FINAL

CITY OF GOLETA CREEK & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

CITY OF GOLETA
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B
Goleta, California 93117

NOVEMBER 2020

Adopted by City Council Resolution No.20-64
on November 17, 2020

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Acknowledgments

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CITY OF GOLETA

City Council
Mayor Paula Perotte
Mayor Pro Tempore Kyle Richards
Councilmember Roger S. Aceves
Councilmember Stuart Kasdin
Councilmember James Kyriaco

Staff
Michelle Greene, City Manager
Peter T. Imhof, Planning and Environmental Review Director
Anne Wells, Advance Planning Manager
Andy Newkirk, Senior Planner and Project Manager
Charlie Ebeling, Public Works Director
James Campero, Deputy Public Works Director
George Thomson, Parks & Open Space Manager
Melissa Nelson, Environmental Services Coordinator
Teresa Lopes, Senior Project Manager
Julie Jang, Assistant Engineer
Michael Winnewisser, Assistant Engineer
JoAnne Plummer, Parks and Recreation Manager

DUDEK

John Davis IV, Project Manager / Senior Ecologist
Melissa Blundell, Biologist
Jane Gray, Public Outreach
Matt Naftaly, Hydrologist
Jonathan Martin, Hydrologist
Isabelle Radis, Associate Biologist
Kristen Zecher, GIS
Andrea Dransfield, Biologist / Stormwater
Dave Compton, Biologist
Randall McInvale, Biologist

Balance Hydrologics

Anne Senter, Geomorphologist/Hydrologist
Scott Brown, Geomorphologist/Hydrologist

RRM Design Group

Pam Ricci, Principal Planner

Technical Advisory Committee

Rick Bush, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Scott Cooper, Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Rachel Couch, California State Coastal Conservancy
Steve Gibson and Kelly Schmoker, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mauricio Gomez, South Coast Habitat Restoration
Eddie Harris, Urban Creeks Council
George Johnson, City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division
Susan Shaw, Los Padres National Forest
Maureen Spencer, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation Districts
Lisa Stratton, University of California at Santa Barbara, Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration
Brain Trautwein, Environmental Defense Center
Molly Troup, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

List of Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
AGR	Agricultural Supply
BMP	Best Management Practices
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
cfs	Cubic feet per second
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
COLD	Cold Fresh Water Habitat
COMM	Commercial and Sport Fishing
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWMP	Creek and Watershed Management Plan
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EO	Executive Order
ESHA	Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area
EST	Estuarine Habitat
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FCCC	Flood Control Concrete Channel
FRSH	Fresh Water Replenishment
General Plan	City of Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan
GMC	Goleta Municipal Code
GP/CP	General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan
GWD	Goleta Water District
GWR	Groundwater Recharge
LID	Low Impact Development
MAP	Mean Annual Precipitation
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter
MIGR	Migration of Aquatic Organisms
MUN	Municipal and Domestic Supply
MS4	Municipal separate storm sewer system
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit
PEIR	Program Environmental Impact Report
PROC	Industrial Process Supply
RARE	Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species
REC-1	Water Contact Recreation
REC-2	Non-contact Water Recreation
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
SBFCD	Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
SBCK	Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
SPA	Streamside Protection Area
SPWN	Spawning, Reproduction, and /or Early Development
SWMP	Storm Water Management Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WARM	Warm Fresh Water Habitat
WILD	Wildlife Habitat
WQO	Water Quality Objective

1 Introduction

Tecolote Creek

The City of Goleta (City) is located on the south coast of Santa Barbara County, approximately 10 miles west of the city of Santa Barbara, along U.S. Highway 101 (Figure 1, Project Location). The City is situated in the western portion of the Goleta Valley, which is characterized as a broad, flat alluvial plain bordered on the south by the Pacific Ocean and on the north by the foothills and terraces of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Much of the Goleta Valley slopes gently into Goleta Slough. An essential aspect of Goleta's community character and livability is derived from the diverse open space and natural resources within and surrounding the community. These assets include approximately two miles of Pacific shoreline, beaches, coastal bluffs and mesas, vibrant creeks, and riparian, wetland, and woodland habitats.

There are 12 creeks reaches that extend through the City of Goleta, originating either from the local Santa Ynez Mountains or from within the City. These creeks and their contributing sub-watersheds compose the Watershed Study Area considered for this Creek and Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) (Figure 2, Watershed Overview Area). A watershed is an area of land between ridges that typically drains most of the precipitation into creeks and rivers and out to a common outflow point, such as the Pacific Ocean. Watersheds are dynamic systems that contain biological, chemical, and physical resources which interact with surface flow, urban stormwater, and groundwater aquifers as rainfall and snowmelt which are directed to and captured in stream channels on its way to the natural and anthropogenic-created outflow point. The creeks that meander through watersheds carry rainfall runoff, groundwater inputs, and sediment. Creek corridors along them provide benefits to people and the environment such as water resources, riparian and upland habitat.

This CWMP focuses on the processes and functions of the twelve creeks traversing the City and City watersheds, but also provides a brief overview of the Watershed Study Area. In addition, the CWMP identifies priority areas within the City for management actions to protect or improve existing creeks. The overarching goal of this CWMP is to provide an overview of historical and existing conditions in the watersheds within the City and provide guidance and protocols to protect and restore watershed processes. The need for the CWMP was initially identified in the General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (General Plan) as Conservation Element Implementation Action CE-IA-3.

The initial step of the CWMP process included the characterization and inventory of each watershed within the City to evaluate the physical, chemical, and biological processes, surrounding land uses, and pollutants associated with each watershed.

An implementation program is also a key component of the CWMP; this includes specific actions to support each implementation program. Monitoring is intended to document the performance of specific implementation actions and successful completion of specific tasks. The CWMP is a "living

document" in the sense that periodic reviews and updates to the CWMP are anticipated, which will allow the City to more effectively adapt to future conditions.

1.1 Plan Purpose

CE-IA-3 identifies a CWMP as an implementation item for the General Plan. CE-IA-3 reads in its entirety:

Preparation of a Creek and Watershed Management Plan. A citywide Creek and Watershed Management Plan will be prepared to provide detailed standards of acceptable practices for protecting the ecological function, water quality, and drainage and flood control function of Goleta's creeks and watersheds. Participate in multijurisdictional watershed management plans, where appropriate.

As specified in CE-IA-3, the purpose of the CWMP is developing acceptable practices and protections for creeks and their watersheds located within the jurisdiction of the City. Additionally, the City understands the multijurisdictional nature of local creeks and watersheds to the greater watershed area and the jurisdictions that are responsible those areas; therefore, the CWMP acknowledges the need to collaborate with all federal, state, and local agencies and other interested parties within the entire watersheds containing City creeks.

1.2 City Vision

The General Plan provides clear context for protection of creeks and associated riparian habitats and watersheds. Borrowing from the General Plan, the vision for the City that the CWMP should support is as follows:

Goleta's creeks and riparian areas should serve as important natural features of Goleta's landscape. These areas should be protected to provide habitat for fish and wildlife, accommodate wildlife movement corridors, convey stormwater runoff and floodwaters, and furnish open space and passive recreational areas for City residents. The City should seek to enhance, maintain, and restore these areas and associated watersheds that impact them.

1.3 Plan Organization

This CWMP is organized into the following sections and descriptions:

- **Section 2 – Public and Stakeholder Outreach** – summarizes City and consultant outreach efforts throughout the development of the CWMP to gather input and information from the public and stakeholders to inform the content of the CWMP and the feedback received.
- **Section 3 – Policy and Regulatory Background –** provides brief summaries of federal and state policies and regulations relevant to the CWMP. In addition, this section highlights City General Plan policies, management plans, capital improvement projects, and other City regulations and programs relevant to the City's creeks.
- **Section 4 – Baseline Watershed Characterization –** describes the results of field and desktop analyses performed to establish a baseline characterization of the study watersheds and City creeks. This section describes the biological, hydrological, geomorphological, and water quality aspects of each creek.

- **Section 5 – Creek and Watershed Impairments** – provides overviews of the impacts to the overall watershed area and individual creek corridors.
- **Section 6 – Implementation Program –** describes implementation programs and associated actions to address the impacts identified in Section 5.
- **Section 7 – Glossary of Terms –** provides a glossary of terms used in the CWMP.
- **Section 8 – References –** provides a summary of references considered for the CWMP.

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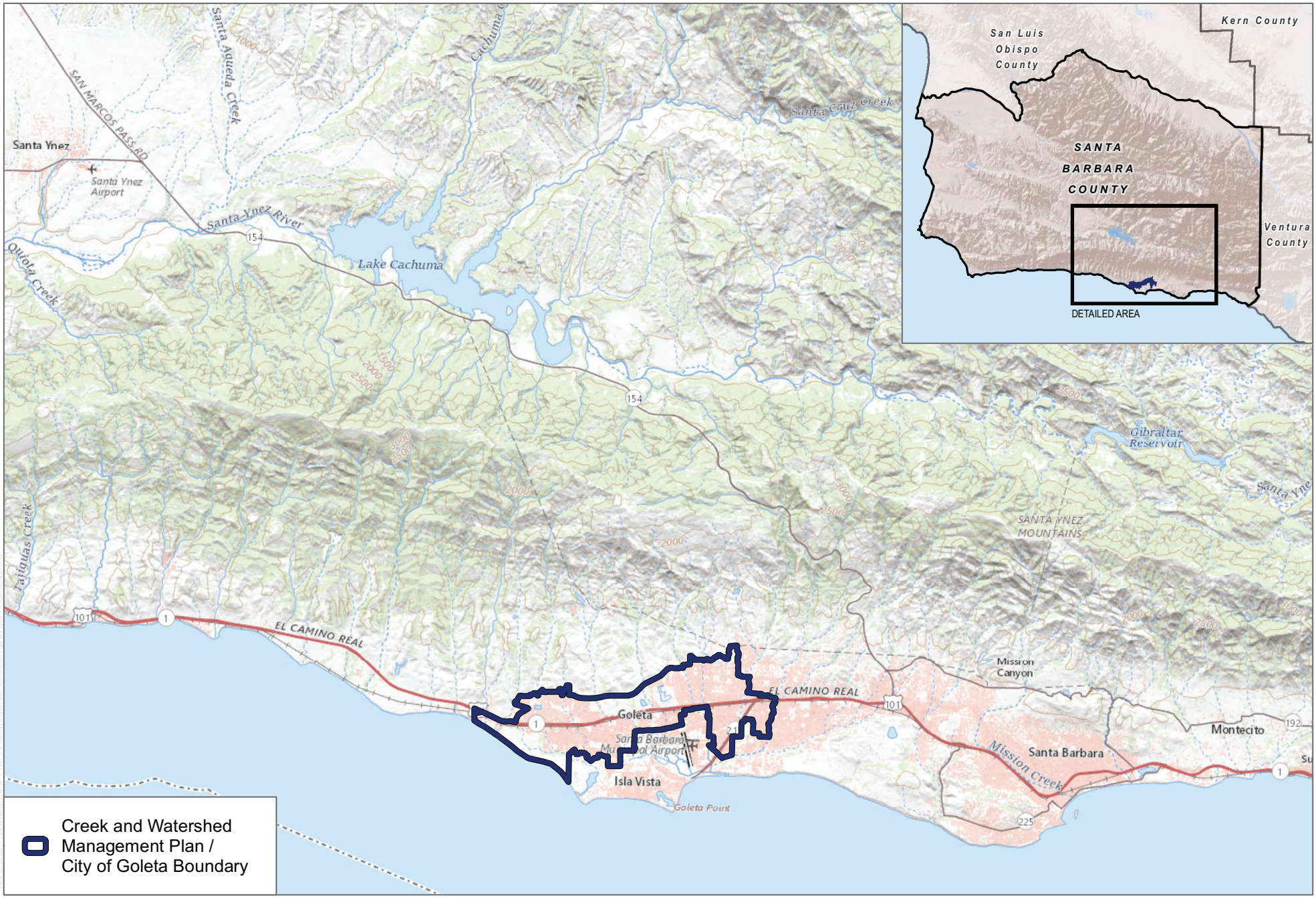

CITY OF GOLETA
CREEK & WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN

FIGURE 1

Project Location

City of Goleta Creek and Watershed Management Plan

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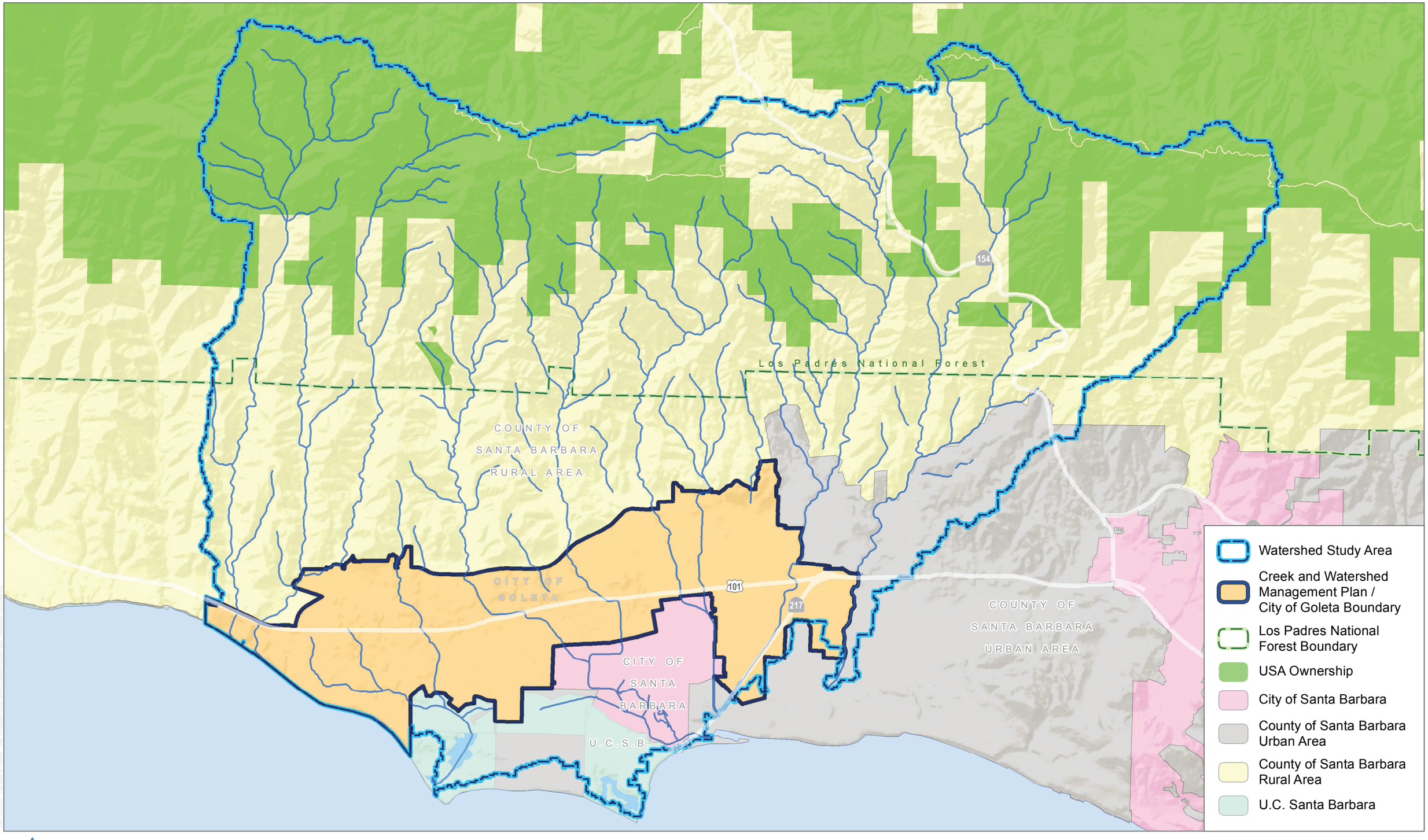

CITY OF GOLETA
CREEK & WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN

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FIGURE 2

Watershed Overview Area

City of Goleta Creek and Watershed Management Plan

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2 Public and Stakeholder Outreach

Throughout the development of the CWMP, the City of Goleta and consultants solicited input from the public and stakeholder groups for feedback on the City's creeks and watersheds to help develop the contents of this CWMP. The project team developed an outreach plan early in the CWMP project to engage with the public and agencies and organizations with specific knowledge regarding creek issues that could support the development of the CWMP. To support these outreach efforts, a project page was created on the City website to post relevant information on the project. A CWMP specific email listserv was also created to inform interested parties about upcoming events related to the CWMP.

The City held a first public workshop on November 6, 2019. At this workshop, the project team introduced the project to the public, summarized early results from field work conducted earlier in the fall, and facilitated a group exercise to gather feedback on what individuals value most about City creeks and watersheds, what concerns they have regarding city creeks, what types of projects they would most like to see, and what type of information would be most beneficial to include in the CWMP. A summary of responses is provided in Appendix A, Public Outreach Responses.

A second public workshop occurred on February 26, 2020. At this workshop, the project team presented results from a public survey (see below), discussed policy and regulatory considerations, and more detailed summaries of baseline creek characteristics derived from research and field work. In addition, breakout groups were held to allow members of the public to discuss and provide feedback on the biology, geomorphology, and hydrology/water quality information. A summary of this feedback can also be found in Appendix A. A third public workshop occurred after the public release of the CWMP to review the contents of the CWMP.

The project team also established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies and interested non-profit organizations. The TAC provided input at TAC meetings and through review of draft sections of the CWMP. The TAC convened for the first time on November 13, 2019, to introduce the CWMP project and receive feedback. A second TAC meeting occurred on March 11, 2020, where additional information was provided to the TAC and feedback was received on issues to focus on in the CWMP. A third TAC meeting occurred on September 30, 2020. During this meeting, revisions to previously reviewed sections of the CWMP were summarized and a discussion of draft Sections 5 and 6 of the CWMP occurred.

In addition to the public workshops and TAC, the project team also tabled at the Lemon Festival on September 28–29, 2019 to interact with members of the public and inform them of the CWMP project. Tabling also occurred at the ribbon cutting for the new field at the Boys and Girls Club in Old Town on October 2, 2019. Additional outreach was planned for the Goleta Farmers' Market but did not occur due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below is a list of public outreach efforts, public workshops, and TAC meetings and dates associated with the development of the CWMP:

- Public Survey: Circulated September 28, 2019 to February 20, 2020
- Lemon Festival Tabling Event: September 28 and 29, 2019
- Tabling at Goleta Boys and Girls Club Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: October 2, 2019
- Public Workshop #1: November 6, 2019

- Public Workshop #2: February 26, 2020
- Public Workshop #3: November 2, 2020
- TAC Meeting #1: November 13, 2019
- TAC Meeting #2: March 11, 2020
- TAC Meeting #3: September 30, 2020

The project team also conducted a paper and online survey in both English and Spanish to elicit input on City creeks. While not a statistically significant survey, the results did provide insights into the issues of concern for the public. The survey included five questions (four multiple choice and one open-ended), as listed below:

1. Why are creeks important to you?
2. Which Creek is the most important to you?
3. Why is the creek selected in Question 2 most important to you?
4. Out of the following categories of improvements or projects, what do you feel is most needed along the City's creek corridors?
5. Any additional comments?

Respondents most valued creeks as habitat for plants and animals and for the flood control services they provide. Respondents often identified the creek closest to their home as the most important as well as those that provide important habitat. In terms of future improvements or projects, respondents most commonly supported cleaning up of trash and homeless encampments as well as restorative riparian planting and/or removal of invasive plants, Complete results of the survey are provided in Appendix A.

3 Policy and Regulatory Background

This section outlines the federal, state, and local policies, regulations, and plans pertinent to creek resources located within the City[1] and the larger region. This section identifies and discusses the various programs and regulating resources located within and adjacent to creeks, including sensitive vegetation communities, state- and/or federally-listed threatened or endangered plants and wildlife, and jurisdictional aquatic/hydrological features, such as channels, streambeds, riparian habitat, and wetlands. Some of the resources that occur within or along City creeks are regulated by resource agencies, which often overlap in jurisdiction. It should be noted that this section focuses on the policy and regulatory actions that occur within the City of Goleta's boundaries. Please refer to Appendix B, Plans and Projects Outside the City of Goleta, for those plans, policies, and regulations within the contributing watersheds outside of the City's limits.

3.1 Endangered Species Acts

3.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (16 USC 1531 et seq.) is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service. The purpose of the FESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Under the FESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. Endangered species are those in danger of extinction throughout all or significant portions of their ranges. Threatened species are those likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. The FESA provides protection for these species by prohibiting "take" of listed animals and the interstate or international trade of listed plants and animals. The ultimate goal of the FESA is for species to recover so they no longer need protection under the FESA.

3.1.2 State of California Endangered Species Act

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) administers the California Endangered Species Act (codified in the California Fish and Game Code, or CFGC), which parallels some of the provisions and requirements of the FESA. The purpose of the California Endangered Species Act is to conserve and protect plants and animals at risk of extinction. Like the FESA, plant and animal species may be designated as threatened or endangered and prohibits "take," interstate import or export, and possessing, purchasing, or selling these species without proper authorization.

Additionally, the Fish and Game Code designates specific species as "fully protected," which may not be taken or possessed without a permit from the Fish and Game Commission (CFGC Sections 3511 and 4700). Similarly, it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds of prey; or to take, possess, or destroy any nest or eggs of such birds (CFGC Section 3503.5). "Birds of prey" refer to species in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes. Active nests of all other birds (except the English sparrow and European starling) are similarly protected under Sections 3503 and 3513 of the Fish and Game

[1] Regulations described are current as of July 2020. Migratory Bird Treaty Act updated September 2020.

Code. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort is considered "take" by the CDFW. This statute does not provide for the issuance of an incidental take permit.

3.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 USC 703–712) prohibits the take of any migratory bird or any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird. Under the MBTA, "take" is defined as pursuing, hunting, shooting, capturing, collecting, or killing, or attempting to do so (16 USC 703 et seq.). Additionally, Executive Order (EO) 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, requires that any project with federal involvement address impacts of federal actions on migratory birds with the purpose of promoting conservation of migratory bird populations (66 FR 3853–3856). The EO requires federal agencies to work with USFWS to develop a memorandum of understanding to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. USFWS reviews actions that might affect these species.

3.3 Creeks and Other Jurisdictional Waters

In addition to local jurisdictions regulatory authority over development within their jurisdictions, five primary state agencies regulate activities within coastal streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regulatory Program regulates activities pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA); the CDFW regulates activities under Sections 1600–1616 of the Fish and Game Code; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates activities under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and Section 401 of the CWA; Division of Water Rights acts on the behalf of the State Water Resources Control Board on issues related to water rights; and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) regulates activities within the Coastal Zone (which generally extends 1,000 yards inland from the mean high tide line) under the California Coastal Act.

3.3.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Pursuant to CWA Section 404, the USACE regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, which includes tidal waters, interstate waters, and all other waters that are part of a tributary system to interstate waters or to navigable waters, the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce or which are tributaries to waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide (33 CFR 328.3(a)). The USACE defines jurisdictional wetlands as areas supporting a predominance of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. However, past U.S. Supreme Court rulings have determined the scope of USACE jurisdiction based on the definition of waters of the United States in 33 CFR Section 328.3(a).

Section 401 of the CWA requires that any entity applying for a federal permit or license, which may result in a discharge to waters of the United States, must obtain water quality certification. In California, the responsibility for issuing a water quality certification falls to the State Water Resources Control Board or one of the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards to ensure that the activity complies with all applicable water quality standards, limitations, and restrictions. Under the CWA, no permit may be issued by the USACE until water quality certification required by Section 401 has been granted.

3.3.2 California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Pursuant to Section 401 of the federal CWA, the RWQCB regulates discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect a "water of the State" (Water Code, Section 13260(a)), pursuant to provisions of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Waters of the State are defined as "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state" (Water Code, Section 13050(e)). Before the USACE will issue a CWA Section 404 permit, applicants must receive a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB. If a CWA Section 404 permit is not required for the Project, the RWQCB may still require a permit (i.e., Waste Discharge Requirement) under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

3.3.3 State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights

The California Water Code (Division 2) requires a water right issued by the state for the diversion of water from a lake, river, stream, creek, or underground supplies for beneficial use. Examples of beneficial uses include domestic use, irrigation, power production, municipal use, mining, industrial use, fish and wildlife preservation, aquaculture, recreation, and water quality protection.

3.3.4 California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Under California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600–1616, the CDFW has authority to regulate work that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake. The CDFW also has authority to regulate work that will deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake. This regulation takes the form of a requirement for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) is the official compilation and publication of the regulations adopted, amended or repealed by state agencies, including the CDFW. Per 14 CCR 1.72, a "stream" (including creeks and rivers) is "a body of water that flows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and supports fish or other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation."

In addition, Fish and Game Code Section 5937 requires that owners of dams must allow sufficient water to pass underneath the dam, through a fishway or through other means based on the situation, at all times to keep in good condition any fish that may exist below the dam.

Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code states that it is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nests or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Section 3503.5 protects all birds of prey (raptors) and their eggs and nests. Section 3511 states that fully protected birds or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed at any time. Section 3513 states that it is unlawful to take or possess any migratory non-game bird as designated in the MBTA.

California Fish and Game Code Section 4150 states a mammal occurring naturally in California that is not a game mammal, fully protected mammal, or fur-bearing mammal is a non-game mammal. A non-game mammal may not be taken or possessed under this code. All bat species occurring naturally in California are considered non-game mammals and are therefore prohibited from take as stated in California Fish and Game Code Section 4150.

3.3.4 California Coastal Commission

Under the California Coastal Act, the CCC, in partnership with local governments, regulates impacts to wetlands and other sensitive habitat in the Coastal Zone and requires a coastal development permit for almost all development within this zone. Until the City has a certified Local Coastal Program, the CCC is responsible for issuance of all development permits within the Coastal Zone in the City. Approximately 19% (1.507 square miles) of the City by area falls within the Coastal Zone. These areas fall mostly within the Ellwood neighborhood and the southern end of Old Town. Portions of San Jose, El Encanto, Devereux, Bell Canyon, and Tecolote Creeks within the City are in the Coastal Zone.

The California Coastal Act provides for protection of environmentally sensitive habitat areas pursuant to Section 30240 of the Act that reads:

> Section 30240.
> (a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.
> (b) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.

The California Coastal Act defines environmentally sensitive area and wetland. These definitions read:

> Section 30107.5.
> "Environmentally sensitive area" means any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

> Section 30121.
> "Wetland" means lands within the coastal zone which may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water and include saltwater marshes, freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish water marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fens.

In contrast to the USACE, which uses a three-parameter definition to delineate wetlands, the CCC essentially uses the Cowardin method of wetlands classification, which defines wetland boundaries by a single parameter (i.e., hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, or hydrology)(Cowardin et al. 1979). Note that the City, County of Santa Barbara, CCC, CDFW, and USFWS all apply and use the most protective definition of wetland to determine the boundary of a wetland (see General Plan Conservation Element subpolicy CE 3.1, Definition of Wetlands).

In addition to protection of environmentally sensitive areas, the California Coastal Act addresses expectations for protection of water quality, as detailed in Section 30231. Section 30231 reads:

> Section 30231.
> The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine

> organisms and for the protection of human health shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored through, among other means, minimizing adverse effects of waste water discharges and entrainment, controlling runoff, preventing depletion of ground water supplies and substantial interference with surface waterflow, encouraging waste water reclamation, maintaining natural vegetation buffer areas that protect riparian habitats, and minimizing alteration of natural streams.

The California Coastal Act also addresses waterway modifications in Section 30236, which reads:

> Section 30236.
> Channelization, dams, or other substantial alterations of rivers and streams shall incorporate the best mitigation measures feasible, and be limited to (1) necessary water supply projects, (2) flood control projects where no other method for protecting existing structures in the flood plain is feasible and where such protection is necessary for public safety or to protect existing development, or (3) developments where the primary function is the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat.

3.3.5 Regional Plans

The City adopted the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2012 (County of Santa Barbara 2017). An update to this plan was completed in 2017, approved by the State Office of Emergency Services and FEMA and adopted by the City via City Council Resolution Nos. 17-32 and 17-33. The plan identifies natural hazards throughout all of Santa Barbara County. The plan also includes each of the eight incorporated cities within the County and presents an assessment of critical facilities vulnerable to these hazards. The plan also lists potential actions needed to reduce risk and future damage. Among the hazards analyzed in the plan are floods and sea level rise and erosion.

The County-Wide Integrated Stormwater Resource Plan (SBCCE 2018) is a regional, watershed-based plan intended to improve the management of stormwater resources in Santa Barbara County through the identification and prioritization of multiple-benefit infrastructure projects that enhance reliability of local water supplies, improve surface water quality and flood management, and provide environmental, educational, and recreational benefits. Example project types include green infrastructure that is designed to capture, infiltrate, and/or treat stormwater (and dry weather) runoff. The plan includes two conceptual projects within the City, at San Pedro Creek Open Space (Stonebridge) and Evergreen Park that are classified as “high prioritization.” The City of Goleta is a cooperating agency for the plan.

3.3.6 Other Agencies

3.3.6.1 Goleta Water District

The Goleta Water District (GWD) is the water purveyor within the City and manages groundwater extractions from the Goleta Groundwater Basin. The Goleta Groundwater Basin underlies almost all of the City. Basin groundwater rights were adjudicated in the Wright Judgment in 1989 (*Martha H. Wright et al. v. Goleta Water District et al.,* 1989, Amended Judgment, Superior Court of Santa Barbara County Case No. SM57969.). GWD has a current adjudicated, appropriative right to extract and use up to 2,350

acre-feet per year of groundwater from the Goleta Groundwater Basin. The Wright Judgment provides GWD with the right to defer producing its annual groundwater entitlement and considers this water as GWD stored water, which can be used during dry years, droughts, and emergencies. The Wright Judgment also provides the District with the right to inject surface water supplies and claim the recharged water as the District's stored water, in addition to its annual entitlement.

The GWD maintains a Groundwater Management Plan (GWD 2016). The Groundwater Management Plan details adjudication and voter-passed components of groundwater management, addresses groundwater issues, revisits previously adopted Basin management objectives, outlines management strategies for the Basin, and recommends future tasks and timelines associated with those tasks, including recommendations regarding GWD implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

The SAFE Ordinance, approved by GWD voters in 1991 and amended in 1994, directs how GWD manages groundwater and specifies under what conditions groundwater is either pumped or stored. In addition, the SAFE Ordinance establishes an Annual Storage Commitment, which is a groundwater recharge requirement when the Central subbasin of the Goleta Groundwater Basin drops below 1972 levels. However, even when groundwater elevations are below 1972 levels, the SAFE Ordinance allows groundwater pumping when there are reduced deliveries of Lake Cachuma water.

GWD groundwater extractions vary year-to-year. As recently as 2010, GWD pumped zero water from Goleta Groundwater Basin. Extractions recently peaked at 5,557 acre-feet in 2015. In 2019, GWD extracted 2,036 acre-feet.

The GWD currently maintains eight water wells in the Central subbasin to extract groundwater. Two of these wells, the Shirrell Well and the Berkeley Well are within the City. The Shirrell Well site is located at the intersection of Shirrell Way and North Fairview Road. The Berkeley Well site is located at the east end of Berkeley Drive intersection of Princeton Avenue on a City-owned parcel. The site is adjacent to San Jose Creek. Both wells were inactive between the early 1990s and 2016. In 2016, GWD performance maintenance upgrades to both wells. The Shirrell Well produced 0 acre-feet in 2016, 14 acre-feet in 2017, and 8 acre-feet in 2018. The Berkeley well produced 8 acre-feet in 2016, 30 acre-feet in 2017, and 225 acre-feet in 2018. As of 2020, both the Shirrell and Berkeley Wells serve as backup wells for the GWD and were not being used to extract groundwater.

The GWD is also preparing an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project for the Goleta Groundwater Basin. The purpose of the project is to increase the efficiency of aquifer storage by increasing use of potable water injection into existing GWD injection and production wells during periods of sufficient surface water availability. The GWD would use the stored water during droughts, emergencies, and peak summer demand periods.

3.3.6.2 Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SBFCD) provides flood protection throughout the County through various means including channel maintenance, design and construction of capital projects, hydrologic data collection for a flood warning system and review of new developments. SBFCD was created in 1955 in response to several large flooding events in the early 1950s. SBFCD oversees annual maintenance to creeks throughout the county, including within the City of Goleta as described below, and conducts 5-year capital improvement projects.

SBFCD's Operation and Maintenance program involves ensuring normal operation of channels, basins and other flood control protection facilities. During emergency storm events, district staff perform flood-fighting and support activities such as the monitoring of all flood facilities and operating dams and channel gates. After storm events, Flood Control works to rehabilitate flood control systems to the state of readiness that existed prior to the storm. Other Flood Control Programs include Debris Control, Major Storm Repair, Flood Plain Management, and Hydrologic Data Collection.

As mentioned above, the SBFCD conducts an Annual Routine Maintenance Program countywide that includes the City creeks. The objectives of the Annual Routine Maintenance Program are to maintain the capacity of key watercourses in the County, to preserve existing conveyance capacity, and prevent the accumulation of obstructing vegetation and sediments that could increase existing flood hazards.

Each year in March and April, SBFCD staff inspects all of the County's maintained drainages, including those within the City. Once the field surveys are completed for each watershed, SBFCD staff determines which watersheds are in good-enough condition overall that no maintenance will be performed for the year and which will be included for maintenance that year.

An Annual Routine Maintenance Plan (Annual Plan) is prepared by SBFCD staff in May and June of each year for those creeks that are included for maintenance. Routine maintenance can include brushing vegetation, herbicide application, desilting, shaping, bank protection, repair or creation of check structures, and habitat restoration. At sites where impacts to riparian vegetation within the creek channel cannot be completely avoided, the District calculates the square footage of impacts to native vegetation and then identifies a location for habitat restoration. The priority for restoration is on the creek bank at or near the site where vegetation was removed. However, alternatives include other sites along the same creek and at nearby creeks. SBFCD also maintains the Los Carneros Mitigation Bank at the City's Lake Carneros Natural and Historic Preserve. The bank has 28 acres that are slated for restoration with 10 acres of riparian vegetation and 18.41 acres of upland habitat.

Each year, the maintenance work occurs between August 1 and December 15. This timing allows for avoidance of the migratory bird breeding season and the wet season for some of the maintained creeks.

3.3.6.3 Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County

The City maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County for mosquito services within the City. The agreement includes a Mosquito Management Plan for the City that outlines management techniques and identifies mosquito breeding sites within the City. The primary location is the Lake Los Carneros area. Also identified are Evergreen Park and Bella Vista Park.

3.3.6.4 Neighboring Jurisdictions

Other local jurisdictions regulate land use both upstream and downstream from creek segments within the City. These jurisdictions have authority over development in those areas but not within the City of Goleta. Information on neighboring jurisdictions plans, regulations, and projects that impact creeks that traverse the City is provided in Appendix B.

3.4 City Policies, Regulation, Management Plans, and Projects

3.4.1 General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan

The City of Goleta adopted the General Plan in 2006 (City of Goleta 2006). The General Plan aims to create a coherent vision for the City's future that forms the foundation for the General Plan's goals, objectives, and policies. The City's Guiding Principles and Goals, Policies, and Objectives most relevant to the CWMP are described below.

3.4.1.1 Conservation Element

The General Plan Conservation Element includes a focus on protecting, preserving, and enhancing the City's creeks and watershed as evidenced by the abundance of references to creeks and surface water resources in the Element's Guiding Principles and Goals. Relevant Principles and Goals include to:

1. Protect, maintain, and enhance natural ecosystem processes and functions in Goleta and its environs in order to maintain their natural ecological diversity.
2. Preserve, restore, and enhance the physical and biological integrity of Goleta's creeks and natural drainages and their associated riparian and creekside habitats.
3. Identify and protect wetlands, including vernal pools, as highly productive and complex ecosystems that provide special habitats for flora and fauna as well as for their role in cleansing surface waters and drainages.
4. Protect water quality and the biological diversity of Goleta Slough and Devereux Slough.
5. Protect and enhance other important aquatic and terrestrial habitats, including those associated with rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants or animals.
6. Manage water resources at the watershed level cooperatively with other agencies to maintain high groundwater and surface water quality and to protect marine aquatic habitats.
7. Manage groundwater and surface water resources to promote water quality and quantity adequate to support natural ecosystem processes and functions.

Conservation Element Policy CE 1 (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area Designations and Policy) provides a comprehensive overview of ESHA protection within the City. This policy includes subpolicies defining and designating ESHA types and outlining requirements for site-specific biological studies for new development, protections for illegally destroyed ESHA, procedures for corrections to mapped ESHA, protections that apply to all ESHA types, requirements for mitigation to impact ESHA associated with new development, requirements ESHA buffers, and standards that apply to development within and adjacent to ESHA. Subsequent policies in the Conservation Element include more detailed policies for specific ESHA types.

To further support these Principles and Goals, the Conservation Element includes specific policies and objectives related to creek and riparian areas, which are considered Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas in accordance with Conservation Element subpolicy CE 1.2(a). Conservation Element Policy CE 2 (Protection of Creeks and Riparian Areas) lists as its policy objective to "Enhance,

maintain, and restore the biological integrity of creek courses and their associated wetlands and riparian habitats as important natural features of Goleta's landscape."

Below is a complete listing of subpolicies with CE 2. These subpolicies provide clear direction for the CWMP and all future actions by the City. Note: On January 21, 2020, the City Council initiated an amendment process to subpolicy CE 2.2. A history of amendments to subpolicy CE 2.2 and SPA buffer reductions granted pursuant to that subpolicy are provided in Appendix C, Conservation Element Policy CE 2.2: Policy History and Buffer Reductions.

Policy CE 2: Protection of Creeks and Riparian Areas [GP/CP]

Objective: Enhance, maintain, and restore the biological integrity of creek courses and their associated wetlands and riparian habitats as important natural features of Goleta's landscape.

CE 2.1 Designation of Protected Creeks. [GP/CP] The provisions of this policy shall apply to creeks shown in Figure 4-1. These watercourses and their associated riparian areas are defined as ESHAs. They serve as habitat for fish and wildlife, provide wildlife movement corridors, provide for the flow of stormwater runoff and floodwaters, and furnish open space and passive recreational areas for city residents.

CE 2.2 Streamside Protection Areas. [GP/CP] A streamside protection area (SPA) is hereby established along both sides of the creeks identified in Figure 4-1. The purpose of the designation shall be to preserve the SPA in a natural state in order to protect the associated riparian habitats and ecosystems. The SPA shall include the creek channel, wetlands and/or riparian vegetation related to the creek hydrology, and an adjacent upland buffer area. The width of the SPA upland buffer shall be as follows:

a. The SPA upland buffer shall be 100 feet outward on both sides of the creek, measured from the top of the bank or the outer limit of wetlands and/or riparian vegetation, whichever is greater. The City may consider increasing or decreasing the width of the SPA upland buffer on a case-by-case basis at the time of environmental review. The City may allow portions of a SPA upland buffer to be less than 100 feet wide, but not less than 25 feet wide, based on a site specific assessment if (1) there is no feasible alternative siting for development that will avoid the SPA upland buffer; and (2) the project's impacts will not have significant adverse effects on streamside vegetation or the biotic quality of the stream.
b. If the provisions above would result in any legal parcel created prior to the date of this plan being made unusable in its entirety for any purpose allowed by the land use plan, exceptions to the foregoing may be made to allow a reasonable economic use of the parcel, subject to approval of a conditional use permit. *(Amended by Reso. 09-30, 5/19/09 and Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 2.3 Allowable Uses and Activities in Streamside Protection Areas. [GP/CP] The following compatible land uses and activities may be allowed in SPAs, subject to all other policies of this plan, including those requiring avoidance or mitigation of impacts:

a. Agricultural operations, provided they are compatible with preservation of riparian resources.
b. Fencing and other access barriers along property boundaries and along SPA boundaries.
c. Maintenance of existing roads, driveways, utilities, structures, and drainage improvements.

d. Construction of public road crossings and utilities, provided that there is no feasible, less environmentally damaging alternative.
e. Construction and maintenance of foot trails, bicycle paths, and similar low-impact facilities for public access.
f. Resource restoration or enhancement projects.
g. Nature education and research activities.
h. Low-impact interpretive and public access signage.
i. Other such Public Works projects as identified in the Capital Improvement Plan, only where there are no feasible, less environmentally damaging alternatives. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 2.4 Dedication of Easements or Other Property Interests. [GP/CP] In new subdivisions of land, SPAs shall not be included in developable lots but shall be within a separate parcel or parcels, unless the subdivider demonstrates that it is not feasible to create a separate open space lot for the SPA. An easement or deed restriction limiting the uses allowed on the open space lot to those set forth in CE 2.3 shall be required. Dedication of the open space lot or easement area to the City or a nonprofit land trust is encouraged.

CE 2.5 Maintenance of Creeks as Natural Drainage Systems. [GP/CP] Creek banks, creek channels, and associated riparian areas shall be maintained or restored to their natural condition wherever such conditions or opportunities exist. Creeks carry a significant amount of Goleta's stormwater flows. The following standards shall apply:

a. The capacity of natural drainage courses shall not be diminished by development or other activities.
b. Drainage controls and improvements shall be accomplished with the minimum vegetation removal and disruption of the creek and riparian ecosystem that is necessary to accomplish the drainage objective.
c. Measures to stabilize creek banks, improve flow capacity, and reduce flooding are allowed but shall not include installation of new concrete channels, culverts, or pipes except at street crossings, unless it is demonstrated that there is no feasible alternative for improving capacity.
d. Drainage controls in new development shall be required to minimize erosion, sedimentation, and flood impacts to creeks. On site treatment of stormwater through retention basins, infiltration, vegetated swales, and other best management practices (BMPs) shall be required in order to protect water quality and the biological functions of creek ecosystems.
e. Alteration of creeks for the purpose of road or driveway crossings shall be prohibited except where the alteration is not substantial and there is no other feasible alternative to provide access to new development on an existing legal parcel. Creek crossings shall be accomplished by bridging and shall be designed to allow the passage of fish and wildlife. Bridge abutments or piers shall be located outside creek beds and banks, unless an environmentally superior alternative exists. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)***CE 2.6 Restoration of Degraded Creeks. [GP/CP]** Segments of several creeks in Goleta have been covered or channelized by concrete culverts, causing degradation of the creek ecosystem. Restoration activities for improving degraded creek resources shall include the following:

a. Channelized creek segments and culverts shall be evaluated and removed to restore natural channel bed and bank, where feasible.

b. Creek courses in public rights-of-way shall be uncovered as part of public works improvement projects.
c. Barriers that prevent migration of fish such as anadromous salmonids from reaching their critical habitat shall be removed or modified.
d. Restoration of native riparian vegetation and removal of exotic plant species shall be implemented, unless such plants provide critical habitat for monarch butterflies, raptors, or other protected animals.
e. Creek rehabilitation projects shall be designed to maintain or improve flow capacity, trap sediments and other pollutants that decrease water quality, minimize channel erosion, prevent new sources of pollutants from entering the creek, and enhance in-creek and riparian habitat.
f. The use of closed-pipe drainage systems for fish-bearing creeks shall be prohibited unless there is no feasible, less environmentally damaging alternative. When the use of culverts is necessary, the culverts shall be oversized and have gravel bottoms that maintain the channel's width and grade.

The Conservation Element includes several other policies relevant to identifying and protecting ESHA, include areas potentially adjacent to City creeks.

Included among these policies is Policy CE 3 (Protection of Wetlands). As noted in the Conservation Element, wetland habitat includes vegetated aquatic habitats and unvegetated open creek channels (see General Plan Conservation Element Table 4-2: Examples of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat). Policy CE 3 includes details on the definition and designation of wetland and provides specific details on requirements for wetland delineations when development is proposed. In addition, CE 3 includes specific protections for wetlands in and outside the Coastal Zones and includes requirements for mitigation for wetland fill. Finally, CE 3 identifies the lagoons at the mouths of Bell Canyon and Tecolote Creeks and requires specific protection of these resources.

Policy CE 5 (Protection of Other Terrestrial Habitat Areas) includes protections for native grasslands, coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage-scrub, and chaparral. Subpolicy CE 5.3(b) specifically identifies the need to avoid impacts to coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage-scrub, and chaparral habitat where the habitat “is part of a wildlife movement corridor and the impact would preclude animal movement or isolate ESHAs previously connected by the corridor such as (1) disrupting associated bird and animal movement patterns and seed dispersal, and/or (2) increasing erosion and sedimentation impacts to nearby creeks or drainages.”

Policy CE 8 (Protection of Special-Status Species) includes polices to protect habitats for threatened, endangered, or other special-status species of plants and animals. The policy includes a requirement that all development avoid adverse impacts to these habitats and outlines requirements for biological studies. Additionally, subpolicy CE 8.4 provides specific buffer areas to protect raptor nest during all times and additional buffer protections during nesting and fledgling season.

Policy CE 9 (Protection of Native Woodlands) provides policies to maintain and protect existing native trees and woodlands. Subpolicies of CE 9 define the trees to be protected, outlines the requirements for a tree protection plan for new development where there are native trees on site, includes protections for native woodlands and savannas, and outlines protections for native trees and woodlands in the design of projects. CE 9 also identifies standards, including mitigation of impacts

to native trees, that need to be included in a Tree Protection Ordinance (as detailed in Conservation Element Implementation Action CE-IA-4).

Policy CE 10 (Watershed Management and Water Quality) includes polices to prevent the degradation of the quality of groundwater basin and surface waters in and adjacent to Goleta. Subpolices of CE 10 include policies for the siting and design of new development to address water quality, including best management practices for stormwater management and requirements for stormwater plans for new development.

For more information on these policies, see the General Plan.

3.4.1.2 Safety Element

The General Plan also includes several policies relevant to creek and watershed management within the Safety Element. These policies aim to address issues related to flooding and mitigating flood impacts rather than protection of ESHA. However, these policies also provide clear direction related to development and active management activities and are critical to guiding the future vision of capital projects related to the creeks. Below are highlighted policies from the Safety Element relevant to this Plan.

SE 5.6 Streambed Stabilization Projects. [GP/CP] In stream areas susceptible to slope failure, the City shall pursue and implement streambed stabilization projects. For these projects, stabilization by restoration with native plantings and natural-looking, "soft" stabilization methods shall be preferred over concrete channelization, gabions, riprap, and other "hard" stabilization methods.

SE 6.4 Avoidance of Flood Hazard Areas. [GP/CP] The City shall discourage any new intensive development in any flood hazard area. Similarly, the City shall require appropriate flood mitigation for intensification of existing development in any floodprone area. The City shall not approve development within areas designated as the 100-year floodplain that would obstruct flood flow (such as construction in the designated floodway), displace floodwaters onto other property, or be subject to flood damage. The City shall not allow development that will create or worsen drainage problems.

SE 6.6 Enforcement of Watercourse Setback Ordinance. [GP/CP] A minimum 50-foot setback shall be required from streambanks and flood control channels for all new development (see related CE 2.2). For projects that would be rendered infeasible by the application of such minimum setbacks, the project applicant shall provide a site-specific engineering study with recommended mitigation measures to allow for a reduced setback that would not expose development to unacceptable risk. Furthermore, in these cases, the City shall consult with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District to determine whether the proposed lesser setback would be appropriate, in that it would allow access for flood control maintenance and enable proper operation of the channels. The City shall maintain and enforce the policies and standards within a Water Course Setback Ordinance.

SE 6.8 Flood Control Projects. [GP/CP] The City shall seek funding for and implement capital improvement projects to mitigate hazards for low-lying flood-prone areas. The City shall require restoration of natural processes in drainage ways where appropriate and feasible. For these flood control projects, methods that employ native plantings and natural-looking, "soft" stabilization shall be preferred over methods that rely solely on concrete channelization and other "hard" stabilization methods.

SE 6.9 Restoration of Armored or Channelized Stream Beds. [GP/CP] The City shall pursue opportunities to eliminate or soften existing concrete channels and/or rock- or concrete-stabilized banks from streams. (See CE 2.5.)

3.4.2 Zoning Regulations – Title 17 of the Goleta Municipal Code

On March 3, 2020, City Council adopted Title 17 of the Goleta Municipal Code (GMC), commonly referred to as the New Zoning Ordinance (NZO). The regulations included in the newly adopted Title 17 went into effect on April 3, 2020.

Title 17 includes various regulations related to City creeks. Highlights of these regulations are provided below:

- Chapter 17.30, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, establishes standards for development that could impact Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) that are identified and mapped within the General Plan or meet the criteria for ESHA designation as specified in the General Plan and to describe the permit requirements and the review process for such proposed development.
- Within Chapter 17.30, Section 17.30.070 outlines the protection of SPAs, consistent with General Plan subpolicy CE 2.2. These regulations establish a minimum 100-foot buffer outward on both sides of the creek, measured from the top of the bank or the outer limit of the riparian vegetation, whichever feature is further from the creek. This section included four findings that are required for any reduction of a SPA buffer below the 100-foot standard but not less than 25 feet, with the approval of a Major Conditional Use Permit. To assist the Review Authority in making the required findings, the Director may direct preparation of any study or report that the Director deems necessary at the applicant's expense. This section also included a list of allowed uses within a SPA buffer, consistent with General Plan subpolicy CE 2.3.
- Chapter 17.31, Floodplain Management, regulates the location of new development that could negatively impact the City's floodways and drainageways, consistent with General Plan subpolicy SE 6.6. This Chapter established a 50-foot setback from the top of streambanks and flood control channels and outlines the situations in which the setback may be reduced. This Chapter requires that any reduced setback adhere to the requirements of Section 17.30.070, when applicable.

3.4.3 Other Goleta Municipal Code Regulations

In addition to Title 17, the GMC includes other regulations relevant to creeks and watersheds. A brief summary of these provisions is provided below.

3.4.3.1 Chapter 12.13, Public Nuisances

Section 12.13.020, Public Nuisances Designated, includes a list of identified public nuisances. This list was amended in 2010 to include subsection (P) that reads: "Any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of Chapter 13.04 [see below], including releases of pollutants or illegal discharges into the storm drain system and/or waters of the State."

3.4.3.2 Chapter 13.04, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control

Chapter 13.04 of the GMC was adopted in 2010, via Ordinance No. 10-02, to serve as a Best Management Practice pursuant to the City's Storm Water Management Plan (see below). Chapter 13.04 regulates non-storm water discharges to the storm drain system to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law. Acting under the Federal mandate and the California Water Code, California Water Boards issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits that require cities, towns, and counties to regulate activities which can result in pollutants entering their storm drains.

Chapter 13.04 requires all new development and redevelopment projects to comply with the post-construction stormwater requirements contained in the Stormwater Technical Guide, Compliance with Stormwater Post-Construction Requirements in Santa Barbara County. The post-construction requirements mandate that development projects use Low Impact Development (LID) to detain, retain, and treat runoff. LID incorporates and conserves on-site natural features, together with constructed hydrologic controls to more closely mimic pre-development hydrology and watershed processes.

3.4.3.3 Chapter 15.10, Floodplain Management

The purpose of GMC Chapter 15.10 is to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas. This chapter includes methods and provisions for:

- Restricting or prohibiting uses which are dangerous due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or flood heights or velocities;
- Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction; controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers;
- Controlling filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase flood damage; and
- Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert floodwaters or which may increase flood hazards in other areas.

3.4.4 Management Plans and Programs

Additional management plans and programs relevant to City creeks currently exist within the City and are considered in the development of this CWMP.

3.4.4.1 Ellwood-Devereux Open Space and Habitat Management Plan

In March 2004, the City adopted the Ellwood-Devereux Coast Open Space and Habitat Management Plan (City of Goleta et al. 2004). This plan addresses land use needs of the Ellwood-Devereux Coast in order to reduce the amount of residential development, relocate development to inland locations, and establish an approximately 652-acre contiguous area, which includes open space and natural reserves managed for the public and natural resource protection. This plan describes management goals, policies, and actions to guide management of public access and habitat protection. The plan area within the City includes portions of Devereux Creek.

3.4.4.2 Stormwater Management Plan

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) identified the City of Goleta as a small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) requiring coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, Water Quality Order No. 2003-0005-DWQ and CAS000004 (General Permit).

The Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) (City of Goleta 2010) was prepared by the City pursuant to the requirements of the City's General Permit and serves as a framework for identifying, assigning, and implementing the Minimum Control Measures and BMPs intended to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the municipal separate storm sewer system and protect downstream water quality to the maximum extent practicable. In addition to these primary objectives, the SWMP is intended to:

- Serve as a planning and guidance document to be used by the City's regulatory body, all City departments, contractors, and the general public;
- Be dynamic and adaptively managed to address changes in General Permit requirements, organizational structure, responsibilities, and goals;
- Define techniques and measurable goals for measuring BMP effectiveness; and
- Define a five-year schedule for the storm water management

3.4.4.3 Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (City of Goleta 2012) was developed to enhance the community wildfire protection by identifying fire hazard treatments, which are in balance with sustainable ecological management and fiscal resources. This plan identities the community's values and determines if those values are vulnerable to damage or loss from wildfire. In addition, this plan develops a course of action for protecting those values. The plan acknowledges that maintenance schedules will need to account for streamside corridors, where treatments must follow specific procedures and timelines.

3.4.4.4 Goleta Urban Forest Management Plan

The Goleta Urban Forest Management Plan (City of Goleta 2017) provides a five-year policy framework for how trees within public areas will be managed. The urban forest is defined as all public and private trees including the street tree system, trees in parks and other public lands, and trees on private properties throughout the City. The plan recommends several tree management strategies and identifies the ways in which the City's policies can gradually shape a public urban forest to reflect Goleta's urban forest goals.

3.4.4.5 Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan

In March 2019, the City adopted a Final Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (City of Goleta 2019). The purpose of this plan is to outline the programmatic approach and methods for the City to manage and improve the Ellwood Mesa eucalyptus grove for the benefit of the overwintering monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), other wildlife, and the public's use. Twenty-two programs are detailed in this plan, which integrate the many

diverse aspects of habitat management into a single plan. The Plan coverage area includes portions of Devereux Creek.

3.4.4.6 Goleta Parks, Facilities and Playgrounds Master Plan

The City's Parks, Facilities and Playgrounds Master Plan (City of Goleta 2020a) was adopted by City Council on January 16, 2020. The Plan provides an assessment of Goleta's parks and playgrounds system, considering future growth in the community. Many City-owned parks abut creeks and the plan includes several objectives to promote improved pedestrian and bicycle connectivity through these spaces.

3.4.4.7 Homelessness Strategic Plan

In November 2018, the City of Goleta initiated a process, which will culminate in a Homelessness Strategic Plan adoption by City Council. The process commenced with attending regional and local meetings on homelessness throughout the Central Coast and Santa Barbara County. According to the 2019 Point-in-Time Count (County of Santa Barbara 2019a), which is estimated to be lower than the actual numbers, there were 119 homeless people of whom 78 were living in vehicles and 41 in tents or on the street. Those unsheltered individuals in tents are found either on the street or may be in more remote locations adjacent to or within the city creek corridors.

There are unassessed potential impacts to creeks that may lead to decreased water quality such as an increase in fecal coliform bacteria and sedimentation (turbidity and total suspected solids); decrease in select wildlife species; and a decrease or shift in vegetation and aquatic species. The homeless population utilizing creeks corridors for shelter may also contribute to an increase in creek bank erosion, trash on the banks and within the creek, and a reduction in flood control capacity. The health and human hazard risks extend to those living in or adjacent to creeks as well as the health of the watershed and downstream water users.

The Homelessness Strategic Plan will take a holistic approach to addressing homelessness within the City and elements of these approaches may provide co-benefits for creeks as listed above.

3.4.4.8 Storm Drain Master Plan

A City Storm Drain Master Plan is a pending Capital Improvement Program (see below) project. The City does not currently have a comprehensive storm drain master plan. This future project will study patterns of drainage and flooding that exist throughout the entire City, including a specific focus in Old Town. The work will include evaluating the capacity of existing storm drainpipes and channels and providing recommendations for improvements to area drainage, storm drain, and channel capacity. Lack of capacity in existing storm drains and overflow from adjacent flood control channels in larger storm events contributes to inundation patterns reflected on current Federal Emergency Management Agency flood maps.

3.4.4.9 Lake Los Carneros Management Plan

Prior to City incorporation, the County of Santa Barbara prepared the Lake Carneros County Park, Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California 1999 Updated Management Plan (County of Santa Barbara 2000) for the Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historic Preserve that is now located within the City.

The Plan evaluates maintenance activities, details wildlife resources at the park, recognizes the biological and recreational value of the lake and its resources, and proposes several management recommendations to enhance those resources.

Because this area of the City has its own management plan, Lake Los Carneros is not further considered in the CWMP. Any changes to management at Lake Los Carneros would be implemented through changes to the Lake Los Carneros Management Plan.

3.4.4.10 Capital Improvement Program

The City of Goleta's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) forecasts the City's capital needs over a 5-year period based on various long-range plans, goals, and policies, and includes a comprehensive listing of planned and projected capital projects, which have been identified by City staff for the five-year planning period. This document includes both funded projects and unfunded needs. Current CIP projects relevant to City creeks include:

- **San Jose Creek Bike Path (Middle and Southern Extents).** The San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path Project extends approximately three miles alongside San Jose Creek from the California Coast Route path in the south to Cathedral Oaks Road and the Goleta Crosstown Bicycle Route in the north. The limits of the San Jose Creek Bike Path Southern Extent are from Hollister Avenue (northern limit) to the Atascadero Creek Class I/Multipurpose path (Obern Trail), connecting to the existing path just north of the State Route 217 Bridge over San Jose Creek, which is the southern limit of the Project.
- **San Jose Creek Channel Repair.** San Jose Creek Channel Emergency Repair Project is the repair (replacement in kind) of a small portion of the San Jose Creek Channel that was damaged in Winter Storms in 2017. The storm event of February 17, 2017 caused structural damage to an approx. 100-foot length of the channel that had previously (2015) been improved as part of the City's San Jose Creek Capacity and Fish-Passage Improvement Project.
- **Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement.** The Hollister Avenue Bridge represents the completion phase of the City's San Jose Creek Channel Capacity Improvement and Fish Passage Project. The overall project expands the San Jose Creek Channel to provide capacity for 100-year storm events and includes a fish-passable low-flow channel along the length of the San Jose Creek concrete channel allowing fish passage from the Goleta Slough to the natural portion of San Jose Creek, which terminates just upstream of Hollister Avenue. The project will also construct a transition basin immediately north of the new bridge to accommodate the transition from natural creek into the concrete channel from the perspective of containing flood waters as well as the passage of fish.
- **Ekwill Street and Fowler Road Extension Project.** The Ekwill-Fowler Project will provide a new direct east-west route between Fairview Avenue and Kellogg Avenue across Old Town Goleta. Immediately west of Pine Avenue, Ekwill Street will cross Old San Jose Creek. The crossing will be with a natural bottom arch culvert structure with sufficient clearance to accommodate animal crossing.
- **Covington Drainage System Improvements.** This project will address system capacity, peak flow attenuation, inlet efficiency and downstream conveyance between the inlet at Cathedral Oaks near Camino Laguna Vista, and the outlet at Covington Way and Lake Los Carneros.
- Goleta Storm Drain Master Plan. See description above.

- **Ellwood Beach Drive Drainage Infrastructure Replacement.** The project will replace the current drainage inlet on Ellwood Beach Drive and add a trash capture system to prevent trash from entering the stormwater system.
- **Phelps Ditch (El Encanto Creek) Flood Control Channel Trash Control Structure.** The project will install a full trash capture system for the Phelps Ditch (El Encanto Creek), with intakes along Hollister Avenue and between Hollister Avenue and Phelps Road.
- **Old Town South Fairview Avenue, High Flow Full Trash Capture Devices.** The project will install a full trash capture system in the storm drainpipe on South Fairview Ave. in Old Town to collect trash from multiple inlets prior to release to the outlet.
- **Storke Road Widening Phelps Road to City Limits**. The project will add a vehicular lane in each direction, with sidewalks and bike lanes in both directions. Concepts for replacement of the two existing culverts passing beneath the roadway with a natural bottom culvert are also being considered.

3.5 CEQA and Thresholds

In accordance with CEQA, the City utilizes environmental thresholds of significance for new development through the use of the County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County of Santa Barbara 2002). As described in this manual, riparian habitats are defined as the "terrestrial or upland area adjacent to freshwater bodies, such as the banks of creeks and streams, the shores of lakes and ponds, and aquifers which emerge at the surface of such as springs and seeps." The following types of project-related impacts to riparian habitats may be considered significant pursuant to CEQA:

a. Direct removal of riparian vegetation.
b. Disruption of riparian wildlife habitat, particularly animal dispersal corridors and or understory vegetation.
c. Intrusion within the upland edge of the riparian canopy (generally within 50 feet in urban areas, within 100 feet in rural areas, and within 200 feet of [Santa Ynez, Santa Maria, Cuyama, and Sisquoc rivers]), leading to potential disruption of animal migration, breeding, and other activities through increased noise, light and glare, and human or domestic animal intrusion.
d. Disruption of a substantial amount of adjacent upland vegetation where such vegetation plays a critical role in supporting riparian-dependent wildlife species (e.g., amphibians), or where such vegetation aids in stabilizing steep slopes adjacent to the riparian corridor, which reduces erosion and sedimentation potential.
e. Construction activity which disrupts critical time periods (nesting, breeding) for fish and other wildlife species.

The City's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual also consider impacts to surface and storm water quality. A significant water quality impact is presumed to occur if the project:

- Is located within an urbanized area of the City and project construction would disturb one or more acres of land.
- Increases the amount of impervious surfaces by 25 percent or more.

- Results in channelization or relocation of a natural drainage channel.
- Results in the removal or reduction of riparian vegetation or other vegetation (excluding nonnative vegetation removed for restoration projects) from the buffer zone of any streams, creeks, or wetlands.
- Discharges pollutants that exceed the water quality standards set forth in the applicable NPDES Permit, the RWQCB's Basin Plan, or otherwise impair the beneficial uses of a receiving water body.
- Result in a discharge of pollutants into an impaired waterbody that has been designated as such by the SWRCB or the RWQCB under Section 303(d) of the CWA.
- Results in a discharge of pollutants of concern to a receiving water body, as identified by the RWCQB.

The Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual also includes a discussion of groundwater impacts (last updated in 1992) and identifies adverse effects which can be caused by overdraft of an alluvial groundwater basin. These are as follows:

- Degradation of water quality
- Saltwater intrusion
- Land subsistence
- Loss of well yield
- Well interference
- Reduction of surface water available to support biological resources

With respect to effects on biological resource, the manual explains that groundwater pumping causes fluctuation over time in the elevation of the groundwater table. Lowering of the water table can impact biological resources by reducing access to water by deep-rooted native vegetation or by reducing discharge of groundwater into creeks. The manual notes that under certain conditions, a local pumping depression could adversely affect a specific habitat area and that in these cases, the effects need to be analyzed in the biological resources section of the project's environmental document.

3.6 National Environmental Policy Act

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), enacted in 1970, is a federal environmental law which promotes the enhancement of the environment. NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. Federal actions are those that require federal funding, permits, policy decisions, facilities, equipment, or employees. The range of actions covered by NEPA are broad and generally include making decisions on permit applications; adopting federal land management actions; and constructing highways and other publicly owned facilities. Depending on the severity of impacts associated with an action, either a categorical exclusion, environmental assessment or environmental impact statement are prepared. The following federal agencies along City-wide creeks are subject to NEPA requirements: USACE, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Additional projects supported in part by federal funding, such as projects or federal programs associated with Caltrans, is also subject to NEPA.

3.7 Public Trust Doctrine

The Public Trust Doctrine is the principle that certain natural and cultural resources are preserved for public use; and that the government owns and must protect and maintain these resources for the public's use. The doctrine's most common application relates to bodies of water (e.g., lakes, streams) and the following natural resources are subject to the Public Trust: inland navigable waterways, public access, water rights, water quality, fish and wildlife resources, and air resources (Frank 2012). The doctrine ensures the public's right to use California's waterways for navigation, fishing, boating, natural habitat protection, and other water-oriented activities.