

Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District

November 19, 2008

Derek Johnson, Deputy Director
County of Santa Barbara
Planning and Development
Office of Long Range Planning
30 E. Figueroa Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SUBJECT: Air Quality Issues related to the Goleta Community Plan Update

Dear Derek,

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) appreciates the opportunity for involvement in the Goleta Community Plan (GCP) Update process. It is our understanding that the Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee (GVPAC) is meeting this evening to better understand the air quality, noise, hazardous materials, and electromagnetic issues that are pertinent to the planning area. APCD staff would like to remain active in this process as it moves forward, and would like to express some initial points of concern for our agency.

Current Air Quality Standards and Attainment Status

The existing Air Quality section (Section B.) of the GCP should be updated to reflect current issues and attainment status for air quality pollutants. The APCD website contains updated information relative to state and federal ambient air quality standards and attainment status.

Global Climate Change

As you are aware, global climate change is a growing concern that should be addressed in the GCP Update. A project participates in this potential impact through its incremental contribution combined with the cumulative increase of all other sources of greenhouse gases. The State of California Attorney General's Office has pursued legal action, including litigation and settlement agreements, with those municipalities that have neglected to adequately account for and mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to their general plan updates. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the GCP include policies (in the form of development standards or other) to reduce GHG emissions within the plan area through transportation, green building, energy efficiency, conservation, and waste reduction measures.

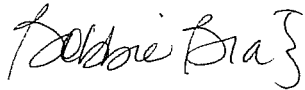
Air Quality and Land Use

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has published a guidance document titled *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* (CARB, April 2005). This handbook provides extensive review of medical studies related to the human health effects associated with proximity to a variety of land uses, such as freeways and high traffic volume roadways, rail

yards, and ports. As a result of this study, the ARB has recommended specific criteria for the siting of sensitive land uses such as residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds or medical facilities to minimize these potential health effects. In Santa Barbara County, the proximity of residential projects to the U.S. 101 freeway is of particular concern. CARB recommends against siting residential land uses within 500 feet of a freeway, defined as the outer edge of the freeway. The CARB recommendation does not include mitigation measures to reduce these health risks, and the proximity studies referenced in the handbook are not based on exposure to specific pollutants or specific concentrations. Therefore, the recommendation is solely to provide for a 500 foot buffer. This issue may pose a challenge to potential building sites adjacent to U.S. 101 freeway within the GCP plan area, and should be carefully considered as part of the GCP update.

APCD staff understands that the challenge for County Planning staff and the GVPAC will be to balance all of these important issues and regulatory requirements as the GCP update process moves forward. Our staff is glad to be a participant in the process and looks forward to providing input. Please contact myself (961-8890, bratzb@sbcapcd.org) or Molly Pearson (961-8838, mmp@sbcapcd.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Bobbie Bratz
Public Information Officer and Community Programs Supervisor
Technology and Environmental Review Division

cc: Project File (Goleta Community Plan)
TEA Chron File