



## Planning and Development Department

### Office of Long Range Planning

#### Transmittal Memo


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**DATE:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009

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**TO:** GVPAC Members

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**FROM:** David Lackie, Planner  
Erika Leachman, Planner 

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**CC:** 2nd Supervisorial District Office  
John McInnes, Director Office of Long Range Planning  
Derek Johnson, Deputy Director

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**SUBJECT:** GVPAC Meeting #9: Parks, Recreation, Trails/Open Space, and Visual Resources

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The items listed below have been included as part of the meeting materials for GVPAC meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2009

1. **Meeting Agenda:** Please see the attached agenda for the Wednesday, February 18, 2009. 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 February 3, 2009 GVPAC Meeting for review and approval. **(Attachment 2, P.5)**
3. **Draft Workshop Minutes:** During the February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 GVPAC Meeting, the minutes of the Goleta Valley Van Tour were reviewed, amended and accepted. However, action was not taken to approve the workshop minutes. Staff has provided draft workshop minutes from the January 24, 2009 GVPAC Goleta Valley Van Tour for approval. **(Attachment 3, P.11)**
4. **Tentative Long Term GVPAC Meeting Schedule:** An updated long term schedule has been provided for review. **(Attachment 4, P.21)**
5. **Reference Map Packet:** As we begin to look critically at parks, recreation, trails, and open space in the Goleta Valley, it may be helpful to refer to the following maps: **(Attachment 5, P.27)**

**Goleta Valley Existing and Proposed Trails Map (P.29):** This map may be helpful in understanding the existing and proposed trails and connections established as part of the adopted County Parks, Recreation and Trails (PRT) Map.

## **February 18, 2009 Agenda**

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

### **Community Plan Discussion: Public Services and Facilities (Item #4)**

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This item continues the discussion of existing public services and facilities serving the Goleta Valley by addressing parks, recreation, trails, open space, and visual resource issues. The presentation will include details regarding existing plans, current funding mechanisms, and important issues related to parks and trails planning, aesthetic values and visual resources, and linkages with low-impact, well-connected sustainable communities with the help of our guest speaker from the Santa Barbara County Parks Department, Erik Axelson, Deputy Director. The GVPAC will have the opportunity to ask questions about parks planning, development, and maintenance, analyze existing and proposed parks and recreation opportunities, consider the connections and location of regional trails and parks, assess the accessibility of existing trail connections and their linkages to multi-modal transportation planning, and understand the relationships between parks/recreation, visual resources, and land use planning.

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 31 and 19)

*Our community has preserved and enhanced our public lands. Open space, protected habitats and parks are plentiful, tranquil and accessible to the neighborhoods they serve.*

*The spectacular physical beauty of our coast, valley and mountains has been preserved.*

**Goal #1:** Increase the amount of accessible, open space available to residents of the Eastern Goleta Valley.

**Goal #2:** Provide indoor and outdoor, active and passive recreational opportunities that meet or exceed County standards.

**Goal #3:** Provide easy access to trails, beaches and other open spaces.

**Goal #4:** Link open spaces to provide recreational corridors.

**Goal #5:** Sensitive habitat areas have been restored and provide passive recreation opportunities.

**Goal #6:** Neighborhood parks/active parks will be appropriately distributed throughout eastern Goleta Valley.

**Goal:** Protect and enhance the aesthetics of the Eastern Goleta Valley, with major emphasis on protection of viewsheds.

**1993 Goleta Community Plan Principles:** (reformatted GCP pages 17 and 102)

*To ensure that public facilities and infrastructure be planned which will service the residents and workers of Goleta at acceptable levels.*

*To maintain and enhance the aesthetic qualities in all facets of community design.*

**Public Facilities and Services Super Element Goal:** Promote improvements in Circulation, Parking and Other Public Facilities and Services for Commercial, Industrial and Residential Areas for the Benefit of the Entire Community.

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

1. III.C. Parks, Recreation, Trails/Open Space;
2. IV.J. Visual/Aesthetic Resources/Open Space.

Following the presentation, the GVPAC will have to opportunity to discuss linkages between these topics 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 result in urban and rural recreation opportunities?
2. What land use patterns and components in the Eastern Goleta Valley tend to enhance or minimize accessibility and connectivity to parks, open space, and trails?
3. How best and where can land use planning in the Goleta Community Plan realize improvements to visual resources and aesthetics in the built and natural environments of the Goleta Valley?
4. How can planning for parks, trails, and transportation ensure equitable recreation opportunities for all members of the community?