



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 990
For Agenda Of: November 7, 2006
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimate Time: 2 hours on Nov. 21 2006
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: John McInnes, Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning
805-568-3552
Derek Johnson, Project Manager
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SUBJECT: 2nd District, Receive and Review the Goleta Vision Committee's (GVC) 20/20 a
Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley Document

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form/legality: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing on November 21, 2006 to:

- a) Receive and file staff's presentation and conduct a public hearing regarding GVC 20/20 A Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley;
- b) Accept the Notice of Exemption for GVC 20/20 A Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley pursuant to CEQA Section 15262.

Summary:

This item is on the agenda because the Board of Supervisors directed staff to provide a report on the final product of the Goleta Vision Committee at the conclusion of the visioning process. The Goleta Vision Committee (GVC) was established by 2nd District Supervisor Rose to reflect a geographically diverse cross section of residents who live within the unincorporated Eastern Goleta Valley, articulate a statement of community values, consider major trends affecting the community, and develop a comprehensive vision to serve as a guiding document and point of reference for an update to the 1993 Goleta Community Plan. The culmination of their work is included in Attachment A: *GVC 20/20 A Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley*.

Staff has determined that the document is statutorily exempt from CEQA on the basis that it is a planning study for possible future actions which neither the Planning Commission nor the Board has

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approved, adopted, or funded (CEQA Guidelines section 15262). There are no environmental impacts resulting from the vision document because it is simply the basis for potential future updating of the Goleta Community Plan and has no legally binding effect on current activities (e.g., development project application review) or later activities (i.e., the Goleta Community Plan update). Environmental factors will be thoroughly analyzed during the Goleta Community Plan update process, scheduled to begin in early 2007. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept the Notice of Exemption pursuant to CEQA Section 15262 (Attachment B).

Background:

In late 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved the development of a vision document as the first step in the process of updating the 1993 Goleta Community Plan. After public outreach efforts, 13 community members were selected to serve on the Goleta Vision Committee (GVC) from a list of over 50 applicants. Since that time, two members withdrew¹, replaced by one, for a total of 12 community members.

The GVC was established to reflect a geographically diverse cross section of residents who live within the unincorporated Eastern Goleta Valley, articulate a statement of community values, consider major trends affecting the community, and develop a comprehensive vision to serve as a guiding document and point of reference for an update to the 1993 Goleta Community Plan. Accordingly, the GVC was tasked with crafting a vision of how the Eastern Goleta Valley should evolve over the next 15 years, providing their collective perspectives on four key elements:

- ◆ A community profile (Where are we now?)
- ◆ A trend statement (Where are we going?)
- ◆ A vision statement (Where do we want to be?) and,
- ◆ An action plan (How do we get there?)

In accepting this role, the GVC understood that their work would be utilized by the County and an as yet to be designated General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) to update the 1993 Goleta Community Plan.

The GVC began their work in January 2006. After agreeing on ground rules as their “terms of engagement,” a series of evening meetings and full-day workshops were organized by the Comprehensive Planning Division, which were facilitated by John Jostes of Interactive Planning and Management. Initially, the GVC was tasked with identifying sites and/or criterion for selecting sites within the planning area for analysis in the Housing Element Environmental Impact Report (EIR). After much deliberation and public debate, the preponderance of GVC members concluded that selecting sites at this early planning stage was premature and should not be part of the visioning process. During these initial months of discussion, the GVC was also presented with general information and about visioning processes, the framework for updating the Community Plan and Housing Element, and other information considered important to the visioning process. A significant amount of citizen participation occurred throughout these initial meetings.

¹ One member withdrew due to the time commitments anticipated to be required by membership on the Committee, the other withdrew based upon differences of opinion over the vision process itself.

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Between March and May 2006, the GVC received presentations from the County, the Cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta, University of California, Santa Barbara, and from external professionals on topics relevant to planning in the Eastern Goleta Valley. These presentations included an overview of trends and issues related to water and waste water services, parks and open space, law enforcement and emergency planning, economics and demographics, air pollution, adjacent jurisdictions' planning efforts, agriculture, affordable housing, growth and development and transportation. Additionally, the GVC was presented with an extensive amount of written material related to urban planning issues.

After the information gathering and presentation phase, the GVC developed 11 vision statements, which are the foundation of the document. The GVC also developed a document outline that they felt would convey its perspectives and recommendations. The GVC selected a writing sub-committee to work with County staff and the facilitator to develop specific chapters which articulate overarching goals and specific recommendations and actions steps. Between June and October 2006, the GVC received public input and refined their document. The final document, *GVC 20/20 A Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley*, is the result of this ten month process that included 23 meetings and public workshops.

Staff Input

As noted above, County and outside agency staff provided a significant amount of data for the GVC to consider in the writing of their document. Staff assisted the GVC in formatting and editing the document, but the document's substance was produced solely by the GVC. Accordingly, it is important to note that the document reflects the opinions of the GVC majority; not those of the County of Santa Barbara.

Process Challenges

When the GVC adopted their ground rules, they agreed to operate by consensus. They also agreed that if consensus could not be reached, they would forward a summary of their areas of agreement and disagreement. This definition of consensus proved particularly challenging to the group throughout the process. In the final analysis, the document was not able to achieve a full consensus (i.e., unanimity) of its membership. While a preponderance of its members felt that the document reflected the broader community's goals and perspectives on the range of issues of importance to the community, two members were not willing to sign the document because of what they felt were internal inconsistencies that would not produce the desired outcomes listed in the 11 core "vision statements." While both the majority and minority of committee members were able to articulate a number of common interests and goals for the community, in the end, there was disagreement as to whether certain recommendations specific to growth and development would be realized over time. Valiant efforts were undertaken to reconcile these differing perspectives, including the idea of including a minority opinion viewpoint to reflect areas of agreement and disagreement. Near the end of the process, a majority of the GVC chose to revisit the interpretation of the term "consensus" and defined it as "broad majority" instead of unanimity. Prior to the last meeting, the committee rejected the minority opinion presented by two of its members, thus precluding a summary of the areas of disagreement as part of the Vision Document. As such, two minority members did not sign the GVC document and developed a rebuttal, which is included herein as Attachment C.

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County staff and the Facilitator wish to thank each of the members of the GVC and those members of the public who provided input and advice throughout the process. The vision document will be very useful in updating the 1993 Goleta Community Plan.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized Cost:</u>	<u>Total Project Cost</u>
General Fund	\$ 38,784.00		\$ 569,990.00
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 38,784.00	\$ -	\$ 569,990.00

Funding for the Goleta Visioning process was included in the adopted Fiscal Year 06/07 budget in the General County Programs, Comprehensive Planning budget located on page D-447 of the County FY 06/07 budget. Remaining funding will be used to fund the update to the existing 1993 Goleta Community Plan.

Creation of the Goleta Vision Committee is not a mandated activity. It was undertaken by the County on an elective basis. No changes in service levels would occur.

There would be no facilities impact.

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

1. Clerk of the Board shall post legal notice in the Santa Barbara News Press and Goleta Valley Voice Times at least 10 calendar days before the hearing.
2. Clerk of the Board shall post the Notice of Exemption upon Board of Supervisor's adoption.
3. Clerk of the Board shall post display ad in the Sunday, November 12, 2006 edition of the Santa Barbara News Press and Friday November 17 edition of the Goleta Valley Voice (Comprehensive Planning staff will provide ad for publication).

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Attachments: (list all)

- A. GVC 20/20 A Comprehensive Vision for the Eastern Goleta Valley
- B. Notice of Exemption
- C. GVC 10-18-06 Meeting Statement and Appendices

Authored by:

Derek Johnson, Project Manager, Long Range and Strategic Planning, 805-568-2072

cc: