

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Paula Schaefer <...>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:05 PM
To: Wolf, Janet; sbcob
Subject: Please Protect Goleta's Wildlife Habitat and Farms

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I'm a Santa Barbara native who has seen too many areas of the city being developed in ways that do not protect wildlife corridors and that do not value the urban agriculture that used to be here. As such, I urge you to please support Alternative E, which protects critical farmland and wildlife habitat in Goleta. Here's my bulleted list that I appreciate you reading on why I support Alternative E and more:

- Protect critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,
Paula Schaefer

Lenzi, Chelsea

From:
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:07 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Alternative E

To the Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I am concerned about preserving critical habitat for wildlife in the Goleta area. For this reason I urge you to support Alternative E which would designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta.

I hope that you will reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection and that you will close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands. In addition, increasing the creek setback for new urban development would protect local creeks from pollution.

As a resident of the county for almost 50 years, I trust you are as concerned about preserving our natural environment as I am.

Susan Shields

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Jessica Scheeter < >
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:07 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Alternative E - Protect Goleta Farmland

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a resident of Goleta I write to encourage your support of Alternative E which protects farmland in Goleta. Many of my neighbors have been noticing and expressing concern over the amazing amount of development happening in our city and with this in mind, it is essential that we preserve our remaining farmland. It is important to protect all chaparral as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat for rare plant and wildlife species and close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands. I encourage you to consider increasing the creek setback for new urban development to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution. The farmland in Goleta is an essential part of our city's character and a reason why many have chosen to live and raise families here. It needs to be protected.

Sincerely,
Jessica Scheeter

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Hoffman, Tom <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:08 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: stop the madness, please protect our wildlife habitats and our environment

Attn: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors –

I live off of N. Patterson Avenue and I am hugely disappointed with all the construction that is going on right now throughout Goleta. I agree with the Environmental Defense Center's talking points, please do the following:

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clear-cutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Regards,

Tom Hoffman
Training Manager

FLIR Systems, Inc.
70 Castilian Dr., Goleta, CA 93117 USA
Phone: 805.690.6604 | Mobile: 805.570-3498
Training web site: www.FLIR.com/training
For Tech Support, please call: 888-747-3547 or email ns.support@flir.com

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Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Dylan Flather <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:09 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Protect our wildlife habitats and farms

I urge you to:

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as “Environmentally Sensitive Habitat” for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff’s late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Thank you,

Dylan Flather

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Rebecca Tannebring <...>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:11 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Please Support Alternative E !

- Please support Alternative E to protect Goleta's critical farmland
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Thank you!
Becca

--

2/13/15

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Marguerite Borchers <[redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:14 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Save Goleta's habitats and farms

Dear Supervisors,

I lived in Goleta from 1985 to 1993. At that time there was a great deal of open space. I moved away for twenty years and returned to live in Santa Barbara in 2012. Whenever I drive to Goleta I am saddened by the crush of too many buildings and the ever diminishing open land. Soon no one will see the mountains anymore.

Please support Alternative E and protect the critical farmland in Goleta.

Please designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.

- Please close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands. (*Clear cutting is ugly!*)
-
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to *at least 100* feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Sincerely,
Margie Borchers,

Santa Barbara

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: BillandSusanne
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:17 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Save Goleta

Please do the right thing and take action to protect Goleta's wildlife, habitat and beauty. The massive development going on in Goleta is frightening, and it just doesn't make sense during a massive drought.

sincerely,
Susanne Wood

Sent from my iPad

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Jumby Eight <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:24 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Please protect wildlife habitats and urban farms

As a concerned citizen, I implore you to consider the impact and use the soundest judgment in order to safeguard our community and planet in general. There is no time to waste.

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Maia <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:29 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comment on Eastern Goleta Community Plan: Please Support Alternative E!

Dear Directors of the SB County Board of Supervisors,

Though we cannot personally attend the upcoming hearing, we want to express our very strong support for Alternative E which provides the best guidelines for preserving agricultural land and sensitive lands, and the wildlife of so many kinds which depend on these undeveloped lands for their survival.

In fact, every chaparral and oakland area must be set aside with the designation of *Environmentally Sensitive Habitat*.

Do not accept any last minute additions or subtractions on the part of staff to change protection for these beloved areas!

We understand there is a loophole in the ordinance meant to protect Sensitive Habitat which was designed to stop the clearing and destruction of chaparral and native oak areas! Please address this important issue and prevent any further loss of oaklands and chaparral.

Another extremely important protection which Goleta lands need more than ever now is an increase in the legal "set backs" for new development property lines near creeks. Please set a new guideline so that the set back is a full 100 feet. Clean water in our creeks is a treasure that we cannot afford to lose.

Every day that passes, we are losing more species of wildlife, both animals and plants. We who support local farming and their products are dedicated to preserving Goleta's agricultural aspects. We need your support!

Please help us ensure that Goleta will continue to be The Good Land...with protected creeks, farmlands and wildlife.

Thank you taking the time to consider what we are asking for and why,
Ernie and Alison Tamminga, Goleta
Maia Maia, Isla Vista
Oct. 13, 2015



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Scott Cooper <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:37 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: btrautwein@environmentaldefensecenter.org
Subject: Comments on the Eastern Goleta Community Plan Updates and FEIR
Attachments: E Goleta Plan Update - comments to BoS.Cooper.docx

Dear County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

I have attached a letter detailing my comments on the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan Updates and associated FEIR. As a professor in watershed science and stream ecology at UCSB, I also provide scientific evidence which supports my comments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott D. Cooper, Research Professor
Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology University of California - Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, CA 93106

October 12, 2015

To: County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

From: Dr. Scott D. Cooper, Research Professor, University of California – Santa Barbara and member, Santa Barbara Audubon Society’s Science and Conservation Committee

Re: Opposition to Staff-proposed changes to ESH protection; Support for the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan Update

My name is Scott Cooper, Ph.D, and I am a Research Professor at the University of California - Santa Barbara, having taught and conducted research at UCSB for over 35 years. My areas of expertise are stream ecology and watershed science. I also serve as a member of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society’s Science and Conservation Committee, focusing on conservation issues. I wish to comment on possible provisions of the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan Update (“Plan”), emphasizing the importance of intact chaparral ecosystems and streamside bufferstrips in providing clean water, reducing floods and soil erosion, increasing dry season stream flows, and supporting diverse upland, riparian, and stream communities, including species of special concern. Specifically, I support the EIR’s Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5 because they will alleviate 5 Class I impacts (BIO-1 to BIO-5) identified in the FEIR, as well as additional mitigation measures, outlined below, to reduce the Plan’s environmental impacts, but I strongly oppose staff’s last minute changes which would substantially weaken protection for chaparral.

Support for Planning Commission’s recommendation of chaparral as ESH, separate recommendation for increased stream bufferstrips for new development in urban areas

I believe that the FEIR’s and Planning Commission’s recommended mitigation measures encompassing the designation of four types of chaparral as environmentally sensitive habitat (ESH), which will reduce annual chaparral removal except clearances for defensible space and fire safety projects, will substantially ameliorate the Plan’s impacts on upland habitats. Increased stream setbacks, as outlined below, will substantially reduce the identified Class I impacts to stream environments (Impact BIO-4).

Staff last minute changes substantially weaken protection for chaparral

Before I discuss the general importance of chaparral, riparian, and stream areas to the health of our natural and human communities, I wanted to emphasize a glaring inconsistency in changes proposed by County staff to MM BIO-1/Policy ECO-EGV-5.4, which deals with the chaparral and ESH ordinance. Policy ECO-EGV-5.2 lists the 7 criteria used by the County to designate ESH in the Plan area, and stipulates that an area only has to meet one of these criteria to be designated ESH. In contrast, the changes to MM BIO-1/Policy ECO-EGV-5.4 proposed by staff state that chaparral will be considered ESH only if it meets the first two of the 7 criteria listed in ECO-EGV-5.2, which deal with the presence of rare or sensitive species and communities. In short, chaparral will be considered ESH only if it contains rare and vulnerable species or plant

communities. There are two problems, then, with the staff's recommended change. First, such a change would make the Plan internally inconsistent, contrary to State law. Second, the change recommended by County staff is unenforceable and illogical. Although at least 53 sensitive plant and wildlife species occur in the local chaparral, their distribution in the area encompassed by the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan is largely unknown. Because no surveys are proposed to map the local distribution of sensitive species, it will not be possible to thoroughly delineate ESHs in the Plan area, creating considerable confusion and uncertainty about what, exactly, constitutes ESH. Because chaparral clearances are typically reviewed after they have occurred, it will be, of course, impossible to determine if sensitive species were present before the clearances occurred. Because many sensitive species occupy many local chaparral areas, it would be far more astute to simply designate the four chaparral types designated as ESH in the original Plan provisions and as recommended by the Planning Commission, because there is a high probability that these chaparral areas will house sensitive species and because chaparral meets many or all of the Plan's ECO-EGV-5.2 criteria for ESH designations.

Importance of intact chaparral for water supplies and upland, riparian, and stream habitats, communities, and species

At the end of four years of drought, I hardly need to remind the Board of Supervisors that California's most precious and valuable resource is water. High quality water resources are intimately tied to natural vegetation, especially chaparral in our region. Because natural vegetation and underlying litter buffers the impacts of rain on soil surfaces and facilitates its percolation into soils and, ultimately, ground water, and the roots of vegetation further stabilize soils, the removal of natural vegetation causes increased runoff and erosion, particularly during storms, leading to floods and large inputs of sediment, which scour, clog, and smother stream beds, thereby destroying or suffocating many forms of aquatic life, including the eggs and juvenile forms of fish, such as the southern California steelhead. These effects are exacerbated by runoff and erosion from roads that are constructed to serve developed areas in wildlands or at the urban-wildland interface. Because less rain percolates down to ground water during storms when chaparral is removed, the replenishment of ground water is reduced, leading to lower dry season flows in streams and less dry season groundwater recharge. The loss of chaparral also reduces the quality of water supplies, not only because of inputs of contaminants or toxins associated with human activities, but because of the loss of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous, from watersheds, which increases stream nutrient concentrations leading to unsightly algal blooms that can reduce oxygen at night to levels that kill aquatic animals. Because ecological communities in riparian zones and streams rely on high-quality, flowing, well-oxygenated water for support, reductions in dry season flows and water quality can result in the loss of many sensitive native species (such as southern California steelhead, red-legged frogs, California newts, and western pond turtles). Further, increased flood flows laden with sediment can scour stream bottoms and destroy or remove aquatic life. Although the effects of chaparral removal on riparian and stream ecosystems will depend on the amount or area of chaparral destroyed, the characteristics and depths of underlying soils, the proximity of removal areas to streams, and the gradients and aspects of watersheds, most remaining chaparral is in steep terrain with thin soils, exactly the types of conditions that would enhance the effects of chaparral

destruction on riparian and stream communities. My colleagues and I have written a recent review of the effects of land use changes (destruction of native vegetation for agricultural, residential, and urban development) on riparian and stream ecosystems in Mediterranean climates that provides extensive references corroborating the statements outlined above (Cooper et al. 2013).

Governmental agencies and private citizens have long recognized that the protection of natural vegetation in watersheds is necessary to provide high-quality water for human and natural systems. Many public lands, such as Los Padres National Forest, were set aside, specifically, to protect and sustain natural ecosystems so as to provide high-quality water for human uses. The destruction of chaparral vegetation, then, has numerous effects on the quantity and quality of water available for human use and for the support of riparian and stream ecological communities that rely on high-quality, flowing water. As a consequence, the protection of chaparral is critical in sustaining our water resources and the systems and species that depend on them. The designation of four types of chaparral as environmentally sensitive habitats (ESHs), then, would recognize the importance of chaparral as part of our cultural and natural heritage, supporting landscapes and many species of special concern, as well as emphasizing the importance of chaparral in providing ecosystem services, such as clean water, that benefit us all. Further, increased constraints on chaparral removal, such as on annual chaparral removal allotments, would also ameliorate the effects of chaparral destruction on natural ecosystems and water resources. Designations of chaparral as ESH and increased limits on current chaparral removal practices would greatly aid in protecting our watersheds, water resources, native species, and natural ecosystems, substantially lessening significant impacts to streams, waters, special-status species and sensitive plant communities identified in the FEIR as Impacts BIO-1, -2, -3 and -4. These provisions are meant not to prevent development or fire protection, but to allow increased governmental, public, and scientific scrutiny of proposed projects that destroy chaparral with many repercussions for our sustainable husbanding of precious natural resources.

Chaparral protection will not compromise fire safety

My above comments pertain primarily to the destruction of chaparral to make way for agricultural, residential, and urban lands. These land use changes have long-term, irreversible impacts on public resources, including upland, riparian, and stream ecosystems and water resources, so deserve special consideration by regulatory and management agencies and policy-makers (Cooper et al. 2013). Wildfire has many of the same effects on upland, riparian, and stream communities as land use changes; however, natural water and chemical cycles, and native species, often recover quickly from fire, provided chaparral vegetation is allowed to recover naturally (Verkaik et al. 2013). The extensive, frequent (< 10 years) use of prescribed burns or mechanical means to remove chaparral often converts chaparral to grassland, which is often easier to ignite, becoming a flash point for fire initiation and spread into surrounding chaparral areas. Further, verges of roads constructed to allow access to developed areas or to areas where chaparral is being removed are often colonized by exotic grass species that also constitute foci of fire initiation and spread, particularly given increased traffic and human uses associated with these roads. The vast majority of wildfires in California are started by humans and fires are often

ignited next to roads. The direct removal of chaparral and the associated construction of roads, then, can result in the perverse effect of increasing fire risk. Because wildfire is a natural, recurring, and inevitable part of California landscapes, chaparral management should concentrate on protecting chaparral, so as to support the many unique species found there and to sustain water resources, and to allow the natural recovery of chaparral when wildfires occur. Consistently, human efforts to diminish the frequency and extent of fires by removing native vegetation have backfired, resulting in increased fire risk, conversion to less desirable vegetation, and negative impacts on terrestrial and water resources (Langston 1995). Although I certainly support the maintenance of defensible space around buildings, the wholesale removal of chaparral that is distant from human structures, particularly if frequent, can have the negative consequences outlined above. That said, it is important to note that the activities and projects of the County Fire Department, CalFire, and the U.S. Forest Service are exempt from County regulations requiring ESH and brush removal permits and a proposed amendment to the ESH-GOL Ordinance encourages homeowners to maintain defensible space of 100 to 300 feet, as determined by County Fire. In short, the proposed changes to the Plan represent an astute attempt to balance County needs for protecting sensitive habitats and species while insuring that the property and lives of residents are protected from fire.

The importance of maintaining adequate streamside bufferstrips to maintain high quality water resources and riparian and stream habitats, communities, and species

Another habitat of particular importance in sustaining native species and habitats, and in protecting water resources, is the riparian (streamside) zone. Riparian zones contain plants, such as alders, sycamores, willows, and bay, that are quite different from those found in the chaparral. These trees stabilize stream banks and soils, reducing local erosion, and intercept and take up contaminants, such as nutrients, insuring that the water in streams is pure. They create moist, shaded habitats that are home to many species of native plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, constituting hot spots of biodiversity on the landscape, and provide migration corridors for many wildlife species. Riparian vegetation also shades streams, cooling water temperatures and thereby making them amenable to native species such as the steelhead, and provides leaf litter and woody debris to stream bottoms, which provides habitat and food resources for many aquatic animals (Power et al. 2015). Interestingly, riparian zones, because of high humidity and foliar moisture levels, can act as barriers to fire spread and survive all but the most intense fires intact. The reduction of riparian vegetation, then, destroys, degrades, and fragments habitats, encourages the spread of fires, increases sediment and contaminant inputs, fosters stream temperature increases, and diminishes food resources and native biodiversity.

Application of 100 foot streamside bufferstrips to new development in urban areas

To maintain its critical functions in reducing the impacts of upstream contaminant runoff and creating suitable habitat and food for many native riparian and aquatic species, riparian zones must exceed critical widths. If riparian zones are too narrow, they do not act as effective filters, stabilizers, fire barriers, and habitat providers for native ecosystems. Scientific reviews and analyses suggest that the minimum width of riparian bufferstrips varies with the targeted resource of interest, with narrower buffers adequate to protect water quality but much

broader bufferstrips needed to protect wildlife habitats and migration corridors; however, the general consensus is that the minimum bufferstrip width needed to sustain most riparian functions is approximately 30 meters (100 feet) from the upper stream banks (Sweeney et al. 2014). The City of Goleta, in provision CE 2.2 in its General Plan, stipulates 100 foot riparian bufferstrips for new development near or adjacent to streams. Goleta's General Plan provision has been applied with sufficient flexibility to allow new development projects while allowing consideration of the protection of riparian zones and streams. Please note that I am suggesting that provisions for 100 foot stream bufferstrips be applied only to new development in urban areas, not to agricultural land and not to residents seeking to remodel, repair, or expand their homes. I urge the County of Santa Barbara to update the Plan to apply 100 foot stream setbacks to new developments in urban areas, integrating this provision into Policy ECO-EGV-5.5, both for consistency with the policies of adjacent jurisdictions and to preserve the integrity and critical functions of riparian zones in urban areas, substantially reducing significant Class I Impact Bio-4 identified in the FEIR.

Summary

I strongly support the provisions and mitigations identified in the FEIR, noting the Planning Commission's 4 – 1 support for these policies, including designation of four types of chaparral as ESH and curbs on annual chaparral clearance allotments. I also support applying 100 foot streamside bufferstrips to new development in urban areas. I do not support County staff's proposed changes to MM BIO-1/Policy ECO-EGV-5.4, because they contradict the intent and substance of the Planning Commission's recommendations, are inconsistent with Policy ECO-EGV-5.2, and are illogical, unenforceable, and incomplete, creating a regulatory mess.

References

- Cooper, S.D., P.S. Lake, S. Sabater, J.M. Melack, and J.L. Sabo. 2013. The effects of land use changes on streams and rivers in Mediterranean climates. *Hydrobiologia* 719: 383-425.
- Langston, N. 1995. *Forest Dreams, Forest Nightmares: The Paradox of Old Growth in the Inland West*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA.
- Power, M.E., S. J. Kupferberg, S. D. Cooper, and M. L. Deas. 2015. California's river ecosystems. In H. Mooney and E. Zavaleta. *Ecosystems of California – A source book*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. (will be published in August, 2015, preprint available on request).
- Sweeney, B.W. and J. D. Newbold. 2014. Streamside forest buffer width needed to protect stream water quality, habitat, and organisms: A literature review. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* 50(3):560-584.
- Verkaik, I., M. Rieradevall, S. D. Cooper, J. M. Melack, T. L. Dudley and N. Prat. 2013. Fire as a disturbance in Mediterranean climate streams. *Hydrobiologia* 719: 353-382.

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Bonnie Chavarria <bonnie.chavarria@cityofgoleta.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:45 PM
To: sbcob; jwolf@c0.santa-barbara.ca.us
Subject: Goleta Farmlands

Please protect Goleta Farmlands. I urge you to:

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta
- Reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.

- Increase the creek setback for new urban development

Thank you
Bonnie Chavarria

Abib, Daniela

From: Villalobos, David
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:48 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Fwd: Chaparral Protection
Attachments: PastedGraphic-3.tiff; PastedGraphic-7.pdf

Sent from Outlook

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "**Cherie Topper**" <chertopper@audubon.org>
Date: Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 2:44 PM -0700
Subject: Chaparral Protection
To: "Villalobos, David" <dvillalo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>

Dear David,

Would you please pass this letter along to all Santa Barbara County Supervisors? It has been delivered to Janet Wolf already. Thank you.

Cherie Topper
Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

I am writing today on behalf of the 1100+ members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society to protest the last minute change to the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan (EGVCP) EIR language regarding the treatment of chaparral as ESH (MM BIO-1 (Policy ECO-EGV-5.4)). The change in wording, as outlined below (from page 10 of the EGVCP EIR Revision Letter), effectively REMOVES the chaparral protection intended by the original EIR language. We urge you to restore this changed wording (below) BACK to the ORIGINAL plan wording approved in a 4:1 vote by the Planning Commission.

- *Chaparral (specifically the following four rare types: e.g., chamise chaparral, lower montane mixed chaparral, ceanothus chaparral, and soft scrub – mixed chaparral alliances) where it supports rare or vulnerable native vegetation alliances and/or sensitive native plant and/or animal species*

Please support the Planning Commission's 4-1 vote, the Final EIR with ORIGINAL chaparral protections intact, and the work by the local conservation community to protect our watersheds and wildlife habitat by **rejecting** this last-minute change which severely undermines chaparral protection, and makes violations nearly impossible to enforce.

In addition to stripping the designation of its “teeth” in the event of chaparral removal prior to permitting, pushback to this change could lead to requiring extensive biological surveys prior to each clearing event to determine whether rare or endangered species are present in (or supported by) the chaparral to be cleared. This could add considerable cost and bureaucracy to individual property owners seeking to remove chaparral, and would unnecessarily complicate the permitting process, take away limited resources of NGOs, and add to planning staff’s already full plate.

Staff’s wording change does nothing to mitigate the significant impacts to wildlife habitat identified in the EIR, but rather has the effect of removing protections entirely due to the near-impossibility of enforcement. **We urge you to support a return to the previous wording (below), which would simply designate four types of chaparral as ESH, requiring environmental assessment and permitting PRIOR to chaparral removal outside of the defined exemption categories (safe zone clearing, fire-fighting, etc...).**

- *Chaparral (specifically the following four rare types: chamise, lower montane mixed chaparral, ceanothus chaparral, and soft scrub – mixed chaparral alliances)*

Thank you for your work on behalf of our precious Santa Barbara environment,

Cherie Topper
Executive Director, Santa Barbara Audubon Society
www.santabarbaraaudubon.org
Phone: †

Abib, Daniela

From: Kasey Kersnowski
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:59 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please support Alternative E

Honorable Clerk of the Board,

Please support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.

- Designate and protect all chaparral as “Environmentally Sensitive Habitat” for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff’s late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Sincerely,
Kasey Kersnowski
Santa Barbara, CA

Abib, Daniela

From: William Prothero <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 3:08 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Save Goleta Wildlife and farm space

- Please:
- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as “Environmentally Sensitive Habitat” for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff’s late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

William A. Prothero
<http://es.earthednet.org/>

Abib, Daniela

From: Lindsey Parks < >
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 3:11 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Wolf, Janet
Subject: Protect Chaparral and urban farms

We have cut into so much of agricultural land in Goleta that orchard growers and farmers have no alternative but to move higher into the foothills, changing the landscape for wildlife, endangering native insects and amphibians and our creeks and wells with fertilizer and pesticide runoff, plus the disadvantage of having to use way too much water because of drainage and higher temperatures. In fact, there is the danger of liquefaction in the clay soils that will cause slides and erosion problems that will have an undetermined impact. Please think this through from all aspects and for the long-term.

Thank you.

Lindsey Parks

Abib, Daniela

From: robert & donna moore <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 3:15 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Protect Goleta farmland and wildlife

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please support Alternative E. It is so important to protect not just Goleta farmland for the rich and wonderful environment it provides our area, but farmland all over California is being turned into strip malls and housing developments. Where are we going to grow the food to feed everyone. Goleta has such rich soil. Please also consider protecting areas of chaparral. We need the native bee populations they feed as well as the native wildlife. These things are very difficult to bring back once they have been destroyed. Protect these remarkable resources.

Best regards,

Donna Moore

Abib, Daniela

From: Hal Ross <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 4:06 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: save the goleta environment please

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to please protect Goleta wildlife habitats and farmland:

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution

Thank you,
Harold Ross

Abib, Daniela

From: Kadie Mcshirley <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:21 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Protect our wildlife habitats and farms

Hello,

I support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.

We need to designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.

It is necessary to close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.

I also support increasing the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Thank you,
Kadie

--
Kadie McShirley
University of Michigan, 2012
B.S. Program in the Environment

Abib, Daniela

From: Karen Weaver ·
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 10:30 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please help protect our wildlife habitats and farms!

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to ask that you **support Alternative E** to protect critical farmland in Goleta. Less and less of this valuable farmland is remaining, and we can never get it back once. Won't you help preserve it?

In addition, I would ask that we designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and that **we reject staff's late change** which would undermine chaparral protection. Let's close the loophole in the **Sensitive Habitat Ordinance** to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands, and also **increase the creek setback** for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

Thank you for your time and efforts to protect our remaining valuable farms and wild spaces in Goleta!

Sincerely,

Karen Weaver

Abib, Daniela

From: Kim Miller <
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 11:10 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Do not Rezone and Develop Goleta Farmland, and Please Save Habitats.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a resident of Goleta for 50 years, I have seen far too many changes to our beautiful environment that signal irreversible destruction to wildlife diversity and healthy ecosystems. An older friend of mine recalls that in the 1950's, so many ducks flew over the Atascadero Creek system that the sky would turn black as they flew overhead. That could NEVER happen now - just look at what we've done to our beautiful, fruitful land - paved it over for high density infill apartments and big box stores.

My husband and I voted for Supervisor Wolf with the hopes that she would stand for scientifically sound public policies that protect biodiversity and native habitats. In accordance with this philosophy, we would like to request the following to the Board of Supervisors:

Please support Alternative E in order to save our rapidly depleting farmland. (How do we expect to improve food security if we don't save farmland??)

Please designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare wildlife and plant species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change that would undermine chaparral protection. We don't want to have happen here what happened in the Eastern Sierra high deserts: the native desert plant species were deemed so unimportant that they have not been protected, and consequently native species such as sage grouse have precipitously declining populations. Even though chaparral doesn't have the romantic appeal of an old growth redwood forest, or the obvious abundance of life in a tropical rainforest, nevertheless OUR native species require a vast expanse of undisturbed natural, oak woodland and chaparral. Please preserve this. Clearcutting is rape of the land. Please do not allow this. (I apologize if this strong term offends, but frankly, we do think it is apt.)

Please also increase creek setbacks for new urban development from 50 to at least 100 feet. This has multiple benefits: improved flood control, safer wildlife travel corridors, reduced pollution, and consequently more abundant aquatic organisms, insects, birds, and native mammals.

You only get one chance to preserve native species. We're in the middle of a mass extinction event caused by humans. What will be our legacy? We have a chance to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Kim Miller
California State Science Fair Teacher of the Year 2010

Joseph Miller
Arts Reviewer, Drapery Tradesman

Abib, Daniela

From: Cathleen Weigand <
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:29 AM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: Support Alternative E. Save the Wildlife and Farms in Goleta (and beyond)

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As an environmental consultant I understand the importance and need for protection of wildlife, wildlife and botanical habitats, including oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral. The farmlands and open spaces in Goleta, and areas surrounding, are environmentally-sensitive and need to be protected. Please consider your own backyard and what you want the future to look like for the children and children's children. Please help keep it beautiful and help to make it even better.

Please consider green-ways throughout the City and County, wildlife are so important to the entire ecosystem and play a part in the community as well.

Please

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

For years, development has chipped away at Goleta's urban farmland and wildlife habitats. Today, very few farms remain, wildlife is imperiled and we need your help!

Please save the wildlife and farms!

Sincerely,
Cathleen Kargard

Abib, Daniela

From: Charles de L'Arbre <
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 7:56 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Alternative E

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors:

I am writing to register my concerns over the proposed measure—particularly as regards the brush cutting proposals.

I am a native to Santa Barbara, having lived 50 years in Mission Canyon (and a former Mission Canyon Association Board Member) and for the past 13 years on the lower part of Painted Cave Road. I am also Deputy Chief of the Painted Cave Fire Department.

We are in the midst of a historic drought which has manifested itself, in part, with catastrophic fires and fire behavior. Restricting brush cutting around homes not only puts that home at risk, but the neighboring homes, the entire neighborhood, and indeed the communities between the foothills and the ocean. The Painted Cave Fire would have burned all the way through Hope Ranch had the on-shore winds not kicked in. Passing this measure puts the communities from Carpinteria to Goleta at potential greater risk.

A corollary to this would be loss of property values as many homes would either be uninsurable through normal insurers and be forced to rely on California Fair Plan which caps their coverage at \$1,500,000. This impact on the homeowners would likely result in requests to the county to reduce property taxes.

We live on nearly 12 acres spanning the Upper Maria Ignacio Creek. We have worked diligently over the years maintaining the toyon, manzanita, oaks and other native species by cutting dead brush, thinning out the chaparral and doing annual weed abatement—all at tremendous cost. Anyone who lives up in the mountains knows that chaparral needs no protection—it grows back year after year. It is a vast habitat.

I hope that you will reconsider this measure—particularly as regards brush-cutting. It will put everyone in this area in ever greater danger.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charles de L'Arbre

Santa Barbara, CA. 93105

Abib, Daniela

From: Don & Sally Webb <
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:12 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: protection of urban farms and wildlife habitats

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject staff's late change which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

We urge you to the above actions.

Donald and Sally Webb

Abib, Daniela

From: Mia Trautwein <
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:39 AM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet
Subject: support alternative E and protect our wildlife habitats

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am a fourth generation Santa Barbara native and I am greatly concerned about the destruction of our local farmland and wildlife habitats. I will be attending the October 20, 2015, Board of Supervisors meeting where the Board will be considering an update to the Eastern Goleta Community Plan. In the meantime, I would like to speak up for Goleta's farms and wildlife and encourage you to:

- Support Alternative E which protects critical farmland in Goleta.
- Designate and protect all chaparral as "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat" for rare plant and wildlife species in Goleta, and reject late changes which would undermine chaparral protection.
- Close the loophole in the Sensitive Habitat Ordinance to prevent uncontrolled clearcutting of chaparral and oak woodlands.
- Increase the creek setback for new urban development from 50 to 100 feet to protect local creeks from pollution.

You have the ability to preserve the farmland and wildlands that make our community so special. As you consider the update to the Eastern Goleta Community Plan, I hope you will also consider how important Goleta's farmlands and wildlife habitats are to the community you serve and the community we share.

Best regards,
Mia Trautwein