

B. PUBLIC SAFETY: FIRE PROTECTION, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Eastern Goleta Valley requires the public safety services of County Fire, Sheriff, and Office of Emergency Services, as well as responses by other local, regional and state agencies. Fire suppression, evacuation, law enforcement and first-aid often require a coordinated response by multiple agencies. While some of these public safety services are provided by agencies other than the County, land use planning is intrinsically tied to the provision of services, since staffing levels, size, type and location of facilities, and response standards are determined by population, the type/location of structures, and the circulation network.

The following policies have been developed to support exemplary fire protection, law enforcement, and emergency response services for the community.

Land Use and Development Policies and Implementation Strategies

GOAL #4. LIFE AND PROPERTY IS PROTECTED FROM THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF THE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS.

Fire Protection Services and Facilities

OBJECTIVE FIRE-EGV-1: Minimize the potential hazard to human and animal life, property, and the ecosystem of Eastern Goleta Valley due to fire.

Policy FIRE-EGV-1.1: The County shall support and pursue collaborative fuel management and wildfire protection programs for the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Goleta, and Eastern Goleta Valley to encourage fire hazard reduction and protection of natural resources.

Policy FIRE-EGV-1.2: Fire hazards shall be minimized in order to reduce the cost of and need for increased fire protection services, while protecting environmental resources.

DevStd FIRE-EGV-1A: *In high-fire hazard areas, compliance with State and local defensible space and vegetation management requirements for structures and properties shall be demonstrated prior to development.*

DevStd FIRE-EGV-1B: *In high-fire hazard areas, the use of native, drought-tolerant, and fire-resistant plants shall be strongly encouraged in landscaping and restoration projects.*

EASTERN GOLETA VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAN

DevStd FIRE-EGV-1C: *Within high fire hazard areas, vegetation management practices within Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH)/Riparian Corridor (RC) overlay and setback areas should be limited to the following activities to balance environmental resources preservation against wildfire protection:*

- *Removal of non-native trees or immature native trees*
- *Removal of surface debris*
- *Removal of invasive non-native plants as defined and listed in the California Invasive Plant Council’s “California Invasive Plant Inventory”*
- *Removal of vegetation in non-riparian oak woodland or forest within the minimum defensible space area from structures as required by the County Fire Department*
- *Selective limb removal of mature trees away from structures within minimum defensible space area as required by the County Fire Department*
- *Thinning, pruning or mowing of vegetation (except trees) to no less than that required to meet fuel modification criteria (in no case less than 4 inch stubble) and leaving the roots intact*

Policy FIRE-EGV-1.3: The Planning and Development Department shall work with the County Fire Department and other interested agencies as needed to address community wildfire protection planning, including, but not limited to, defensible space requirements, landscaping standards and/or guidelines, and other standards for high fire hazard areas.

Action FIRE-EGV-1A: Develop educational materials and enhanced programs for properties within the ESH/RC overlay in high fire hazard areas through coordination between Planning and Development and the County Fire Department to ensure that fuel modification activities and practices achieve a balance between habitat values and fire hazard risk.

Action FIRE-EGV-1B: The County shall encourage and support the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for at risk communities of the Eastern Goleta Valley in compliance with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development Process for Santa Barbara County, adopted on August 2, 2011.

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OBJECTIVE FIRE-EGV-2: Provide fire protection services that meet or exceed the goals and standards established for adequate fire protection.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.1: The County should maintain a five (5) minute response time within the Urban Area and a staffing level of firefighters ideally at a ratio of one (1) firefighter per 2,000 people, but at a maximum ratio of one (1) firefighter per 4,000 people.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.2: All roads which provide access to structures and properties served by the County Fire Department shall be designed and constructed to Fire Department and County engineering standards or approved equivalent.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.3: Secondary access shall be a consideration in the location and design of development. Two routes of ingress and egress shall be required for discretionary development unless the County Fire Department waives or modifies this requirement. Routes of ingress and egress required by the Fire Department shall be open and unobstructed.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.4: Additional rural fire access routes which increase accessibility to rural areas in the event of wildfire should be considered. Additional fire access routes should connect the Urban Area to the rural area, maintain vegetation clearing/fire breaks, and provide public trail access to the maximum extent feasible.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.5: The Planning and Development Department shall work with the County Fire Department to design, locate, and develop land use strategies for acquiring and constructing emergency access roads in the rural and urban areas to improve accessibility and evacuation in the event of wildfire.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.6: All non-agricultural development in the foothills area shall include provisions for water storage tanks, or connection to the Goleta Water District or other public water purveyor if development is located within the extent of a water district.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.7: Where feasible, water storage facilities shall be part of a large system or public supply which is reliably maintained, rather than individual ad hoc systems.

Policy FIRE-EGV-2.8: When located within the boundaries of a water district, fire hydrants shall connect to the water district system.

Action FIRE-EGV-2A: Remove impassible roadblocks and dead-end roadways where possible in compliance with the Fire Department's Development Standard #1 for Access Roads in order to improve the accessibility and circulation for emergency responders and evacuation routes. All required public access roads shall be able to be used routinely for access into and out of an area.

Action FIRE-EGV-2B: Reopen Fire Station 19 to improve fire protection service provision.

Action FIRE-EGV-2C: Study and establish as feasible rural fire access roads to provide both improved fire response services and public trail corridors.

Law Enforcement Services and Facilities

OBJECTIVE POL-EGV-1: Provide police protection services that meet or exceed the goals and standards established for adequate police protection.

Policy POL-EGV-1.1: The County should maintain a staffing level of law enforcement officers of at least one (1) officer per 1,200 people to meet or exceed the demand for service based on existing and future service populations as determined by the County Sheriff's Department.

Policy POL-EGV-1.2 The County shall consider the publicly-owned lands of the Calle Real Administration Campus and the Ben Page Youth Center properties as suitable locations for law enforcement facilities, including substations, to augment the services of law enforcement in the Urban Area.

Emergency Services and Facilities

OBJECTIVE ES-EGV-1: Ensure effective emergency response services and minimize the adverse community-wide impacts of emergencies.

Policy ES-EGV-1.1: The County shall continue to facilitate effective emergency response systems in the event of a community-wide emergency in Eastern Goleta Valley.