

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS

A. GENERAL RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS

Eastern Goleta Valley is situated between the headwaters and the marine outlets of South Coast watersheds and sub-basins, including Atascadero, Cieneguitas, and Maria Ygnacio creeks. As such, land use and development decisions for Eastern Goleta Valley are made in context of the relationship between the built and natural environment from the headwaters through the tributaries and creeks, to the wetlands and floodplains, and finally to the marine environment of the Santa Barbara Channel. In this regard, land use and development respects the constraints and protects the resources of the natural environment based on the ecological function of local watersheds.

The natural environment provides invaluable resources for the community, such as air, water, habitats for local and migratory species, aesthetic beauty and vistas, and recreational opportunities to connect people with the outdoors. Land use and development decisions are made to preserve and enhance these resources beyond the life of the Community Plan and into perpetuity. The natural environment also has inherent hazards, such as floods, wildfires, erosion, and earthquakes. By restricting development in high risk areas, land use and development decisions avoid and do not exacerbate the severity of known natural hazards.

The policies of the Environmental Resources and Constraints section are intended to determine land use and development patterns based on the location and function of local watersheds, inclusive of their ecological, biological, hydrologic, and geologic values. This approach allows for conservation and long-term protection of watershed resources. In short, land use decisions made upstream should consider the impacts downstream. Additionally, this approach recognizes the potential risks and hazards of Eastern Goleta Valley. Potential for floods, wildfires, noise from transportation, hazardous spills and leaks, and "visual pollution" from unsightly and/or inappropriate structures and other development are considered constraints to development in this community plan.

Land Use and Development Policies and Implementation Strategies

GOAL #10. THE COMMUNITY'S NATURAL RESOURCES ARE PROTECTED, CONSERVED, AND RESTORED, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS ARE RESPECTED.

EASTERN GOLETA VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAN

OBJECTIVE ENV-EGV-1: Protect undeveloped contiguous habitat areas from sprawl, leap-frog development, and encroachment by urban uses to preserve and enhance environmental resources.

Policy ENV-EGV-1.1: Restrict urban-style development to the Urban Area, prioritizing infill and redevelopment strategies, to protect coastal and rural area environmental resources.