

Subject: GVPAC Meeting on December 2, 2008
From: "Kenan Ezal" <kezal@toyon.com>
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 22:17:48 -0800
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Hello,

The following summarizes the general issues discussed during the recent GVPAC meeting. [Sorry for the delay...]

Meeting Notes (2008-12-02):

1. Overview. The primary purpose of this meeting was to:
 - a. Learn about specifics of the Resources and Constraints Super Element of the 1993 Goleta Community Plan (GCP). In particular we reviewed:
 - i. *Hydrology*: We discussed the flow of water and its impact on land-use decisions as well as the importance of a healthy watershed for our environment and community.
Existing regulations were reviewed including the Clean Water Act which is governed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as standards established in California to uphold the Clean Water Act. The EPA controls point sources while California standards also cover non-point sources.
Best management practices were reviewed including low-impact development practices such as bio-retention, rooftop gardens, vegetated swales, cisterns, permeable pavers, etc...
Local agencies responsible include Santa Barbara County Water Agency and Flood Control Department.
The Environmental Resources Management Element (ERME) requires new developments to avoid exposure to flood hazards within 100-year flood plain. FEMA is responsible for updating the definition of the flood plain area.
The GCP requires a minimum 50-foot setback from creek banks.
 - ii. *Geography (Geology, Topography, Soils)*: We discussed the importance of soil quality and type, seismic activity, and topography on land-use decisions. The primary issues of importance for Goleta Valley are slopes and soil stability, the type of soils, and fault lines.
The Mountainous Zone in Goleta restricts development in areas with slopes in excess of 40% as well as environmentally sensitive habitats and watersheds.
Goleta Valley and the Channel have several active fault lines but have not had major seismic activity in over 70 years.
The Santa Barbara County Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control Ordinance contains regulations and minimum standards to protect property and public welfare.
 - iii. *History/Archaeology*: We discussed the difference between a Landmark which is protected, and a Place of Historic Merit, which is not, and how landmarks are designated with the approval of the Board of Supervisors and the recommendation of the Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee.
The oldest landmark in Goleta Valley dating back to 1804 is the San Jose Winery, located on Vineyard near Patterson.
Archaeological resources are not mapped to avoid damaging the resource. The County Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) includes a process for protecting resources and avoiding development.

If interested, the County website has a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

2. Public Comment:
 - a. *Emergency Evacuation Plans*: Ann Crosby expressed concerns over evacuation plans for the Goleta Valley, especially in light of the Gap Fire evacuation and traffic congestion during the evacuation. It was pointed out that the County has paid staff for emergency preparedness and response. Chair Olson suggested a Risk Evaluation Model that could be used to provide a link between development planning and emergency preparedness and mitigation.

3. Next Meeting:
 - a. *Date:* December 17, 2008
 - b. *Location:* Planning Commission Hearing Room.
 - c. *Agenda:*
 - i. Environmental Planning
 - ii. Watershed Ecology
 - iii. Biological Resources and Habitats
 - iv. Linkages between Land Use Planning and Environmental Resources and Constraints

4. GVPAC Van Tour: The tour of Goleta Valley has been scheduled for January 24 and will begin at 9:30 am. A map of the tour is available at the County website. The public is welcome to join us. The County will be providing transportation or you can follow the convoy on your own.

For additional information, the official minutes, and the meeting audio, please see the county website:

<http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/goleta/gvpac.php>

Once again let me know if you do not wish to receive these e-mails, and feel free to forward them to others.

Thank you!

-Kenan (Kenan.Ezal@cox.net)

Note: I am fully responsible for any errors you may find in the above. No one else.

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