



April 12, 2016

Santa Barbara County  
Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Long Range Planning Division 2016-17 Work Program: Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan Mapping Project

Dear Honorable Chair and Supervisors:

The community organizations listed below submit this letter to express our strong support for the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan ("EGVCP") Mapping Project recommended by planning staff and unanimously endorsed by the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission. The EGVCP Mapping Project is a high priority for the Long Range Planning ("LRP") Division's 2016 -17 Work Program. We urge you to uphold the Planning Commission and staff recommendations and approve the annual Work Program including the EGVCP Mapping Project.

On October 10, 2015, the Board voted to approve the EGVCP. The following excerpt from the minute order reflects the Board's action with regards to the current EGVCP Mapping Project proposal:

*Further directed staff to evaluate and include for Board of Supervisors consideration, a mapping and enforcement project within the FY 2016-2017 Planning and Development Work Program to prioritize the implementation of the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan, Action ECO-EGV-5A.*

Action ECO-EGV-5A states:

April 12, 2016  
SB County Board of Supervisors re LTP 2016-17 Work Program  
Page 2 of 3

*The Land Use and Development Code and maps of ESH/RC overlay areas shall be studied and updated to reflect the current extent of known biological resources/habitat areas, with consideration of potential additional biological resources and habitats meeting the criteria of Policy ECO-EGV-5.2, including, but not limited to chaparral habitat areas. If additional biological resources and/or habitat areas are identified, Policy ECO-EGV-5.4 shall be modified to include the updated resources list.*

Inclusion of the EGVCP Mapping Project in the 2016 -17 LRP Work Program is an important follow-on to the Board's approval of the EGVCP, and will implement Action ECO-EGV-5A.

The Project will also update the rural eastern portion of the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat ("ESH") Overlay Map found in the 1993 Goleta Community Plan ("GCP") as required under GCP Policy BIO-GV-4. GCP Policy BIO-GV-4 states, "... The Goleta ESH/Riparian Corridor and Biological Resources Map shall be amended periodically to incorporate new information as it becomes available." However, the Map has not been updated to incorporate new information since its adoption in 1993. The Project will implement GCP Policy BIO-GV-4 within the eastern portion of the Goleta Valley. By doing so, it will ensure that reasonable developments are built which account for, and which may improve habitats and watersheds in the EGVCP Area.

In addition, the EGVCP Mapping Project will map chaparral as an area in which site-specific biological studies may be necessary for future discretionary projects in the Santa Ynez Mountains above Goleta. The Mapping Project will ensure that all stakeholders, including landowners, agriculturalists and groups such as ours, and County planners will have the same information and that that information will be up-to-date and accurate. We believe the Project will foster collaboration between these stakeholders, ensuring that approved developments are constructed in a way that lessens impacts on rare species and their habitats and protects important local watersheds. It will also provide landowners with valuable information necessary to guide their land use decisions and to help landowners avoid unintentionally running afoul of the County's ESH Ordinances.

In closing, our community groups, which are comprised of your constituents, support the EGVCP Mapping Project because it will provide updated information to landowners, planners, and the public. It will create a valuable tool for reviewing and guiding public and private projects subject to discretionary County purview. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Linda Krop,  
Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center

April 12, 2016  
SB County Board of Supervisors re LTP 2016-17 Work Program  
Page 3 of 3

Richard Frickmann,  
President, Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council

Richard Halsey,  
Executive Director, California Chaparral Institute

Cherie Topper,  
Executive Director, Santa Barbara Audubon

Lee Moldaver,  
Citizens Planning Association

Ken Hough,  
Executive Director, *SBCAN*

Jeff Kuyper,  
Executive Director, Los Padres Forest Watch

Ken Owens,  
Executive Director, Channel Islands Restoration

Jim Hines,  
Chair, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter

Jack Morrow,  
Chair, UCSB Coastal Fund

David Magney,  
California Native Plant Society

cc:  
Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development Department

