



Planning and Development Department

Office of Long Range Planning

Transmittal Memo

DATE:	October 9, 2008
TO:	GVPAC Members
FROM:	Derek Johnson, Deputy Director
CC:	2nd Supervisorial District Office John McInnes, Director Office of Long Range Planning David Lackie, Supervising Planner, Office of Long Range Planning Erika Leachman, Planner
SUBJECT:	GVPAC Meeting #2: General Planning in Santa Barbara County

The items listed below have been included as part of the meeting materials for GVPAC meeting on October 15, 2008.

- 1. Meeting Agenda:** Please see the attached agenda for the October 15, 2008 GVPAC meeting. For details, please see discussion of agenda items below. **(Attachment 1, Page 1)**
- 2. Draft Meeting Minutes:** Staff has provided draft meeting minutes from the October 1, 2008 GVPAC Meeting for review and approval. **(Attachment 2, Page 3)**
- 3. Tentative Long Term Meeting Schedule:** Based on discussion of long term scheduling during the October 1st GVPAC meeting, a long term schedule has been provided for review. **(Attachment 3, Page 5)**
- 4. California State General Plan Guidelines: Introduction and Chapter 1: Content of General Plan (19 pages):** These sections have been provided to the GVPAC as a primer on California general planning law, which governs the development and applicability of the contents of a general plan, including all community plans. The introduction and 1st Chapter of the California General Plan Guidelines provide succinct guidelines to the role, function, and organization of both general plans and community plans. Please read these sections prior to the upcoming meeting. **(Attachment 4, Page 9)**
- 5. Assembly Bill #32 (AB #32) Fact Sheet:** AB#32 is the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB#32 requires regulations and market mechanisms that will ultimately reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020. Mandatory caps will begin in 2012 for significant sources to meet the 2020 goals. With regard to general planning, AB#32 requires local jurisdictions to address these goals by planning for reductions in greenhouse gas emission associated with land use and transportation. The GVPAC will be considering the implications of AB#32 through the

update of the Goleta Community Plan. A summary fact sheet has been provided for future reference. Please read this sheet prior to the upcoming meeting. **(Attachment 5, Page 23)**

6. **Senate Bill #375 (SB #375) Fact Sheet:** In addition to AB#32, SB#375 requires regional transportation and land use planning to meet targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The intended outcome is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, promote greater housing choice and shorter commutes, reduce fossil fuel consumption and conserve more farmlands and habitat by planning and developing land uses in a regional context. The GVPAC will be considering the implications of SB#375 through the update of the Goleta Community Plan. A summary fact sheet has been provided. Please read this sheet prior to the upcoming meeting. **(Attachment 6, Page 25)**
7. **Diagram of County Long Range Planning Documents:** This attached diagram graphically depicts the hierarchy of long range planning documents adopted by the County of Santa Barbara. The Comprehensive Plan provides the overarching policy context for the all other long range planning document. Other planning documents must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, including community plans, specific plans, master plans, and design guidelines. Collectively, these long range planning documents provide the policy framework for specific planning and development projects throughout the County. Please read these diagrams prior to the upcoming meeting. **(Attachment 7, Page 31)**
8. **Goleta Transportation Improvement Plan (GTIP):** *NOTE: the GTIP has been provided as reference material for future meetings. Please do not feel obligated to read the entire document in preparation for the upcoming meeting, as we will reference it throughout the process.* As an action item from the 1993 Goleta Community Plan, the GTIP identifies needed transportation improvements in the Goleta Planning Area and provides a funding mechanism to collect fees from improvements as a mechanism for mitigating impacts to the Goleta transportation network. The improvements are identified based on policies and action items adopted in the Goleta Community Plan which include transportation network level of services and road way capacities. The improvements are funded by development impact fees assessed to new development projects as mitigation for the impacts to the Goleta Valley transportation system. The GTIP is generally updated every three years and is currently projected to be updated in spring 2009. It would be further updated following the eventual adoption of the Goleta Community Plan which would incorporate any revised goals and standards for transportation and mobility. A copy of the 1999 Plan has been incorporated for future reference. It is not important that GVPAC members read the document for this meeting, but should become acquainted with it overtime and when the focus of discussions shifts to transportation and mobility issues. **(Attachment 8, Bound Copy)**
9. **GVC 20/20: A Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley:** *NOTE: the GVC 20/20 Vision Document has been provided as reference material for future meetings. Please do not feel obligated to read the entire document in preparation for the upcoming meeting, as we will reference it throughout the process.* Completed in 2006 by the 12-member Goleta Visioning Committee (GVC), the GVC 20/20 document provides vision statements, goals, steps to achieve the identified goals, and measures for success in many issue areas of the Goleta Valley. It was intended as a first step toward the update of the Goleta Community Plan to define the community's vision for the future of the Eastern Goleta Valley. The GVC 20/20 Vision Document will serve as a reference document throughout the planning process as each issue area of the Goleta Community Plan is reviewed. It has been included in the transmittal materials for your reference and review and is available online at <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/goleta/gvc.php> **(Attachment 9, Bound Copy)**

In addition to this packet, please bring the GVPAC Documents binder with you to the meeting.

All GVPAC materials are also available for download from the following webpage if you have difficulty with the files attached to the email: <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/goleta/gvpac.php>

Background

Prior to addressing the approach to updating the 1993 Goleta Community Plan it is important that the GVPAC and the public have a general understanding of both the California State legal framework for general planning and the role and function of the community plan in Santa Barbara County. This understanding will aid in the formation of community plan goals that are consistent with State law, and the County Comprehensive Plan. The agenda item will include an overview and discussion of planning law and documents that are an intrinsic part of community plan update process.

Long Term GVPAC Meeting Schedule (Agenda Item #4, reference page 5-7)

During the last GVPAC meeting, it was suggested that a tentative long term schedule be developed and brought back to the GVPAC and the public for review. In order to remain on track with the project's long range schedule, the GVPAC agreed to generally meet every 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday of each month through October 2009. For the next five meetings, the GVPAC has tentatively scheduled the following dates: October 15th, Nov 5th, Nov 19th, Dec 2nd, and Dec 17th.

However, this schedule is on the agenda again because the Nov 5th meeting will need to be rescheduled. The Office of Long Range Planning will not be able to facilitate a meeting due to a prior schedule with the Summerland Planning Advisory Committee, which also meets in the Planning Commission Hearing Room. As such, staff suggests changing the date for GVPAC Meeting #3 to Thursday November 6th.

Please review the tentative long term schedule provided as Attachment 3 of this packet.

California State Law and General Planning (Agenda Item #5, reference pages 9- 22)

California State Law requires that each City and County jurisdiction adopt and maintain a general plan to guide planning over long periods of time. In Santa Barbara County, our general plan is called the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan provides policies, data, and environmental protections to guide land use and development over a long term of 20-30 years. As part of this agenda item, staff will present an overview of general planning law and process in California, as well as other recent laws that have changed the role and function of the general plan, including AB32 and SB375.

Please review the California State General Plan Guidelines (Intro and Chapter 1), the AB32 Factsheet, and the SB375 Factsheet, which are Attachments 4-6 of this packet, in preparation for this presentation and discussion.

Community Planning in Santa Barbara County and Major Planning Documents in the Goleta Valley (Agenda Items #6 and #7, reference pages 23-35)

Community Plans are chapters of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan that administer land use and development provisions, public facilities programming, public financing mechanisms, and environmental protections for specific land areas of a jurisdiction, consistent with the general plan. Like the Comprehensive Plan, they are comprised of goals, objectives, policies, development standards, actions, and programs to accomplish the unique desires of the area or community. As such, the implementation of

community plans often results in planning documents, such as transportation improvement plans, design guidelines, and unique zoning code provisions. The presentation and discussion for this agenda item will include a description of the hierarchy, role, and applicability of the active planning documents in the Goleta Valley.

In Santa Barbara County, Community Plans are designed with chapters, or elements, addressing a wide array of issues, including, but not limited to land use, biologic resources and ecologic systems, transportation and mobility, and water resources. Each chapter presents the environmental baseline for the issue area in the introduction, discusses the needs of the community in the future, and itemizes the planning policies and measures to achieve the goals for the issue area. The adopted policies in the community plan are applied uniformly to all activities, development, or change occurring in land use and development for a planning period of 10 – 20 years.

The County of Santa Barbara has adopted 6 community plans, 1 specific plan (Mission Canyon¹), and 1 master plan (Isla Vista). Each plan governs land use and development to address the unique needs of each area. As such, each community plan is very different from one another depending on the goals of the community. Community Plans are flexible planning tools as they can define overarching planning goals for the entire community as well as parcel-specific development standards and policies to help with the land use and development of key sites within the larger planning area. This is possible because community plans are adopted as amendments to the general plan, instead of separate planning documents to achieve specific and focused development results, such as the Isla Vista Master Plan.

Please review the Diagram of Santa Barbara County Long Range Planning Documents, which is Attachment 7 of this packet. Please skim the following documents to gain some familiarity with their layout and applicability; please do not read feel obligated to read them in their entirety at this point in the process:

1. Goleta Transportation Improvement Plan (**Attachment 8**)
2. The GVC 20/20: A Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley (**Attachment 9**).
3. The Goleta Community Plan (**GVPAC Documents Binder**)
4. the Eastern Goleta Valley Residential Design Guidelines (**GVPAC Documents Binder**)
5. Attachment 1 of the Santa Barbara County Land Use and Development Code (**GVPAC Documents Binder**)

These items will provide the context for the discussion and presentation of this agenda item.

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¹ The Mission Canyon Specific Plan is currently undergoing an update to become the Mission Canyon Community Plan