Subject: GVPAC Meeting Summary of January 21, 2009
From: "Kenan Ezal" <Kenan.Ezal@cox.net>
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Hello Everyone,

The following summarizes the general issues discussed during the last GVPAC meeting. A separate e-mail will follow with a brief summary of the Goleta Valley Van Tour.

Meeting Notes (2009-01-21):

 Next Meeting:

    a. *Date*: February 3, 2009

    b. *Location*: Planning Commission Hearing Room.

    c. *Agenda*: Mobility and Transportation in Goleta Valley

        i. Transportation Network Planning: Principles, Practice, and Existing Plans

        ii. Transportation Trends and Projections

        iii. Sustainable Transportation Systems Planning

        iv. Transportation Aesthetics

        v. Linkages to Air Quality and Public Services

2. Main Overview. The primary purpose of this meeting was to learn about General Public Services and Facilities in relation to the 1993 Goleta Community Plan (GCP). In particular we reviewed:

    a. *Fire Protection*: Fire Captain Martin Johnson briefed the GVPAC on issues related to development as pertaining to fire prevention and public facilities required for fire protection.

        i. There are two standards for determining adequate fire protection.

          · Five Minute Emergency Response Time. This is a national standard.

          · Population-to-Firefighter Ratio (PFFR). A ratio of 2000:1 is Ideal, 3000:1 is Good, and 4000:1 is the Absolute Maximum Population that can be adequately served.

        The failure to meet either criterion implies inadequate fire protection.

        ii. Statistics (based on 2000 Census):

          · Busiest station is at Patterson and Calle Real (#12), primarily due to the existence of a large nearby senior population. The PFFR is 5541:1.

          · The highest PFFR is 7198:1 at Station #11 (Storke Rd. in Western Goleta Valley).

          · Station #13 (San Marcos High School) PFFR is 6890:1. This is due to the fact that Station #19 (located on Cathedral Oaks) was closed in 1995 due to budget cuts.

· Residences in the Northern portion of Eastern Goleta Valley are outside of the 5-minute response area.

· There were 30 firefighters serving Goleta Valley in 1970. Today there are 19, including UCSB. Call volume has increased over 600%.

· The average PFFR for Goleta Valley is 4842:1. 1970 it was 2283:1.

· The daily UCSB population load is not included in computing the PFFRs.

· Halloween requires a great deal of resources not paid for by UCSB.

iii. The highest priority for Eastern Goleta Valley is to re-open Station #19 on Cathedral Oaks. The station exists at 4410 Cathedral Oaks road, but needs funding for staffing.

· To a certain extent technology has helped offset the effects of historical cutbacks.

iv. What can people do to be better prepared for a fire?

· Become more educated: www.sbcfire.com

· Know all possible evacuation routes from your area.

· State law (SB-1369) requires a 100-foot clearance of defensible space (up to your property line) in fire hazard areas.

v. There are no pre-planned emergency evacuation routes by the Fire Department!!!

· The reason for this is simple: We do not know where a fire is going to start and the direction that it will move.

vi. New developments should have at least two ingress and egress routes.

· The 1993 GCP required two routes unless waived by the Fire Department.

· The Fire Department would like to retain this requirement as well as a maximum PFFR of 4000:1 and the 5-minute response time for each new development.

· Ingress and egress routes should be open and unobstructed to allow easy access to the Fire Department in case of emergency. No gates!

· All private roads should meet Fire Department and County engineering design standards.

vii. The Essential Facilities Requirement increases the cost of building new public facilities that meet all building standards, including earthquake standards.

b. *Police Protection:* Lieutenant Phil Willis of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department briefed the GVPAC.

i. Main office and facilities located on Calle Real.

· There are no required/mandated service levels.

- · There are no mandates for response time.

- · There is a shortage of jail housing in South County, and there will still be shortage over a 10 to 20 year period even if a new jail is opened in North County.

- · 40% of jail population is due to North County arrests.

- · Due to building regulations the new Isla Vista office cost $4.6M.

- · Halloween cost the Sheriff's Department $0.5M.

ii. There are 34 officers for the extended Goleta Valley, including the City of Goleta.

- · The 1993 GCP required a population to police ratio of 1200:1.

- · Two deputies serve the unincorporated area per shift (not guaranteed).

- · Three deputies serve the City of Goleta per shift (guaranteed).

- · However, they don't recognize boundaries and will respond to calls in either area.

a. *Offices of Emergency Services (OES)*: The OES is a department within the County Executive Office. It does not currently have a permanent location.

i. The OES is responsible for emergency planning and coordination for the Santa Barbara Operational Area from Carpinteria to Goleta, as well as Solvang, Buellton and Santa Maria areas.

- · Coordinates Special Districts, Volunteer Organizations and Industry Groups as well.

- · OES also unifies response in coordination with other counties.

ii. Primary Responsibilities:

- · Maintains the emergency plan,

- · Maintains the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- · Maintains EOC team members

- · Provides on-going leadership

- · Helps county departments in developing emergency plans, emergency plans for county facilities, on-going training, and public education.

iii. SBC Disaster Plans:

- · Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Multi Hazard Functional Plan: Response to extraordinary emergencies like earthquakes, national security emergencies etc…

- · Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan: Response to a hazardous materials spill.

- · Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan: Documents natural hazards and tries to mitigate potential impacts ahead of time: http://hazardmitigation.oes.ca.gov/planner.

iv. OES Goals:

- · Promote disaster-resistant development

- · Educate public on hazard mitigation

- · Reduce possibility of damage due to floods, wildfire, etc…

a. *Schools*: Two school districts affected by GCP. [Outside GVPAC purview.]

i. Goleta Union School District (3,500 students, K-6)

ii. Santa Barbara High School District (16,000 students)

iii. Four public and three private elementary campuses in Eastern Goleta Valley.

iv. One public and one private secondary school in Eastern Goleta Valley.

b. *Hospitals*: One hospital.

c. *Planning*: The Planning and Development Department provides planning, permitting and inspection services.

i. Under the direction of Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission.

ii. Responsible for creation, update and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan

Public Comment:

a. *San Marcos Growers [Stop #11 in the Van Tour Guidebook]*: Craig Minus from the Towbes Group mentioned that although there has been no official project submitted to the County, there have been many discussions between County staff and the developer with some concrete ideas for housing on the site. Talks are still ongoing. He mentioned that the site is currently used for wholesale agriculture, but that it is used primarily for above-ground agriculture (using pots). He also mentioned that the site benefits from nearby public facilities. [However, during the Tour of the Eastern Goleta Valley it was noted by Gary Earle, and observed by the group, that the site is also used for below-ground agriculture.]

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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