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SEP 28 2015

2ND DISTRICT OFFICE

September 21, 2015

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California

Subject: Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan and proposal for Chaparral as an
"Environmentally Sensitive Habitat"

Dear Members of the Board,

The Upper East Association of Santa Barbara wishes to express our support for our neighboring Mission Canyon Association's position and request regarding the potential designation of chaparral as an "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" as part of the East Goleta Valley Community Plan. The Santa Barbara Upper East is an area that encompasses the properties and residents living between State Street and the foot of the Rivera, and down to Sola Street and up to Mission Creek, including the areas of Mission Santa Barbara, Mission Historic Park and the Natural History Museum. Our Board believes that it is imperative that a public discussion occur regarding any designation of plant material that, during a fire, can contribute to the explosive nature of burning fuel.

Although our neighborhood does not immediately adjoin any of the areas under discussion, we all have experienced recent fire events which can threaten the entire Santa Barbara community. As you recall, our entire neighborhood plus much of the Riviera was forced to evacuate as a result of the 2009 Jesusita Fire. It is important that not only the public be heard on this issue, but that we engage and hear from those firefighting entities that are responsible for fighting such fires and preventing potential fire situations by creating Community Defensible Spaces.

We would encourage the Board to carefully consider the Mission Canyon Association's request for an open and extensive public discussion on the potential designation of chaparral as a component of the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan before that plan is adopted.

Respectfully Submitted

Fred L. Sweeney, President
Upper East Association Board of Directors