

**Note: Composed and addressed by GVPAC Member Bonnie Freeman to a personal distribution list, GVPAC, and County staff, 11/23/09**

Bonnie Freeman  
Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee, Santa Barbara County  
November 23, 2009

Dear Ag Owners,

I am happy to report that our topic of Agriculture is set for certain on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009, 6pm – 9:00pm. This is whether the Residential Land Use topic on Thursday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, goes over or not. This way it assures that you will have a voice on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. The evening will start with usual business and then staff will do their introduction to Agriculture. After that it will be turned over to me and I have prepared a Power Point presentation that will probably take up to 30 minutes or less. After that, instead of going to Goals and Tool Setting discussions, we will instead allow the public to speak so they can have their say the same night as my presentation. This means that you should turn in a slip at the beginning of the meeting to speak after my presentation. If you want 5 minutes instead of the normal 3 minutes, please ask for that ahead of time or on the slip.

This is a VERY IMPORTANT meeting for any in the Ag community who want to have an impact on the updated Community Plan. This is the meeting where our committee members will be listening carefully to your suggestions; and I say suggestions because it will not do your cause any good to just complain. Complain if you must but then come prepared to make constructive suggestions and recommendations for what you think will help your situations whether that be allowing to make proposals or making changes in some of the regulations, ordinances, water meter issues, whatever your issues are. Please try to be specific. For some of you who may want zoning changes, it's my opinion that this may not be the best way or time to make a proposal but rather state your case for bringing a proposal forward. This may only be possible on a PARCEL SPECIFIC situation but I cannot say for sure, the Coastal Commission has it's own set of restrictions so it may be to your benefit to get assurances that you can present a proposal under circumstances that are agreed upon by County with input from individual Ag owners. Maybe this means asking for some meetings with County Planners to see what can and cannot be possible so you don't spin your wheels but anyhow that's my two-cents on that.

For those who are content in their situations, please DO COME and hear what's going on because there may be some changes discussed that could affect you too. In my power point presentation I will be mentioning most of the Ag businesses in the EGV and showing photos I have taken of your operations so it is in your interest as well to be in attendance. What's eventually decided will dictate land use policies for the next 10-15 years.

Two Policies, and an Action Item, that I will be mentioning from the current 1993 Community Plan and the County's Agricultural Element adopted in 1991 (may be updated), are as follows:

1993 Community Plan Land Use Policies and Actions:

“Land designated for agriculture within the urban boundary shall be preserved for agricultural use, unless the County makes findings that the land is no longer appropriate for agriculture or there is an overriding public need for conversion to other uses for which there is no other land available in the Goleta urban area.” **(Policy LUA-GV-I, GV Community Plan 1993)**

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**Action LUA-GV-16:** “The parcels known as the South Patterson Agricultural Area, south of Hollister Avenue and west of Patterson Avenue (figure 25) shall have a land use designation of A-1 for the life of this Plan or for ten years from the adoption of this Plan, whichever occurs first. At that time, the County shall review this site to determine if the agricultural designation is still appropriate. If not, the County should consider the submittal of a Specific Plan for the eventual development of these parcels. This Action shall not preclude the identification of this site as a Transfer of Development Rights receiver site as part of the county’s TDR study.”

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“Conversion of highly productive agricultural lands whether urban or rural, shall be discouraged and the County shall support programs which encourage the retention of highly productive agricultural lands.” (**Policy II.D, Agricultural Element**)

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I recommend that you become familiar with Section F. Land Use – Agriculture and Rural Lands of the 1993 Community Plan document. It is a pretty short section compared to many of the other elements where agriculture is designated. Long Range Planning can help you go to any of the documents you want to read or you can go on the internet to Long Range Planning, Santa Barbara County and follow the links to get what you need.

But please know that just speaking in plain language and letting us know your issues and suggestions is what our process is about so take advantage of this forum to express yourself. Our committee and staff are open to whatever you have to tell us. And if you have any documents or written statements that you want to leave with staff then please bring them or submit in advance.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or anyone down at the Long Range Planning office. **But please plan to attend on December 16<sup>th</sup>**. And if you have an interest in hearing what will be said on Residential Land Use that will lead into the Agriculture meeting then please consider attending that session on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm - 9pm, as well. Location and county contact information is below.

Thank you, Bonnie Freeman, 805/683-1878

Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee Member, Agriculture.

County of Santa Barbara Planning Commission Hearing Room  
105 E. Anapamu St. 1st Floor Santa Barbara CA, 93101

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**IMPORTANT:** All information regarding GVPAC meetings, including dates, times, locations, and materials, is available online

at: <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/goleta/gvpac.php>

For specific information regarding this Committee, please contact: Vicki Parker at [vparker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:vparker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) or (805) 568-2057, FAX (805) 568-2076 Office of Long Range Planning, 30 E. Figueroa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101