



Memorandum

TO: Vail Town Council

FROM: Community Development Department

DATE: February 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 11, Series of 2019, a resolution modifying the Official Avalanche Hazard Map to revise the red and blue hazard avalanche area designations in the vicinity of 5002 Snowshoe Lane, Lot 23 Vail Meadows Filing No. 1, accurately reflecting the best data and modeling available; and setting forth details in regard thereto.

Applicant: Rick Schierberg, Peregrine Group Development, represented by Pavan Krueger

Planner: Jonathan Spence

I. SUMMARY

The applicant, Rick Schierberg, Peregrine Group Development, represented by Pavan Krueger, is requesting a modification to the Official Avalanche Hazard Map to revise the red and blue hazard avalanche area designations in the vicinity of 5002 Snowshoe Lane, Lot 23 Vail Meadows Filing No. 1, accurately reflecting the best data and modeling available. The revisions to the hazard map will result in the subject property and the adjacent parcels being largely removed from the red hazard avalanche area designation.

II. ACTION REQUESTED OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Vail Town Council shall approve, approve with modifications, or deny Resolution No. 11, Series of 2019.

III. BACKGROUND

The Vail Meadows Avalanche Path is located in East Vail in the general vicinity of the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District water tank. This avalanche area was originally studied by Arthur I. Mears P.E. in 1975. This 1975 mapping was used as a basis for the report on snow avalanches produced in 1977 which was ultimately adopted by the Town of Vail.

The Town of Vail aims to protect the inhabitants of the town from dangers related to floodplains, avalanche paths, steep slopes and geological sensitive areas. Within the Avalanche Hazard Map are two designations, blue and red, corresponding to different levels of static and dynamic pressure produced by a snow avalanche. Properties within the red hazard avalanche area designation are not permitted any building activity or construction of any structures. Structures may be built in the blue hazard avalanche area designation following a site specific geological report and proper mitigation, if required.

The Town of Vail is committed to maintaining the most accurate hazard maps based on the best available information. New information specific to this area has been submitted by the applicant necessitating an amendment to the adopted map. Please see the applicant's provided materials included as Attachment B for a complete background on this item. Specifically, the report sites five (5) factors that have occurred since the original mapping. These factors are:

- Growth of trees in the avalanche path;
- Additional weather and snowpack data for Vail;
- Additional history of avalanches and debris flows in the Vail Valley;
- Substantial updates to the available avalanche-dynamics and debris flow models;
- Availability of more detailed topographic mapping and aerial photography.

The report utilized new data and methods to assess the avalanche hazards for the Vail Meadows Avalanche path. The result of this assessment is the recommendation to amend the map to more accurately describe the hazards related to the avalanche path.

IV. CRITERIA FOR REVIEW/PROCEDURE

Pursuant to *Section 12-21-13: RESTRICTIONS IN GEOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS*, the following procedures shall be followed:

G. Disputes; Procedure: In any case where a person wishes to dispute the designation of any property as a geologically sensitive area by one of the maps and studies adopted by this section, the following procedures shall be followed:

- 1. A written application shall be filed with the department of community development requesting such a hearing and providing a supporting site specific geologic investigation.*
- 2. A hearing shall be set on a date a minimum of thirty (30) days after the application has been filed to allow for a staff review.*
- 3. At the hearing before the town council, the applicant shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present his/her case and submit technical and geologic evidence to support his/her claim. If the site specific geologic investigation establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the property should not be designated as a geologically sensitive area, the town council shall direct the department of community development to amend the map appropriately.*

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Should the Vail Town Council choose to approve Resolution No. 11, Series of 2019, the Community Development Department recommends the Council pass the following **motion**:

"The Vail Town Council approves Resolution No. 11, Series of 2019, a resolution amending the Official Avalanche Hazard Map to revise the red and blue hazard avalanche area designations in the vicinity of 5002 Snowshoe Lane, accurately reflecting the best data and modeling available, and setting forth details in regard thereto."

Should the Town Council choose to approve the proposed revision to the Official Avalanche Hazard Map, the Community Development Department recommends the Town Council makes the following finding:

"The site specific geologic investigation dated February 1, 2019 performed Mr. Arthur I. Mears P.E. establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the map should be amended as proposed."

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Resolution No. 11, Series of 2019.
- B. Snow Avalanche Map Amendment Report for Vail Meadows Avalanche Path, Vail Colorado prepared by Arthur I. Mears P.E., February 1, 2019