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# Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee

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## ***APPROVED MEETING MINUTES***

***December 17, 2008 at 6:00PM***

***Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Hearing Room***

**Meeting Called to Order:** By Chair Valerie Olson at 6:00PM

### **1. Roll Call**

**GVPAC Members Present:** Adams, Elliott, Ezal, Freeman, Mineau, Olson, True

**GVPAC Members Absent:** None

**County Staff Present:**

Derek Johnson, Deputy Director, Office of Long Range Planning

David Lackie, Supervising Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

Erika Leachman, Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

### **2. Public Comment:**

**None**, though Ms. Freeman provided media for staff and the GVPAC to review that she feels is germane to the topics of hydrology, watershed planning and biological resources, including video and literature.

### **3. Goleta Valley Van Tour:**

Example of an information sheet for the Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 van tour of the Goleta Valley was considered during GVPAC meeting #6. Staff will accept information about areas of interest on the tour electronically to collate into a tour information booklet. The GVPAC also considered noticing for the van tour, including advertisements in local newspapers, on the County television station, through postcards and emails, and through posters and flyers.

### **4. Minutes of December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 GVPAC Meeting:**

Amendments:

None, though Ms. Freeman requested that staff post a link to the San Jose Creek Watershed Plan from the GVPAC website.

**ACTION:** Adams moved, seconded by Elliott, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 GVPAC Meeting Minutes, with no amendments.

Yea: Adams, Elliott, Ezal, Freeman, Mineau, Olson, True

Nay: None

Absent: None



## 5. Presentation:

Staff presented current trends and issues related to the Biologic Resources chapter of the 1993 Goleta Community Plan and discussed linkages between known sensitive species/habitats and land use planning tools and practices to protect biologic resources. Issues included ecological and watershed planning principles related to the land use planning in and near viable habitat areas and watershed basins in the Goleta Valley, the services provided by local and regional ecosystems, the existing biological resources in the Goleta Valley including sensitive species and habitats, and connections between landscape/vegetation features and environmentally sensitive habitat (ESH) overlay areas.

GVPAC discussion topics covered the use of buffers, setbacks, ecological restoration, species replacement ratios, habitat preserves, wildlife corridors, and low impact development (LID) to reduce the impact of the built environment on ecologic systems, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, and watershed functions. The GVPAC also revisited the idea of risk analysis modeling to supplement the policies of the Goleta Community Plan, such as mapping areas with highest contribution of impervious surfaces and runoff potential to focus efforts to increase pervious surfaces, to protect development from natural hazards and protect natural habitats from development encroachment and human intrusion. Linkages between LID, housing provision, urban redevelopment and infill, and watershed protection were discussed in context of a case study of Maravilla senior housing development.

Attention was given to the language and word choice of the biological resources chapter and discussion covered the nuances between protecting biologic resources and precluding constitutional use of a property by its owner. The GVPAC also discussed the ability of the Goleta Community Plan to accommodate ecological and watershed planning principles and techniques as a new approach to land use planning in the Goleta Valley by taking on a revised format. Other discussion identified potential conflicts between goals for habitat protection and goals for vegetation clearance for fire protection.

### Public Comment:

**Brian Trautwein** discussed the South Coast of Santa Barbara County as a biodiversity “hot spot” where many species and habitat types converge and support a broad range of critical biologic resources and ecosystems. He identified a list of specific trends and activities in the Goleta Valley that should be decreased or encouraged to protect biologic resources, ecosystems, watersheds, built environments, and water reliability in the future, including reducing the percentage of impervious surfaces to encourage groundwater recharge, reducing mountain area grading and large-scale vegetation clearance to decrease downstream hydrologic problems, focusing development efforts on redeveloping urban core areas to protect undeveloped land, reducing household and business water usage to protect water



resources for the endangered Southern Steelhead trout, updating the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan to support modern conservation efforts, and prioritizing avoidance as the preferable tool to protect biologic species, habitats, and ecosystems.

**6. Adjournment**

Next GVPAC Meeting (#7) will be held on Wednesday January 21, 2008 at 6:00 in the Planning Commission Hearing Room

**ACTION:** Adams moved, seconded by Elliott, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to adjourn until GVPAC Meeting #7.

Yea: Adams, Elliott, Ezal, Freeman, Mineau, Olson, True

Nay: None

Absent: None

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:41PM**

Signed Valerie F. Olson Date 21 Jan 2009  
GVPAC Chair Olson