

Governance

Background

Land use decisions in the Eastern Goleta Valley are made by the County of Santa Barbara because it is not in an incorporated city. Consequently, our community is subject to governance by the County Board of Supervisors; a group representing very diverse and separate geographical districts. Only the District 2 Supervisor represents the Eastern Goleta Valley.

In the past, various proposals have been offered that would place the Eastern Goleta Valley under the jurisdiction of either the City of Santa Barbara or the City of Goleta. Currently, the City of Santa Barbara has petitioned the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to consider placing the area within its Sphere of Influence (SOI). LAFCO plans to hold hearings in Fall 2006 to gauge support for this proposal.

Regardless of jurisdictional issues, we, the residents of Eastern Goleta Valley, believe that our area is unique and are firmly committed to retaining control of its future land use decisions. While we are keenly aware of the inter-relatedness of the entire Goleta Valley, we do not want our role to be one of providing solutions to other communities' housing needs. While we understand there are many changes in the communities around us, we represent ourselves as actively engaged in responding to the needs of our community's residents.

Proposed residential design guidelines provide an opportunity to shape future residential development. These will insure that neighborhood scale, feel, and connections are preserved. We believe that residential design guidelines are extremely important in light of the strong pressures for new housing, and for remodel or repair of aging housing. Additionally, there are extreme pressures for larger living spaces. These enormous homes have the potential to change historic development patterns and negatively impact our neighborhoods.

Our neighbor, UCSB, is empowered to acquire and develop property with little local community involvement or control. The University's current penchant for steady growth creates concerns in our community. Therefore, we believe it is imperative that the County work closely with UCSB on future development to insure that what is good for UCSB also benefits our community.

For a variety of reasons, many of the extremely ambitious goals in the existing Goleta Community Plan were never realized. The GVC wholeheartedly believes in the process of visioning and the creation of a Community Plan. Further, we feel that the resulting plan should be a living document; one that is pursued and implemented. We also understand that, over time, difficulties and constraints may be encountered. However, under these circumstances, we offer that the plan should be updated periodically with

1 revised expectations, and schedules. This living document will be the mechanism which
2 allows us to recognize the vision we have elaborated in our work.
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4 **The Future**

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6 We see a community where new and remodeled homes are constructed using adopted
7 residential design guidelines. Growth at UCSB and other jurisdictions (City of Santa
8 Barbara and City of Goleta) will be coordinated with the County of Santa Barbara to
9 ensure that changes are beneficial to us, as well as our neighbors.

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11 We see the Eastern Goleta Valley as a community where our leaders support the unique
12 and compelling desires of a majority of its residents. The Goleta Community Plan is
13 followed, and implemented, and there is citizen involvement in changing the plan as
14 necessary.

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1 **Vision Statement**

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3 The community has an efficient, fair, and predictable land use planning process that has
4 been guiding the implementation and enforcement of the Goleta Community Plan.

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8 **Goal #1:** The Goleta Community Plan is a living document that adapts to changes, and
9 becomes the land use constitution for implementing the County’s Comprehensive Plan as
10 it relates to the Eastern Goleta Valley.

11 **Steps to Achieve Goal**

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- 13 1. Coordinate with both the
- 14 City of Santa Barbara and
- 15 the City of Goleta in the
- 16 update of the Goleta
- 17 Community Plan.
- 18 2. Develop an updated plan
- 19 that is financially realistic.
- 20 3. Provide active enforcement
- 21 of County Policies and the
- 22 provisions of the
- 23 Goleta Community Plan
- 24 4. Provide “triggers” in the
- 25 Goleta Community Plan
- 26 update to require revisions at
- 27 strategic points in time.

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33 **We Will Recognize Success When:**

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- 1. The Goleta Community Plan is followed and updated when required by established “triggers”; and
- 2. Should portions of the planning area be annexed to an adjacent municipality, minimal changes will be needed to achieve consistency with that entity’s General Plan and infrastructure standards.

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8 **Goal #2:** Design guidelines are enforced.

9 **Steps to Achieve Goal**

- 10 1. Adopt and implement
- 11 residential design
- 12 guidelines.
- 13 2. Enforce the guidelines.

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26 **We Will Recognize Success When:**

- 27 1. New and remodeled housing
- 28 projects are in conformance
- 29 with adopted residential
- 30 design guidelines.

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Goal #3: The Development review process is timely, efficient, fair and consistent.

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9 **Steps to Achieve Goal**

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1. Adopt and implement process improvement procedures and change policies as needed.
2. Create a guide to assist property owners in understanding the permit process.
3. Update the Community Plan so that it clearly articulates what is expected for new development in terms of exactions (required developer contributions) and mitigations.

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We Will Recognize Success When:

1. Permits are issued within a reasonable time frame and results can be reasonably predicted;
2. Similar projects are given similar treatment; and
3. The form and content of the Community Plan update facilitates refinements to the county’s Zoning Ordinance as it relates to the planning area.

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6 **Goal #4:** The Goleta Community Plan recognizes the Eastern Goleta Valley's economic
7 and social interdependence with UCSB, the South Coast and the entire Tri-County
8 region.

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10 **Steps to Achieve Goal**

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- 12 1. Negotiate to obtain financial and
- 13 programmatic mitigations from
- 14 UCSB to mitigate their
- 15 development impacts on
- 16 surrounding communities.
- 17 2. Identify and exploit opportunities
- 18 that jointly benefit UCSB and the
- 19 Eastern Goleta Valley.
- 20 3. Integrate policies into the Goleta
- 21 Community Plan that mitigate
- 22 anticipated Long Range
- 23 Development Plan (LRDP) impacts
- 24 to the Eastern Goleta Valley.
- 25 4. Coordinate land use planning efforts
- 26 with the Cities of Goleta and Santa
- 27 Barbara.
- 28 5. Forge strategic partnerships with
- 29 neighboring municipalities to
- 30 address issue specific challenges
- 31 such as mobility, housing demands
- 32 and transit connections

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35 **We Will Recognize Success When:**

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- 37 1. UCSB mitigates its impacts to
- 38 Eastern Goleta Valley;
- 39 2. The County and UCSB have
- 40 implemented programs or projects
- 41 that jointly benefit UCSB and the
- 42 Eastern Goleta Valley;
- 43 3. Goleta Community Plan policies
- 44 exist to mitigate anticipated UCSB
- 45 impacts;
- 46 4. Neighboring jurisdictions coordinate
- 47 land use planning efforts; and
- 48 5. Inter-agency alliances emerge to
- 49 address and respond to shared
- 50 problems and opportunities.

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1 **Vision Statement**

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6 **Goal #5:** A continuing effort has been made to keep the Goleta Community Plan in tune
7 with changes that affect it and to find innovative ways to obtain financing and improve
8 the quality of life in the Eastern Goleta Valley.

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10 **Steps to Achieve Goal**

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|----|----|----------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 12 | 1. | Planning policies that help the | 47 | |
| 13 | | County obtain and utilize grants | 48 | 6. Infrastructure maintenance efforts |
| 14 | | that are beneficial to Eastern | 49 | have improved, costs have been |
| 15 | | Goleta Valley. | 50 | reduced and maintenance is less |
| 16 | | | 51 | resource intensive. |
| 17 | 2. | Update the Goleta Transportation | 52 | |
| 18 | | Improvement Plan; | | |
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| 20 | 3. | Develop an infrastructure | | |
| 21 | | improvement plan for the Eastern | | |
| 22 | | Goleta Valley. | | |

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24 **We Will Recognize Success**

25 **When:**

- 26 1. Innovative Goleta Community
- 27 Plan Policies attract state and
- 28 federal funds;
- 29 2. The Goleta Community Plans no
- 30 longer lingers for 11 years before
- 31 an attempt is made to up date it as
- 32 it has since 1995;
- 33 3. Adequate staffing is in place to
- 34 enforce all the County polices for
- 35 the Eastern Goleta Valley;
- 36 4. New land use policies have been
- 37 found that help support innovative
- 38 ways to finance improvements that
- 39 enhance the livability and
- 40 sustainability of the Eastern
- 41 Goleta Valley;
- 42 5. Innovative transportation and
- 43 infrastructure improvement plans
- 44 have been developed that
- 45 minimize negative long term
- 46 maintenance impacts; and