

Infrastructure

Background

Public infrastructure is a vital component of the Eastern Goleta Valley's quality of life. Bridges, roads, flood control systems, water and waste-water systems, and other public utilities all require ongoing funding for their successful operation and maintenance.

As public funds have become scarce, the ability to maintain levels of service and maintenance programs has been reduced. The County of Santa Barbara currently has an unfunded capital improvement program of approximately \$50 million for the Eastern Goleta Valley and approximately \$15 million in unfunded deferred maintenance projects.

In many areas, surface streets are in poor condition and need of repair. In addition, the landscaping along major roadways such as Hollister, Cathedral Oaks, Turnpike, and Patterson needs to be addressed. There is no coherent streetscape; plantings are in poor condition, infrequently maintained and are not sustainable, native species.

The flood control system is operational but there is room for improvement. As we noted in the Stewardship of the Environment chapter, flood control is a crucial component in maintaining the environmental health of our community. In our creek systems, there is a need for more upstream retention and detention basins to prevent downstream flooding, where most of our development is. In terms of non-point source pollution, which means everything that finds its way into our storm drains (from street grime to backyard fertilizer run-off to chemical solvents and so forth), we believe it is critical for the County to invest in more devices that are designed to capture and retain sediments, floatable and settleable trash and debris at end point sources near beaches and creeks. For an idea of the magnitude of this problem, we were told by the Goleta Sanitation District (GSD) that *one minute* of peak run-off during a storm transports more pollution into our ocean than one year's activity by the GSD.

The Goleta Sanitary District and the Goleta Water District (GWD) reported to us that wastewater and potable water systems are functioning well, with funded capital improvement plans in place. Water and wastewater are not county-provided services. They are enterprise services, meaning that they charge for the cost of providing the service and for their anticipated future capital needs.

Our drinking water currently comes from Lake Cachuma, from the underground basin below the Eastern Goleta Valley and from "State Water" which county residents voted in 19__ to begin purchasing. The pricing system used by the GWD includes water meter fees for new users, to pay for the capital costs associated with the connection to the state water system. This creates a situation which, to many of us on the committee, seems to discourage the return to productive agricultural use of ag-zoned lands that were fallow and without a water meter prior to 19__. Because we strongly support the use of our agriculturally zoned lands for productive, economically viable farming, we hope that the future may bring some creative thinking on this front.

Comment: Lauren to move condense.

Comment: Water and wastewater operations seem to be adequately funded.

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2 The GWD forecasts a sufficient water supply for the Eastern Goleta Valley if
3 undeveloped properties in our area are built out at their present zoning. Many of us on the
4 committee noted that the District’s annual “buffer” supply of water seemed small even at
5 current usage levels. The forecasts we were shown do not make an estimate of the
6 increased water demand that could come from changes in zoning. Nor has the GWD
7 made forecasts, to our knowledge, of the effects of UCSB’s massive building campaign
8 or the development plans of the City of Goleta, both of which rely on the same GWD
9 water supply that we use. The committee believes that accurate forecasting of South
10 Coast water supply and demand will be critical for future land use decisions in the
11 Eastern Goleta Valley.

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13 As reported to us, the efforts of the Goleta Sanitation District include upgrading of their
14 treatment facility and possible expansion of their reclaimed water operation. We are
15 particularly interested in the increased use of reclaimed water and look to the joint efforts
16 of the Water and Sanitation Districts, along with commercial, institutional and residential
17 water users, to make that a reality.

18 **The Future**

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20 We imagine the future of the Eastern Goleta Valley to include adequate and well-
21 maintained transportation systems with sustainably landscaped streets and roadways.
22 There are adequate potable water and wastewater systems and the reclaimed wastewater
23 distribution system has been extended to the east. Flood control retention and detention
24 basins have been engineered to address flooding and ground water recharge issues while
25 not compromising the biological integrity of the watersheds. The necessary infrastructure
26 for alternative forms of transportation has been constructed and maintained (e.g., bike
27 paths, sidewalks, etc.) County policies call for all infrastructure providers to make use of,
28 in every way possible, the most recent innovations in “green” technology.
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1 **Vision Statement**

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3 We have constructed new public infrastructure and have developed programs to properly
4 maintain it. At the same time, we are recognized for our extensive system of sustainably
5 landscaped streets and greenways.

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8 **Goal #1:** Innovative improvements have been made to the storm drain system that
9 protects all areas with a minimum of cost or damage to the environment.

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11 **Steps to Achieve Goal**

- 12 1. Install Continual Deflection
- 13 Systems strategically located
- 14 in the watershed.
- 15 2. Install flood
- 16 retention/detention basins
- 17 that do not degrade the
- 18 watershed or habitat value.

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30 **We Will Recognize Success When:**

- 31 1. Damaging flooding from
- 32 peak storm runoff has been
- 33 reduced.
- 34 2. Water quality in creeks and
- 35 on the beaches has improved.
- 36 3. The biological function of the
- 37 watersheds has improved.

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We have constructed new public infrastructure and have developed programs to properly maintain it. At the same time, we are recognized for our extensive system of sustainably landscaped streets and greenways.

8 **Goal #2:** Make the reclaimed wastewater system available to all areas of the Eastern
9 Goleta Valley.

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11 **Steps to Achieve Goal** 34

12 1. Plan for and extend 35

13 reclaimed wastewater pipes 36

14 to Eastern Goleta Valley for 37

15 institutional and commercial 38

16 uses and residential uses 39

17 where appropriate. 40

18 2. Require dual plumbing to 41

19 facilitate use of on-site 42

20 storage of reclaimed 43

21 wastewater for new 44

22 institutional and commercial 45

23 uses and for residential 46

24 developments of 10 units or 47

25 more. 48

26 3. Require on-site storage of 49

27 reclaimed wastewater for 50

28 new institutional and 51

29 commercial uses where it is 52

30 necessary for adequate 53

31 service. 54

32 4. Require dual plumbing for 55

33 new residential

developments of less than 10 units where the reclaimed wastewater main is already installed along the frontage of the property.

We Will Recognize Success When:

- 1. The remaining 1.5 MGD per day of excess reclaimed water is being used for residential, institutional, and commercial uses.

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9 **Goal #3:** Land use policies are in place which encourages utility companies to develop
10 innovative ways to construct and operate their facilities.

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12 **Steps to Achieve Goal** 35

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14 1. County policies encourage 37
15 increased retrofitting of 38
16 existing communication 39
17 utilities to high-speed fiber 40
18 optic cable. 41

19 2. Wi-Fi and next generation 42
20 networks have been installed 43
21 as long as research continues 44
22 to show that they are 45
23 medically safe. 46

24 3. New electrical and 47
25 communications wires are 48
26 installed underground and 49
27 existing overhead wires are 50
28 converted to underground, 51
29 where feasible. 52

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36 **We Will Recognize Success When:**

1. More homes and businesses
have access to wi-fi and high
speed networks.

2. The County requires all
electrical and
communications wires to be
placed underground in new
developments.

3. More overhead wires have
been placed underground.

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12 **Goal #4:** Land use policies are in place that helps maximize the use of available grants
13 and to improve and maintain infrastructure.

14 1. **Steps to Achieve Goal**

- 15 1. Plan for innovative infrastructure
- 16 improvements that attract state and
- 17 federal funding.
- 18 2. Develop innovative Goleta
- 19 Community Plan policies to attract
- 20 state and federal funding.
- 21 3. Shape development conditions to
- 22 require developers to dedicate land
- 23 to be used as in kind matching
- 24 credit to be used to obtain grants for
- 25 improvements (e.g., bike trails, strip
- 26 parks, etc.) where it is feasible.
- 27 4. Require developers to dedicate the
- 28 appropriate amount of right-of-way
- 29 and easements to allow for future
- 30 street widening.
- 31 5. Require developers to install
- 32 sidewalks and curb, and gutters
- 33 where appropriate.

- 34 6. Require developers to pay for their
- 35 impacts.

36 **We Will Recognize Success When:**

- 37 1. Developers cover the development's
- 38 direct and indirect costs to the
- 39 community.
- 40 2. Additional state and federal grant
- 41 funds are used for capital and
- 42 maintenance projects.
- 43 3. Eastern Goleta Valley obtains more
- 44 grant money to build infrastructure.