies the sufficiency of the petition.

The signatures need to be submitted to the City Clerk no later than December 15, 2021 (180 days after receipt of the ballot title and summary from the City Clerk (June 18, 2021).

The City Clerk has 30 days (excluding weekends and holidays) to examine the signatures and certify the results to the Council at their next regular meeting (Election Code Section 9114).

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The project is consistent with all the seven Strategic Plan priorities: 1-Housing, 2-Fiscal Health, 3-Infrastructure & Environment, 4-Economic Development, 5-Community Engagement & Well-Being, 6-Public Safety, and 7-Efficient and High Performing Government.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

At this time, the cost is unknown; however, if there is a need for an additional appropriation, staff will return to Council for authorization.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The Council could elect to wait until after the petition is filed to ascertain if the petition is sufficient. However, that would not provide enough time to prepare a comprehensive report.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

- 1) Initiative Planned Growth Farmland Protection
- 2) California Elections Code Section 9212.