



## Planning and Development Department

### Office of Long Range Planning

#### Transmittal Memo

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**DATE:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008

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**TO:** GVPAC Members

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**FROM:** Derek Johnson, Deputy Director  
Erika Leachman, Planner

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**CC:** 2nd Supervisorial District Office  
John McInnes, Director Office of Long Range Planning  
David Lackie, Supervising Planner, Office of Long Range Planning

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**SUBJECT:** GVPAC Meeting #6: Environmental Planning in the Goleta Valley: Ecology, Biology and Habitats in Land Use Planning

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The items listed below have been included as part of the meeting materials for GVPAC meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2008

- 1. Meeting Agenda:** Please see the attached agenda for the Wednesday, December 17, 2008 GVPAC meeting. For details, please see discussion of agenda items below. **(Attachment 1, P.1)**
- 2. Draft Meeting Minutes:** Staff has provided draft meeting minutes from the December 2, 2008 GVPAC Meeting for review and approval. **(Attachment 2, P.5)**
- 3. Tentative Long Term GVPAC Meeting Schedule:** Based on discussion of long term scheduling during the November 19, 2008 GVPAC Meeting, an updated long term schedule has been provided for review. **(Attachment 3, P.11)**
- 4. Example of Van Tour Stop Information Sheet:** Staff has provided an example of the template for van tour stop information. The template has been completed with information about the Upper State Street/Hollister Ave Commercial Corridor to demonstrate the use of the template. An electronic version of the blank template will be emailed to GVPAC members, which can be returned to staff for inclusion in the van tour materials on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2009. **(Attachment 4, P.16)**
- 5. Ecological Principles for Managing Land Use, *Ecological Society of America, 2000*:** This pamphlet provides a broad conceptual overview of five (5) ecology principles and eight (8) guidelines that can be applied to any land use decisions to protect ecological function in the affected area. Though the article is not crafted specifically for conditions in Santa Barbara County, it generally provides helpful linkages between ecological protection and land use planning decision-making. Please consider the information as supplemental and as an opportunity to think critically about the ecology and biological resources in the Goleta Valley Planning Area. **(Attachment 5, P.21)**

## **December 17, 2008 Agenda**

The following provides additional detail for selected agenda items, as labeled.

### **Community Plan Discussion: Ecology, Biology and Habitats in Land Use Planning (Item #4)**

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This item is dedicated to the ecology of the Goleta Valley, including biologic resources, habitats, sensitive species, and the application of watershed planning theories. With a degree of detail regarding current trends and issues of importance related to the issue areas, the GVPAC will be receiving both technical and theoretical details about the issues, including existing conditions and ecological functions of the landscape, standards for permitting processes involving sensitive habitats and species, modern best management practices, and linkages to general plan land use planning to inform discussion of relevance to the Goleta Community Plan update. As a preview of the presentation, we will cover the following current trends and issues for the following topics:

- 1. Ecology and Biology:** Discussion will focus on the functions and connectivity of local biologic resources, including habitats and sensitive species, and their connections to watershed planning and ecologic protection issues. Topics will include tools to protect environmentally sensitive habitat areas and sensitive species, existing Goleta Community Plan policy and permitting procedures, existing watershed planning efforts, and current trends and issues of concern for the Goleta Valley regarding environmental planning and protection.

In preparation for this discussion, please consider the following principles and goals from the GVC 20/20 Vision Document and the 1993 Goleta Community Plan.

**GVC 20/20 Vision Statement:** (GVC pages 6 and 11)

*We are a community that embraces conservation, stewardship and consciously living within our resources.*

**Watersheds Master Goal:** Preserve and improve the health of our watersheds; ridgeline to shore. Factors that reflect watershed well-being include: water supply and quality, condition of creek banks, flood management, and the diversity of habitat, plants and animals.

**Goal #3:** Sustain and improve plant and wildlife diversity.

**1993 Goleta Community Plan Principles:** (reformatted GCP pages 17 and 172)

*To provide protection for natural resources and landforms relating to topography, waterways, and biologically sensitive habitats.*

**Resources and Constraints Super Element Goal:** Protect and Enhance the Community's Natural Resources and Respect the Environmental Constraints in the Planning, Construction and Operation of new development.

In preparation for this presentation and discussion, please read the following selected chapters of the Goleta Community Plan:

1. IV.C Biologic Habitats

Following the presentation, the GVPAC will have to opportunity to discuss linkages between all topics discussed thus far in the Goleta Community Plan update process. The discussion will be encouraged to draw linkages between environmental issue areas, including air quality, noise, biology and ecology, watershed planning, hydrology, geology, history/archaeology, etc., and the capabilities of land use planning in the Goleta Community Plan. The following focus questions are provided to aid in discussion. Please consider these questions prior to the meeting and feel free to generate additional questions for staff and the GVPAC to augment the discussion.

1. How can land use planning in the Goleta Community Plan best utilize watershed planning to unify the environmental issue areas discussed thus far?
2. What land use patterns and components in the Eastern Goleta Valley tend to protect or endanger biologic resources, such as species and habitats, and ecologic functions, such as watersheds?
3. How best can land use planning in the Goleta Community Plan realize improvements to the natural environment while protecting the built environment from natural hazards?