

# Bird-Safe Development Policies and Guidelines

Planning Commission Study Session

10/28/2019



CUPERTINO

# Background

- FY 2019/2020 City Council Work Program Item
- 1/3rd of US bird species (more than 200) affected
- 2.9+ billion birds in North America lost since 1970

# Why is this important?

- Birds are critical to our ecosystem and provide benefits such as:
  - Plant pollination
  - Seed dispersal
  - Insect and rodent control



# Factors Linked to Bird Strikes

- Glazing:
  - Large expanses of exposed reflective and
  - Transparent glass
- Bright lighting

# Bird Hazards - Reflectivity



# Bird Hazards - Transparency



# Bird Hazards - Lighting



## Cities with Bird-Safe policies

- San Francisco
- Toronto
- Portland
- Alameda
- Santa Cruz
- Oakland
- Sunnyvale

## Policy Considerations - Glazing

- Prohibit/limit use of glass as main exterior building material
- Limit untreated glass near parks, green space, bodies of water, vegetated areas

## Policy Considerations - Glazing

- Prohibit glass features (e.g. glass skywalks, freestanding glass walls, etc.)
- Limit design elements like glass atriums or tunnels with interior landscaping

# Bird-Safe Solutions



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# Bird-Safe Solutions



# Policy Considerations - Glazing

- Exemptions for:
  - Historical buildings
  - Small residential buildings
  - Retail frontages

# Policy Considerations - Lighting

- Overlaps with Dark Sky policies
- Examples include:
  - Prohibit/limit certain types of lighting
  - Limit hours for internal and external lighting

# Applicability Options

- New buildings
- New additions
- Remodels and retrofits

## Recommended Action

- Provide direction on policy options