

Public Services & Facilities – Ann Crosby’s Comments

Overall

- 96: land use and development decisions have clear linkages to adequate service provision, since the amount, extent, or level of service is determined by how many people need the service in the long term....ensure land use and development patterns are sustainable within the limits of each provider’s capacity for service.
- 96: The County shall ensure that required public services and facilities to meet the needs of development are constructed and operational concurrently with, or in advance of, the construction and operation of development
- 106: The community would greatly benefit from a trail network offering access to the Los Padres National Forest, regional trails, and the coast while preserving historic trails.

Comment: These are sensible planning policies. The Plan should require that infrastructure be completed before development begins.

Concern about further development of the foothills, including use of County Admin land

- 98: The Plan advocates developing master facilities and services plan to serve as a vibrant community center
 - public amenities
 - a variety of public agencies and public activities
 - parks, trails and trailheads
 - a community center
 - environmental restoration, urban agriculture/community gardens, start-up or educational farms, and green infrastructure,
 - sustainable transportation and commuter facilities, such as solar park and ride lots, electric vehicle and bicycle charging stations, etc.
- 103: County Administration Campus and the Ben Page Youth Center as suitable locations for law enforcement facilities, including substations

Comment: These are complex and expensive plans for this area, but we must realize that this is fire territory. So I would suggest to not spend much money on expensive buildings and amenities that are quite likely to burn in one of our now-common fires!!

- 102: In high-fire risk areas, mandate defensible space and “design, locate, and develop land use strategies for acquiring and constructing emergency access roads, as needed, to improve accessibility and evacuation in the event of wildfire.”

Comment: Defensible space and additional routes are a good idea, but are not enough to mitigate the dangers or expenses. Best to not allow ANY further development in high risk fire areas, which includes all of the foothills.

- The community should not have to pay for expenses to defend homes that should not be there in the first place
- The danger to our firefighters is not worth the risk; injuries and lawsuits could occur.

Emergency Services

- 98: Potential emergencies involving fire suppression, evacuation, law enforcement or first-aid land use planning is intrinsically tied to the provision of services, since staffing levels, size, type and siting of facilities, and response standards are determined by population, the type/location of structures, and the circulation network.

Comment: Right now during an emergency (fire, tsunami, earthquake or man-made disaster), we are unable to evacuate safely. There is no way that everyone could use 101 to leave in either direction.

- We are already overbuilt in terms of evacuation.
- Until County officials have put together a genuine emergency evacuation plan for the entire population, it is foolish and dangerous to add more people to our area.

Transportation

Transit for Us who live here

- 130: Public transit options ... do not provide an adequate range of services for those wishing to commute for work or shopping using public transit exclusively within and outside Eastern Goleta Valley. To address this issue, this Plan promotes increased ridership, infill development near destination nodes...

Comment: The stated problem concerns those already living in our community, who do not have transit options. We need to find transit solutions for those of us who live here. Building new high density development is NOT going to fix the current lack of public transportation!

Transit as an Excuse to build high-density condos

- 130: this Plan prioritizes siting development on public transit routes to grant residents and employees the option to take transit to and from destinations.
- 133: The land use plan promotes infill housing close to multi-modal transportation facilities...
- 133: Alternative parking, such as underground garages, lifts, and shared lots...
- 142: Note Figure 32 with multi-story high density condos as the "After" version.

Comment: Ask your neighbors if they want to see multi-story, high density development with limited parking along Hollister, Calle Real & Turnpike Road. These would completely change the character of our lovely valley! So far, as written, the language and images in this Draft encourage exactly that development!

Quantifiable, Mandated Traffic Standards

Comment: The Plan should require that there be thorough local studies as to the actual traffic impacts of any new development. These studies should specifically describe the impacts in percentages and with quantifiable standards that are mandated. These studies must address the actual situation and not be taken from some other city, but from this location, this area!

Water Supply

- 118: For discretionary projects which would result in a net increase in water use, there shall be a sufficient supply of water to serve known existing commitments plus the proposed project. ... The County, in its land use planning decisions, shall consider the most recent water resources analyses adopted by the Goleta Water District.

Comment: The Plan should mention and must defer to the SAFE Ordinance, which completely describes Goleta Water District's policy.