CHAPTER 4.0
CONSERVATION ELEMENT: LAND, MARINE, AND AIR RESOURCES (CE)

4.1 INTRODUCTION

General Plan Law Requirements [GP]

Conservation Element Policies
CE 1: ESHA Designations and Policy
CE 2: Protection of Creeks and Riparian Areas
CE 3: Protection of Wetlands
CE 4: Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas
CE 5: Protection Of Other Terrestrial Habitat Areas
CE 6: Protection of Marine Habitat Areas
CE 7: Protection of Beach and Shoreline Habitats
CE 8: Protection of Special-Status Species
CE 9: Protection of Native Woodlands
CE 10: Watershed Management and Water Quality
CE 11: Preservation of Agricultural Lands
CE 12: Protection of Air Quality
CE 13: Energy Conservation
CE 14: Preservation and Enhancement of Urban Forest
CE 15: Water Conservation and Materials Recycling

The Conservation Element is one of seven elements mandated by state planning law, at Section 65302 of the Government Code. This element is required to address conservation, development, and use of natural resources, including water, creeks, soils, wildlife, and other natural resources. Population growth and development generally require the consumption of both renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. One role of the Conservation Element is to establish policies that reconcile conflicting demands placed on natural resources and define the balance sought between managed use and preservation of resources. Although no harbors, major fisheries, significant mineral resources, or timberlands exist within the Planning Area, this element identifies and establishes policies to protect other important resources including native plant and wildlife habitats, natural landform features, and other natural resources that are potentially affected by urban land uses and development.

Coastal Act Requirements [CP]

One of the chief objectives of the Coastal Act is preservation, protection, and enhancement of coastal resources, including marine, aquatic, and terrestrial habitats and water quality. At Section 30240 of the Public Resources Code, the Coastal Act requires the protection of environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHAs) against any significant disruption of habitat values. Generally, development is not allowed in any ESHA and adjacent development must be sited to avoid impacts that would degrade the quality of ESHA. In addition, creeks and associated riparian habitat are protected to maintain their biological productivity and quality of coastal waters. The Coastal Act requires that alteration of creeks and waterways be minimized and narrowly limits the purposes for which alterations may be considered. Various sections of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act require that marine resources be maintained and enhanced to sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters.

Existing Marine, Land, and Air Resources—2005 [GP/CP]

Terrestrial and Marine Biological Resources

Goleta is situated on the coastal terrace and adjacent foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains in the middle of a narrow ecological transition that extends from the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains to the intertidal zone of the Pacific Ocean. The habitats and wildlife resources within Goleta reflect those typically found within the coastal plains of southern California. They include resources such as monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) aggregations and overwintering habitat, raptor nests, coastal estuaries, vernal pools and other wetlands, riparian corridors, and

other habitats and associated wildlife. Relatively undisturbed native habitats are present along narrow riparian corridors, in scattered undeveloped lands of varying sizes, and in protected open space areas such as Ellwood Mesa Open Space and Lake Los Carneros. The following habitats occur within Goleta and are considered to be ESHAs: marine resources, beach and shoreline resources, coastal dunes, coastal bluff scrub, foredune, oak woodlands/savannah, dense stands of native grasslands, all wetlands such as vernal pools, riparian habitats, butterfly roosts, raptor roosts and nests, and habitats that support special-status plant and wildlife species, including western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) habitat. Potentially occurring special-status species are listed in Table 4-1. This list is based on a review of the California Natural Diversity Database for species occurring in the region.

Surface Water Resources

Within Goleta, 12 creeks drain from the foothills south to the Pacific Ocean. Most of the creeks exhibit intermittent, seasonal flows, and creek conditions vary greatly. Two creeks, Bell Canyon Creek and Tecolote Creek, form small coastal lagoons at the Pacific Ocean. Sections of some creeks are channelized to provide conveyance for flood flows such as along El Encanto, San Pedro, and Tecolotito Creeks. Creeks in areas subject to human disturbance have impaired water quality and lower biological diversity. San Jose Creek, located in the eastern portion of the city, is part of a pilot project for watershed planning. The goal of this watershed plan is to protect existing resources and identify opportunities to improve the functioning of the creek ecosystem, while protecting existing land uses and community values.

Lake Los Carneros

With the exception of Bell Canyon and Tecolote Creeks, the creeks within the city drain to one of two sloughs located to the south of the city boundary: Goleta Slough and Devereux Slough. Both sloughs have large expanses of wetlands and estuarine habitats and support a rich and diverse coastal ecosystem despite substantial human impacts. Goleta Slough, the larger of the two, is now less than half of its original size; this is the result of extensive fill from development of the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport, and of sedimentation from upstream land uses. Glenn Annie, Los Carneros, San Pedro, Las Vegas, San Jose, and Maria Ignacio Creeks drain into the Goleta Slough. The total watershed area of the Goleta Slough drainage is about 45 square miles. Several smaller creeks, including Devereux and El Encanto Creeks, drain western Goleta and are tributary to Devereux Slough, which is in an area owned by the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Devereux Slough watershed, which totals about 3.5 square miles, currently experiences a greater inflow than prior to urbanization, which affects its water quality and slough dynamics.

There are 640 acres (about one square mile) within the FEMA-designated 100 year flood plain within Goleta. This is approximately 12 percent of the entire area of the city.

TABLE 4-1
POTENTIALLY OCCURRING SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status: Federal	Listing Status: State or CNPS
Plants			
Southern tarplant	*Centromadia parryi* subsp. *australis*	—	1B
Santa Barbara honeysuckle	*Lonicera subspicata var. subspicata*	—	1B
Black-flowered figwort	*Scrophularia atrata*	—	1B
Invertebrates			
San Diego fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*	E	—
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	T	—
Globose dune beetle	*Coelus globosus*	SC	—
Sandy beach tiger beetle	*Cicindela hirticollis gravida*	SC	—
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	—	SC
Fish			
Southern steelhead (So. CA ESU)	*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	E	SC
Tidewater goby	*Eucylogobius newberryi*	E	SC
Amphibians			
Red-legged frog	*Rana aurora draytonii*	T	SC
Reptiles			
Southwestern pond turtle	*Clemmys marmorata pallida*	—	CSC
California horned lizard	*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*	—	CSC
Silvery legless lizard	*Anniella pulchra pulchra*	—	CSC
Coast patch-nosed snake	*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*	—	CSC
Two-striped garter snake	*Thamnophis hammondii*	—	CSC
Birds			
Brown pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*	E	E
Light-footed clapper rail	*Rallus longirostris levipes*	E	E, FP
California least tern (nesting)	*Sterna antillarum browni*	E	E, FP
Western snowy plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*	T	CSC
Sharp-shinned hawk	*Accipiter striatus*	—	CSC
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperi*	—	CSC
Northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	—	CSC
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	—	CSC
Golden eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	—	CSC
White-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	SC	FP
Prairie falcon	*Falco mexicanus*	—	CSC
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus anatum*	SC	E
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*		CSC
Burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia*	SC	PT
Short-eared owl	*Asio flammeus*	—	CSC
Turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*	—	SC
Loggerhead shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*	SC	CSC
California thrasher	*Toxostoma redivivum*	SC	—
Coast horned lark	*Eremophila alpestris actia*	—	CSC
Yellow warbler	*Dendroica petechia*	—	CSC
Yellow-breasted chat	*Icteria virens*	—	CSC
Belding's savannah sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*	—	E
Tricolored blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	SC	CSC
Mammals			
Pallid bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	—	CSC
Western red bat	*Lasiurus blossevillii*	—	CSC
Yuma myotis	*Myotis yumanensis*	SC	CSC
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	SC	CSC
American Badger	*Taxidea taxus*	—	CSC

[1] Definitions:

Federal
- E: listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act
- T: proposed for federal listing as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act
- SC: information may warrant listing but substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking

State
- E: listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act
- CSC: species of special concern in California
- PT: Proposed for listing as threatened in California under the California Endangered Species Act
- FP: Fully Protected under the California Endangered Species Act
- 1B: California Native Plant Society List 1B species: rare, threatened, or endangered in California (plants only)
- CNPS: California Native Plant Society

Source: California Natural Diversity Database (CDFG 2005).

Agricultural Resources

For over 200 years the Goleta Valley has been a land of great agricultural diversity and productivity. Today the Goleta urban area contains about 920 acres zoned for agriculture—less than half of the amount that remained in 1967. The agricultural land that remains contains a variety of agricultural uses ranging from small produce and specialty truck farms and greenhouses to avocado and lemon orchards in the adjacent foothills. Farms in the canyons and along the coastal plain grow a variety of fruits and vegetables, many of which are organically grown. Agricultural activities in Goleta are generally divided along Cathedral Oaks Road, with more urban agriculture located to the south and more rural agriculture located to the north.

Air Quality Resources

Goleta is located within the South Central Coast Air Basin. Air quality measurements indicate that the South Central Coast Air Basin is a "nonattainment" area for the federal and state standards for ozone and suspended particulate matter 10 micrometers or less in size (PM10). However, the air basin is in an "attainment" area for all other federal and state air quality standards. Although air quality in the city is generally characterized as acceptable, vehicular traffic produces more than half of the onshore smog-forming pollution in Santa Barbara County and is a major contributor of PM10 and toxic air pollution. Other sources of air pollution include the Venoco Ellwood Onshore Oil and Gas Processing Facility as well as, offshore oil and gas production and transport activities, natural oil seeps, and ship traffic in the Santa Barbara Channel.

4.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND GOALS [GP/CP]

The policies of the Conservation Element are designed to preserve and protect Goleta's environmental resources, including valuable habitat areas, to the maximum extent feasible while allowing reasonable development in conformance with the provisions of the Land Use Element (see Chapter 2.0). The following principles or goals, which are not in order of priority, provide the foundation for the detailed policies in subsequent sections of this element. All policies have been established to conform with the guiding principles and goals, and future actions of the City following adoption of the plan are required to be consistent.

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. Protect, restore, and enhance coastal bluffs and dune areas.
4. 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.
5. Protect water quality and the biological diversity of Goleta Slough and Devereux Slough.
6. Protect and enhance other important aquatic and terrestrial habitats, including those associated with rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants or animals.
7. Protect, preserve, and enhance Goleta's Urban Forest.

8. Preserve and protect agriculture, encourage future expanded agricultural production by protecting land and supporting direct marketing, and ensure compatibility of nearby development with agriculture.
9. 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.
10. Manage groundwater and surface water resources to promote water quality and quantity adequate to support natural ecosystem processes and functions.
11. Manage water use efficiency, conserve water, promote recycling, and promote public awareness of water and recycling issues.
12. Conserve soil resources as the foundation of resource production and minimize erosion and other soil-depleting processes.
13. Minimize emissions of atmospheric pollutants that result from new development within Goleta and reduce emissions from transportation sources by promoting transit and other less polluting alternative modes of travel.
14. Encourage energy efficiency in new development and encourage use of alternative energy sources such as solar energy.

4.3 COASTAL ACT POLICIES [CP]

The Coastal Act definitions and policies set forth below are adopted as policies of this plan for those areas of Goleta within the California Coastal Zone. The numbers refer to sections of the California Public Resources Code. The figures in this chapter show the location of the Coastal Zone boundary.

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.

30230 Marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance. Uses of the marine environment shall be carried out in a manner that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters and that will maintain healthy populations of all species of marine organisms adequate for long-term commercial, recreational, scientific, and educational purposes.

30231 The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, creeks, 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 water flow, encouraging waste water reclamation, maintaining natural vegetation buffer areas that protect riparian habitats, and minimizing alteration of natural creeks.

30233 (a) The diking, filling, or dredging of open coastal waters, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes shall be permitted in accordance with other applicable provisions of this division, where there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative,

and where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to the following:

(1) New or expanded port, energy, and coastal-dependent industrial facilities, including commercial fishing facilities.

(2) Maintaining existing, or restoring previously dredged, depths in existing navigational channels, turning basins, vessel berthing and mooring areas, and boat launching ramps.

(3) In wetland areas only, entrance channels for new or expanded boating facilities; and in a degraded wetland, identified by the Department of Fish and Game pursuant to subdivision (b) or Section 30411, for boating facilities if, in conjunction with such boating facilities, a substantial portion of the degraded wetland is restored and maintained as a biologically productive wetland. The size of the wetland area used for boating facilities, including berthing space, turning basins, necessary navigation channels, and any necessary support facilities, shall not exceed 25 percent of the degraded wetland.

(4) In open coastal waters, other than wetlands, including creeks, estuaries, and lakes, new or expanded boating facilities and the placement of structural pilings for public recreational piers that provide public access and recreational opportunities.

(5) Incidental public service purposes, including but not limited to, burying cables and pipes or inspection of piers and maintenance of existing intake and outfall lines.

(6) Mineral extraction, including sand for restoring beaches, except in environmentally sensitive areas.

(7) Restoration purposes.

(8) Nature study, aquaculture, or similar resource dependent activities.

(b) Dredging and spoils disposal shall be planned and carried out to avoid significant disruption to marine and wildlife habitats and water circulation. Dredge spoils suitable for replenishment should be transported for such purposes to appropriate beaches or into suitable long shore current systems.

(c) In addition to the other provisions of this section, diking, filling, or dredging in existing estuaries and wetlands shall maintain or enhance the functional capacity of the wetland or estuary. [remainder omitted]

(d) Erosion control and flood control facilities constructed on water courses can impede the movement of sediment and nutrients which would otherwise be carried by storm runoff into coastal waters. To facilitate the continued delivery of these sediments to the litoral zone, whenever feasible, the material removed from these facilities may be placed at appropriate points on the shoreline in accordance with other applicable provisions of this division, where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects. Aspects that shall be considered before issuing a coastal development permit for such purposes are the method of placement, time of year of placement, and sensitivity of the placement area.

30236 Channelizations, dams, or other substantial alternations of rivers and creeks 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 floodplain 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.

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.

30241 The maximum amount of prime agricultural land shall be maintained in agricultural production to assure the protection of the area's agricultural economy, and conflicts shall be minimized between agricultural and urban land uses through all of the following:

(a) By establishing stable boundaries separating urban and rural areas, including, where necessary, clearly defined buffer areas to minimize conflicts between agricultural and urban land uses.

(b) By limiting conversions of agricultural lands around the periphery of urban areas to the lands where the viability of existing agricultural use is already severely limited by conflicts with urban uses or where the conversion of the lands would complete a logical and viable neighborhood and contribute to the establishment of a stable limit to urban development.

(c) By permitting the conversion of agricultural land surrounded by urban uses where the conversion of the land would be consistent with Section 20350.

(d) By developing available lands not suited for agriculture prior to the conversion of agricultural lands.

(e) By assuring that public service and facility expansions and nonagricultural development do not impair agricultural viability, either through increased assessment costs or degraded air and water quality.

(f) By assuring that all divisions of prime agricultural lands, except those conversions approved pursuant to subdivision (b), and all development adjacent to prime agricultural lands shall not diminish the productivity of such prime agricultural lands.

30242 All other lands suitable for agricultural use shall not be converted to nonagricultural uses unless (1) continued or renewed agricultural use is not feasible, or (2) such conversion would preserve agricultural land or concentrate development consistent with Section 30250. Any such permitted conversion shall be compatible with continued agricultural use on surrounding lands.

4.4 CITY POLICIES

Policy CE 1: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area Designations and Policy [GP/CP]

Objective: *To identify, preserve, and protect the city's natural heritage by preventing disturbance of ESHAs.*

CE 1.1 Definition of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas. [GP/CP] ESHAs shall include, but are not limited to, any areas that through professional biological evaluation are determined to meet the following criteria:

a. 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 that could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

b. Any area that includes habitat for species and plant communities recognized as threatened or endangered by the state or federal governments; plant communities recognized by the State of California (in the Terrestrial Natural Communities Inventory) as restricted in distribution and very threatened; and those habitat types of limited distribution recognized to be of particular habitat value, including wetlands, riparian vegetation, eucalyptus groves associated with monarch butterfly roosts, oak woodlands, and savannas.

c. Any area that has been previously designated as an ESHA by the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game, City of Goleta, or other agency with jurisdiction over the designated area. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 1.2 Designation of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas. [GP/CP] ESHAs in Goleta are generally shown in Figure 4-1, and Table 4-2 provides examples of the ESHAs and some locations of each. The provisions of this policy shall apply to all designated ESHAs. ESHAs generally include but are not limited to the following:

a. Creek and riparian areas.
b. Wetlands, such as vernal pools.
c. Coastal dunes, lagoons or estuaries, and coastal bluffs/coastal bluff scrub.
d. Beach and shoreline habitats.
e. Marine habitats.
f. Coastal sage scrub and chaparral.
g. Native woodlands and savannahs, including oak woodlands.
h. Native grassland.
i. Monarch butterfly aggregation sites, including autumnal and winter roost sites, and related habitat areas.

Coastal Bluff Scrub Habitat along Ellwood Mesa

j. Beach and dune areas that are nesting and foraging locations for the western snowy plover.

k. Nesting and roosting sites and related habitat areas for various species of raptors.

l. Other habitat areas for species of wildlife or plants designated as rare, threatened, or endangered under state or federal law.

m. Any other habitat areas that are rare or especially valuable from a local, regional, or statewide perspective. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

TABLE 4-2
EXAMPLES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITATS

Habitat Type	Example Locations
Marine resources	All marine areas offshore from Goleta extending from the mean high tide line seaward to the outer limit of state waters
Beach and shoreline resources	All areas extending from the mean high tide line landward to the top of the ocean bluffs
Creek and riparian habitat (includes unvegetated open creek channel and vegetated aquatic habitat)	Tecolote Creek, Bell Canyon Creek, Winchester Canyon Creek, Ellwood Canyon Creek, El Encanto Creek, Devereux Creek, Glen Annie Creek, Los Carneros Creek, San Pedro Creek, Las Vegas Creek, San Jose Creek, and Maria Ygnacio Creek
Lagoons and open water habitats	Bell Canyon Lagoon, Tecolote Creek Lagoon, and Los Carneros Lake
Wetland habitat* (vegetated aquatic habitats and unvegetated open creek channel)	Creeks, Ellwood Mesa, Girsh Park, Los Carneros Lake, and Rancho Goleta Lake
Significant native plant communities (such as native grassland, oak woodlands and savannahs, coastal sage scrub, coastal bluff scrub, chaparral coastal dune, and coastal bluff habitats)	Designated coastal beaches and bluffs, Ellwood Mesa, Bishop Ranch, Stow Grove Park, Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve, Oro Verde Park, and in the designated Planning Area
Butterfly habitat	Tecolote Creek, Bell Canyon Creek, Ellwood Canyon Creek, Ellwood Mesa, Evergreen Park, Glen Annie Creek, Los Carneros Creek, Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve, and San Jose Creek
Raptor nesting and roosting habitat	Ellwood Canyon Creek, Ellwood Mesa, Lake Los Carneros, and Old San Jose Creek
Special-status species habitat	Bell Canyon Lagoon, Tecolote Creek Lagoon, Sandpiper Golf Course pond, Ellwood Mesa, and Ellwood Beach

* Vegetated aquatic habitats are wetlands and include habitat types such as salt marsh, freshwater marsh, vernal pools, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, and oak-riparian woodland. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 1.3 **Site-Specific Studies and Unmapped ESHAs. [GP/CP]** Any area not designated on the ESHA map in Figure 4-1 that meets the ESHA criteria for the resources specified in CE 1.1 shall be granted the same protections as if the area was shown on the map. Proposals for development on sites where ESHAs are shown on the map or where there is probable cause to believe that ESHAs may exist shall be required to provide the City with a site-specific biological study that includes the following information:

a. A base map that delineates topographic lines, parcel boundaries, and adjacent roads.

b. A vegetation map that identifies species that may be indicators of ESHAs.

c. A soils map that delineates hydric and nonhydric soils, if applicable.

d. A census of animal species that indicates the potential existence of ESHAs.

e. A detailed map that shows the conclusions regarding the boundary, precise location and extent, or current status of the ESHA based on substantial evidence provided in the biological studies.

CE 1.4 Illegal Destruction of ESHAs. [GP/CP] Any area mapped as an ESHA in Figure 4-1 shall not be deprived of the protections granted by this plan on the basis that the habitat has been illegally removed or degraded, or because the nature or role of a species that is rare or especially valuable has been eliminated.

CE 1.5 Corrections to Map of ESHAs. [GP/CP] If a site-specific biological study contains substantial evidence that an area previously shown as an ESHA on Figure 4-1 does not contain habitat that meets the definition of an ESHA for reasons other than that set forth in CE 1.4, the City biologist and the Planning Commission shall review all available information and determine if the area in question should no longer be considered an ESHA and therefore not be subject to the ESHA protection policies of this plan. If the final decision-making body determines that the area is not an ESHA, a map modification shall be included in the next General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan amendment; however, Local Coastal Program policies and standards for protection of ESHAs shall not apply, and approval of development consistent with all other requirements of this plan may be considered prior to the map revision. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 1.6 Protection of ESHAs. [GP/CP] ESHAs shall be protected against significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses or development dependent on and compatible with maintaining such resources shall be allowed within ESHAs or their buffers. The following shall apply:

a. No development, except as otherwise allowed by this element, shall be allowed within ESHAs and/or ESHA buffers.

b. A setback or buffer separating all permitted development from an adjacent ESHA shall be required and shall have a minimum width as set forth in subsequent policies of this element. The purpose of such setbacks shall be to prevent any degradation of the ecological functions provided by the habitat area.

c. Public accessways and trails are considered resource-dependent uses and may be located within or adjacent to ESHAs. These uses shall be sited to avoid or minimize impacts on the resource to the maximum extent feasible. Measures—such as signage, placement of boardwalks, and limited fencing or other barriers—shall be implemented as necessary to protect ESHAs.

d. The following uses and development may be allowed in ESHAs or ESHA buffers only where there are no feasible, less environmentally damaging alternatives and will be subject to requirements for mitigation measures to avoid or lessen impacts to the maximum extent feasible: 1) public road crossings, 2) utility lines, 3) resource restoration and enhancement projects, 4) nature education, 5) biological research, and 6) Public Works projects as identified in the Capital Improvement Plan, only where there are no feasible, less environmentally damaging alternatives.

e. If the provisions herein 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. Alternatively, the City may establish a program to allow transfer of development rights for such parcels to receiving parcels that have areas suitable for and are designated on the Land Use Plan map for the appropriate type of use and development. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 1.7 Mitigation of Impacts to EHSAs. [GP/CP] New development shall be sited and designed to avoid impacts to ESHAs. If there is no feasible alternative that can eliminate all impacts, then the alternative that would result in the fewest or least significant impacts shall be selected. Any impacts that cannot be avoided shall be fully mitigated, with priority given to onsite mitigation. Offsite mitigation measures shall only be approved when it is not feasible to fully mitigate impacts on site. If impacts to onsite ESHAs occur in the Coastal Zone, any offsite mitigation area shall also be located within the Coastal Zone. All mitigation sites shall be monitored for a minimum period of 5 years following completion, with changes made as necessary based on annual monitoring reports. Where appropriate, mitigation sites shall be subject to deed restrictions. Mitigation sites shall be subject to the protections set forth in this plan for the habitat type unless the City has made a specific determination that the mitigation is unsuccessful and is to be discontinued.

CE 1.8 ESHA Buffers. [GP/CP] Development adjacent to an ESHA shall minimize impacts to habitat values or sensitive species to the maximum extent feasible. Native vegetation shall be provided in buffer areas to serve as transitional habitat. All buffers shall be of a sufficient size to ensure the biological integrity and preservation of the ESHA they are designed to protect.

CE 1.9 Standards Applicable to Development Projects. [GP/CP] The following standards shall apply to consideration of developments within or adjacent to ESHAs:

a. Site designs shall preserve wildlife corridors or habitat networks. Corridors shall be of sufficient width to protect habitat and dispersal zones for small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds.

b. Land divisions for parcels within or adjacent to an ESHA shall only be allowed if each new lot being created, except for open space lots, is capable of being developed without building in any ESHA or ESHA buffer and without any need for impacts to ESHAs related to fuel modification for fire safety purposes.

c. Site plans and landscaping shall be designed to protect ESHAs. Landscaping, screening, or vegetated buffers shall retain, salvage, and/or reestablish vegetation that supports wildlife habitat whenever feasible. Development within or adjacent to wildlife habitat networks shall incorporate design techniques that protect, support, and enhance wildlife habitat values. Planting of nonnative, invasive species shall not be allowed in ESHAs and buffer areas adjacent to ESHAs.

d. All new development shall be sited and designed so as to minimize grading, alteration of natural landforms and physical features, and vegetation clearance in order to reduce or avoid soil erosion, creek siltation, increased runoff, and reduced infiltration of stormwater and to prevent net increases in baseline flows for any receiving water body.

e. Light and glare from new development shall be controlled and directed away from wildlife habitats. Exterior night lighting shall be minimized, restricted to low intensity fixtures, shielded, and directed away from ESHAs.

f. All new development should minimize potentially significant noise impacts on special-status species in adjacent ESHAs.

g. All new development shall be sited and designed to minimize the need for fuel modification, or weed abatement, for fire safety in order to preserve native and/or nonnative supporting habitats. Development shall use fire-resistant materials and incorporate alternative measures, such as firewalls and landscaping techniques, that will reduce or avoid fuel modification activities.

Tecolote Creek Lagoon

h. The timing of grading and construction activities shall be controlled to minimize potential disruption of wildlife during critical time periods such as nesting or breeding seasons.

i. Grading, earthmoving, and vegetation clearance adjacent to an ESHA shall be prohibited during the rainy season, generally from November 1 to March 31, except as follows: 1) where erosion control measures such as sediment basins, silt fencing, sandbagging, or installation of geofabrics have been incorporated into the project and approved in advance by the City; 2) where necessary to protect or enhance the ESHA itself; or 3) where necessary to remediate hazardous flooding or geologic conditions that endanger public health and safety.

j. In areas that are not adjacent to ESHAs, where grading may be allowed during the rainy season, erosion control measures such as sediment basins, silt fencing, sandbagging, and installation of geofabrics shall be implemented prior to and concurrent with all grading operations. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 1.10 Management of ESHAs. [GP/CP] The following standards shall apply to the ongoing management of ESHAs:

a. The use of insecticides, herbicides, artificial fertilizers, or other toxic chemical substances that have the potential to degrade ESHAs shall be prohibited within and adjacent to such areas, except where necessary to protect or enhance the ESHA itself.

b. The use of insecticides, herbicides, or other toxic substances by City employees and contractors in construction and maintenance of City facilities and open space lands shall be minimized.

c. Mosquito abatement within or adjacent to ESHAs shall be limited to the implementation of the minimum measures necessary to protect human health

and shall be undertaken in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the ESHAs.

d. Weed abatement and brush-clearing activities for fire safety purposes shall be the minimum that is necessary to accomplish the intended purpose. Techniques shall be limited to mowing and other low-impact methods such as hand crews for brushing, tarping, and hot water/foam for weed control. Disking shall be prohibited.

e. Where there are feasible alternatives, existing sewer lines and other utilities that are located within an ESHA shall be taken out of service, abandoned in place, and replaced by facilities located outside the ESHA to avoid degradation of the ESHA resources, which could be caused by pipeline rupture or leakage and by routine maintenance practices such as clearing of vegetation.

f. Removal of nonnative invasive plant species within ESHAs may be allowed and encouraged, unless the nonnatives contribute to habitat values.

g. The following flood management activities may be allowed in creek and creek protection areas: desilting, obstruction clearance, minor vegetation removal, and similar flood management methods.

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. Onsite 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.

Policy CE 3: Protection of Wetlands [GP/CP]

Objective: *To preserve, protect, and enhance the functions and values of Goleta's wetlands.*

CE 3.1 Definition of Wetlands. [GP/CP] *Wetlands* are defined as any area that meets the definition of a wetland as defined by the California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The most protective of definitions shall be applied and used to determine the boundary of a wetland. The City of Goleta uses the identification of a single indicator (soil, hydrology, or plants) to determine the boundary of a wetland. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 3.2 Designation of Wetland ESHAs. [GP/CP] Wetland ESHAs are included on Figure 4-1. In the Coastal Zone, wetlands are lands that 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. Goleta's wetlands are associated with small lagoons at the mouths of Bell Canyon and Tecolote Creeks, vernal pools, and freshwater marshes and ponds or impoundments, such as Lake Los Carneros. All wetlands are defined as ESHAs. Any unmapped areas that meet the criteria identified in CE 3.1 are wetlands and shall be granted all of the protections for wetlands set forth in this plan.

CE 3.3 Site-Specific Wetland Delineations. [GP/CP] In considering development proposals where an initial site inventory or reconnaissance indicates the presence or potential for wetland species or indicators, the City shall require the submittal of a detailed biological study of the site, with the addition of a delineation of all wetland areas on the project site. Wetland delineations shall be based on the definitions contained in Section 13577(b) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. A preponderance of hydric soils or a preponderance of wetland indicator species will be considered presumptive evidence of wetland conditions. At a minimum, the delineation report shall contain:

a. A map at a scale of 1":200' or larger showing topographic contours.

b. An aerial photo base map.

c. A map at a scale of 1":200' or larger with polygons delineating all wetland areas, polygons delineating all areas of vegetation with a preponderance of wetland indicator species, and the locations of sampling points.

d. A description of the survey methods and surface indicators used for delineating the wetland polygons.

e. A statement of the qualifications of the person preparing the wetland delineation.

CE 3.4 Protection of Wetlands in the Coastal Zone. [CP] The biological productivity and the quality of wetlands shall be protected and, where feasible, restored in accordance with the federal and state regulations and policies that apply to wetlands within the Coastal Zone. Only uses permitted by the regulating agencies shall be allowed within wetlands. The filling, diking, or dredging of open coastal waters, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes is prohibited unless it can be demonstrated that:

a. There is no feasible, environmentally less damaging alternative to wetland fill.

b. The extent of the fill is the least amount necessary to allow development of the permitted use.

c. Mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects.

d. The purposes of the fill are limited to: incidental public services, such as burying cables or pipes; restoration of wetlands; and nature study, education, or similar resource-dependent activities.

A wetland buffer of a sufficient size to ensure the biological integrity and preservation of the wetland shall be required. Generally the required buffer shall be 100 feet, but in no case shall wetland buffers be less than 50 feet. The buffer size should take into

consideration the type and size of the development, the sensitivity of the wetland resources to detrimental edge effects of the development to the resources, natural features such as topography, the functions and values of the wetland, and the need for upland transitional habitat. A 100-foot minimum buffer area shall not be reduced when it serves the functions and values of slowing and absorbing flood waters for flood and erosion control, sediment filtration, water purification, and ground water recharge. The buffer area shall serve as transitional habitat with native vegetation and shall provide physical barriers to human intrusion. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 3.5 Protection of Wetlands Outside the Coastal Zone. [GP] The biological productivity and the quality of inland wetlands shall be protected and, where feasible, restored. The filling of wetlands outside the Coastal Zone is prohibited unless it can be demonstrated that:

a. The wetland area is small, isolated, not part of a larger hydrologic system, and generally lacks productive or functional habitat value.

b. The extent of the fill is the least amount necessary to allow reasonable development of a use allowed by the Land Use Element.

c. Mitigation measures will be provided to minimize adverse environmental effects, including restoration or enhancement of habitat values of wetlands at another location on the site or at another appropriate offsite location within the City.

A wetland buffer of a sufficient size to ensure the biological integrity and preservation of the wetland shall be required. A wetland buffer shall be no less than 50 feet. The buffer size should take into consideration the type and size of the development, the sensitivity of the wetland resources to detrimental edge effects of the development to the resources, natural features such as topography, the functions and values of the wetland and the need for upland transitional habitat. The buffer area shall serve as transitional habitat with native vegetation and shall provide physical barriers to human intrusion. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 3.6 Mitigation of Wetland Fill. [GP/CP] Where any dike or fill development is permitted in wetlands in accordance with the Coastal Act and the policies of this plan, at a minimum mitigation measures shall include creation or substantial restoration of wetlands of a similar type. Adverse impacts shall be mitigated at a ratio of 3:1 unless the project proponent provides evidence that the creation or restoration of a lesser area of wetlands will fully mitigate the adverse impacts of the fill. However, in no event shall the mitigation ratio be less than 2:1. All mitigation measures are subject to the requirements of CE 1.7.

CE 3.7 Lagoon Protection. [GP/CP] The lagoons at the mouths of Bell Canyon and Tecolote Creeks shall be protected. Lagoon breaching or water level modification shall not be allowed.

CE 3.8 Vernal Pool Protection. [GP/CP] Vernal pools, an especially rare wetland habitat on the south coast of Santa Barbara County, shall be preserved and protected. Vernal pools in Goleta, which are generally small in area and only a few inches deep, are found at scattered locations on the City-owned Ellwood Mesa and Santa Barbara Shores Park. These appear to be naturally formed and exhibit little or no evidence of altered hydrology. Trails on these two properties shall be sited and constructed in a manner that avoids impacts to vernal pool hydrology and that will allow restoration by removing several informal trail segments that bisect vernal pool habitats. Additional vernal pools are found at Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve.

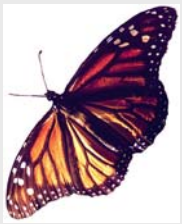
Vernal Pool on Ellwood Mesa

Policy CE 4: Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas [GP/CP]

Objective: *To preserve, protect, and enhance habitats for monarch butterflies in Goleta, including existing and historical autumnal and winter roost or aggregation sites, and promote the long-term stability of over-wintering butterfly populations.*

CE 4.1 Definition of Habitat Area. [GP/CP] The monarch butterfly is recognized as a California and Goleta special resource. Although the species is not threatened with extinction, its autumnal and winter aggregation sites, or roosts, are especially vulnerable to disturbance. Sites that provide the key elements essential for successful monarch butterfly aggregation areas and are locations where monarchs have been historically present shall be considered ESHAs. These elements include stands of eucalyptus or other suitable trees that offer shelter from strong winds and storms, provide a microclimate with adequate sunlight, are situated near a source of water or moisture, and that provide a source of nectar to nourish the butterflies.

CE 4.2 Designation of Monarch Butterfly ESHAs. [GP/CP] Existing and known historical monarch roost sites, as shown on Figure 4-1, are hereby designated as ESHAs. These include about 20 known roosts, eight of which comprise the Ellwood Complex, a series of sites within a network consisting of eucalyptus groves and windrows interspersed by open fields and crossed by small creeks. This network includes several separate but interconnected autumnal and winter roost sites. The Ellwood Main site, the largest roost in Santa Barbara County and one of the largest in the state, occupies a site along Devereux Creek in the Sperling Preserve, a City-owned tract situated near the coastal bluffs in western Goleta.



Monarch butterflies migrate up to 3,000 miles and fly in masses to winter roosts. The Ellwood Main Monarch Butterfly Site located on the City-owned Sperling Preserve in western Goleta is the premier over-wintering site in southern California with approximately 55,000 monarchs identified in January 2006.

CE 4.3 Site-Specific Studies and Unmapped Monarch ESHAs. [GP/CP] Any area not designated on Figure 4-1 that is determined by a site-specific study to contain monarch habitats, including autumnal and winter roost sites, shall be granted the same protections as if the area was shown on the figure. Proposals for development on sites shown on this figure or where there is probable cause to believe that monarch habitats may exist shall be required to provide a site-specific study.

CE 4.4 Protection of Monarch Butterfly ESHAs. [GP/CP] Monarch butterfly ESHAs shall be protected against significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses or development dependent on and compatible with maintaining such resources shall be allowed within these ESHAs or their buffer areas. The following standards shall apply:

a. No development, except as otherwise allowed by this policy, shall be allowed within monarch butterfly ESHAs or ESHA buffers.

b. Since the specific locations of aggregation sites may vary from one year to the next, the focus of protection shall be the entire grove of trees rather than individual trees that are the location of the roost.

c. Removal of vegetation within monarch ESHAs shall be prohibited, except for minor pruning of trees or removal of dead trees and debris that are a threat to public safety.

d. Public accessways are considered resource-dependent uses and may be located within a monarch ESHA or its buffer; however, such accessways shall be sited to avoid or minimize impacts to aggregation sites.

e. Interpretative signage is allowed within a monarch ESHA or its buffer, but shall be designed to be visually unobtrusive.

f. Butterfly research, including tree disturbance or other invasive methods, may be allowed subject to City approval of a permit.

CE 4.5 Buffers Adjacent to Monarch Butterfly ESHAs. [GP/CP] A buffer of a sufficient size to ensure the biological integrity and preservation of the monarch butterfly habitat, including aggregation sites and the surrounding grove of trees, shall be required. Buffers shall not be less than 100 feet around existing and historic roost sites as measured from the outer extent of the tree canopy. The buffer area shall serve as transitional habitat with native vegetation and shall provide physical barriers to human intrusion. The buffer may be reduced to 50 feet in circumstances where the trees contribute to the habitat but are not considered likely to function as an aggregation site, such as along narrow windrows. Grading and other activities that could alter the surface hydrology that sustains the groves of trees are prohibited within or adjacent to the buffer area.

Monarch Butterfly Aggregation

CE 4.6 Standards Applicable to New Development Adjacent to Monarch ESHAs. [GP/CP] The following standards shall apply to consideration of proposals for new development adjacent to monarch ESHAs or ESHA buffers:

a. A site-specific biological study, prepared by an expert approved by the City who is qualified by virtue of education and experience in the study of monarch butterflies, shall be required to be submitted by the project proponent.

b. The study shall include preparation of a Monarch Butterfly Habitat Protection Plan, which at a minimum shall include: 1) the mapped location of the cluster of trees where monarchs are known, or have been known, to roost in both autumnal and over-wintering aggregations; 2) an estimate of the size of the population within the colony; 3) the mapped extent of the entire habitat area; and 4) the boundaries of the buffer zone around the habitat area.

c. A temporary fence shall be installed along the outer boundary of the buffer zone prior to and during any grading and construction activities on the site.

d. If an active roost or aggregation is present on the project site, any construction grading, or other development within 200 feet of the active roost, shall be prohibited between October 1 and March 1.

Policy CE 5: Protection of Other Terrestrial Habitat Areas [GP/CP]

Objective: *To preserve, protect, and enhance unique, rare, or fragile native flora and plant communities.*

CE 5.1 Designation of Other Terrestrial ESHAs. [GP/CP] The following habitats, which are not specifically included in other policies, are hereby designated ESHAs:

a. Native grasslands.

b. Coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage-scrub, and chaparral. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 5.2 Protection of Native Grasslands. [GP/CP] In addition to the provisions of Policy CE 1, the following standards shall apply:

Native Grassland on Ellwood Mesa

a. For purposes of this policy, existing native grasslands are defined as an area where native grassland species comprise 10 percent or more of the total relative plant cover. Native grasslands that are dominated by perennial bunch grasses tend to be patchy. Where a high density of separate small patches occurs in an area, the whole area shall be delineated as native grasslands.

b. To the maximum extent feasible, development shall avoid impacts to native grasslands that would destroy, isolate, interrupt, or cause a break in continuous habitat that would (1) disrupt associated animal movement patterns and seed dispersal, or (2) increase vulnerability to weed invasions.

c. Removal or disturbance to a patch of native grasses less than 0.25 acre that is clearly isolated and is not part of a significant native grassland or an integral component of a larger ecosystem may be allowed. Removal or disturbance to restoration areas shall not be allowed.

d. Impacts to protected native grasslands shall be minimized by providing at least a 10-foot buffer that is restored with native species around the perimeter of the delineated native grassland area.

e. Removal of nonnative and invasive exotic species shall be allowed; revegetation shall be with plants or seeds collected within the same watershed whenever feasible.

CE 5.3 Protection of Costal Bluff Scrub, Coastal Sage Scrub, and Chaparral ESHA. [GP/CP] In addition to the provisions of Policy CE 1, the following standards shall apply:

a. For purposes of this policy, coastal bluff scrub is defined as scrub habitat occurring on exposed coastal bluffs. Example species in bluff scrub habitat include Brewer's saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), seashore blight (*Suaeda californica*), seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*). Coastal sage scrub is defined as a drought-tolerant, Mediterranean habitat characterized by soft-leaved, shallow-rooted subshrubs such as California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and California encelia (*Encelia californica*). It is found at lower elevations in both coastal and interior areas where moist maritime air penetrates inland. Chaparral is defined as fire- and drought-adapted woody, evergreen shrubs generally occurring on hills and lower mountain slopes. The area must have both the compositional and structural characteristics of coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage scrub, or chaparral habitat as described in Preliminary Descriptions of Terrestrial Natural Communities of California (Holland 1986) or other classification system recognized by the California Department of Fish and Game.

b. To the maximum extent feasible, development shall avoid impacts to coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage scrub, or chaparral habitat that 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.

c. Impacts to coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral ESHAs shall be minimized by providing at least a 25-foot buffer restored with native species around the perimeter of the ESHA, unless the activity is allowed under other CE subpolicies and mitigation is applied per CE 1.7.

d. Removal of nonnative and invasive exotic species shall be allowed; revegetation shall be with plants or seeds collected within the same watershed whenever feasible. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

Policy CE 6: Protection of Marine Habitat Areas [GP/CP]

Objective: *Preserve and protect the biological integrity of marine habitats and resources within and adjacent to Goleta.*

CE 6.1 Designation of Marine ESHAs. [GP/CP] All marine areas offshore from Goleta extending from the mean high tide line seaward to the outer limit of state waters are hereby designated ESHAs. These areas include Areas of Special Biological Significance and Marine Protected Areas (as designated by the California Department of Fish and Game), and shall be granted the protections provided for ESHAs in this plan.

CE 6.2. Protection of Marine ESHAs. [GP/CP] The following protections shall apply to marine ESHAs:

a. Marine ESHAs shall be protected against significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on such resources, such as fishing, whale watching, ocean kayaking, and similar recreational activities, should be allowed within the offshore area.

b. All existing oil and gas production facilities, including platform Holly and the piers at State Lease 421, shall be decommissioned immediately upon termination of production activities. All facilities and debris shall be completely removed and the sites restored to their prior natural condition as part of the decommissioning activities. No new oil and gas leases or facilities shall be allowed within state waters offshore from Goleta.

c. Permitted uses or developments shall be compatible with marine and beach ESHAs.

Marine Habitat at Haskell's Beach

d. Any development on beach or ocean bluff areas adjacent to marine and beach habitats shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts that could significantly degrade the marine ESHAs. All uses shall be compatible with the maintenance of the biological productivity of such areas. Grading and landform alteration shall be limited to minimize impacts from erosion and sedimentation on marine resources.

e. Marine mammal habitats, including haul-out areas, shall not be altered or disturbed by development of recreational facilities or activities, or any other new land uses and development.

f. Near-shore shallow fish habitats and shore fishing areas shall be preserved and, where appropriate and feasible, enhanced.

g. Activities by the California Department of Fish and Game; Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; State Lands Commission; and Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources to increase monitoring to assess the conditions of near-shore species, water quality, and kelp beds, and/or to rehabilitate areas that have been degraded by human activities, such as oil and gas production facilities, shall be encouraged and allowed.

Policy CE 7: Protection of Beach and Shoreline Habitats [GP/CP]

Objective: *To preserve and protect the biological integrity of Goleta's beaches, dunes, coastal bluffs and other shoreline resources.*

CE 7.1 **Designation of Beach and Shoreline ESHAs. [GP/CP]** All areas extending from the mean high tide line landward to the top of the ocean bluffs are hereby designated as ESHAs.

CE 7.2 **Protection of Dunes. [GP/CP]** Dune ESHAs shall be protected and, where feasible, enhanced. Vehicle traffic through dunes shall be prohibited. Where pedestrian access through dunes is allowed, well-defined footpaths or other means of directing use and minimizing adverse impacts shall be used. Active nesting areas for sensitive birds, such as the western snowy plovers and least terns, shall be protected by fencing, signing, and other means.

CE 7.3 **Protection of Beach Areas. [GP/CP]** Access to beach areas by motorized vehicles, including offroad vehicles, shall be prohibited, except for beach maintenance and emergency response vehicles of public agencies. Emergency services shall not include routine vehicular patrolling by private security forces. Any beach grooming activities shall employ hand-grooming methods, and mechanical beach grooming equipment and methods shall be prohibited. All vehicular uses on beach areas shall avoid ESHAs to the maximum extent feasible.

CE 7.4 **Permitted Uses of Beaches and Shoreline Areas. [GP/CP]** Uses on beaches and shoreline areas shall be limited to coastal-dependent activities that are compatible with preservation of the quality of the resource, including coastal-dependent recreation activities such as swimming, surfing, boating and kayaking, and fishing. Any commercial coastal-dependent recreation activities that would limit use of beach and shoreline areas to customers and exclude the general public shall be subject to approval of a permit by the City. Any such permitted uses shall not degrade the quality or the habitat or cause impacts to birds and other wildlife.

CE 7.5 **Shoreline Protective Structures. [GP/CP]** New shoreline protective structures such as seawalls, revetments, and riprap shall be prohibited, except as provided in Policies SE 2 and SE 3.

CE 7.6 **Restoration of Degraded Shoreline Areas. [GP/CP]** Removal of existing beach and shoreline structures, such as seawalls, roadways, and riprap, and removal of remnants of shoreline oil and gas facilities are allowed and encouraged activities. Such areas shall be restored to a natural condition.

CE 7.7 Recreation Facilities on Beach Areas. [GP/CP] When permitted, new public access and recreational facilities or structures on beaches shall be designed and located to minimize impacts to ESHAs and marine resources.

CE 7.8 Protection of Seabird Nest Areas. [GP/CP] To protect seabird nesting areas, no pedestrian access shall be provided on bluff faces except along existing and planned formal trails or stairways shown in this plan. New structures shall be prohibited on bluff faces except for stairs, ramps, or trails to provide for public beach access.

Policy CE 8: Protection of Special-Status Species [GP/CP]

Objective: *To preserve and protect habitats for threatened, endangered, or other special-status species of plants and animals in order to maintain biodiversity.*

CE 8.1 ESHA Designation. [GP/CP] Requisite habitats for individual occurrences of special-status plants and animals, including candidate species for listing under the state and federal endangered species acts, California species of special concern, California Native Plant Society List 1B plants, and other species protected under provisions of the California Fish and Game Code shall be preserved and protected, and their occurrences, including habitat requirements, shall be designated as ESHAs.

These habitats include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Special-status plant species such as Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*), southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) and black-flowered figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*).

b. Habitat capable of supporting special-status invertebrate species, such as the globose dune beetle (*Coelus globosus*), and roosting habitat for the monarch butterfly.

c. Aquatic habitat capable of supporting special-status fish species such as the steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi)*.

Special-Status Species is a universal term used in the scientific community for species that are considered sufficiently rare that they require special consideration and/or protection and should be, or have been, listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the federal and/or state governments.

The federal/state endangered species acts frequently use the following terms when referring to special-status species:

- *Endangered* (federal and state): any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- *Threatened* (federal and state): any species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- *Rare* (state): this is technically used only for plants, as defined under the California Native Plant Protection Act.
- *Species of Concern* (federal): species for which existing information indicates it may warrant listing as threatened or endangered but for which substantial information for listing is still lacking.
- *Species of Special Concern* (state): special plant/animal species tracked by California Natural Diversity Database regardless of their legal or protection status.

d. Habitat capable of supporting special-status amphibians and reptiles such as the red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*).

e. Nesting and roosting areas for various species of raptors such as Cooper's hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), white-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*), and turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*).

f. Nesting habitat for other special-status bird species such as western snowy plover, southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), or tri-colored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*).

g. Nesting and foraging habitat for special-status mammals such as pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*).

CE 8.2 **Protection of Habitat Areas. [GP/CP]** All development shall be located, designed, constructed, and managed to avoid disturbance of adverse impacts to special-status species and their habitats, including spawning, nesting, rearing, roosting, foraging, and other elements of the required habitats.

CE 8.3 **Site-Specific Biological Resources Study. [GP/CP]** Any areas not designated on Figure 4-1 that meet the ESHA criteria for the resources specified in CE 8.1 shall be accorded the same protections as if the area were shown on the figure. Proposals for development on sites where ESHAs are shown on the figure, or where there is probable cause to believe that an ESHA may exist, shall be required to provide the City with a site-specific biological study that includes the following information:

a. A base map that delineates topographic lines, parcel boundaries, and adjacent roads.

b. A vegetation map that 1) identifies trees or other sites that are existing or historical nests for the species of concern and 2) delineates other elements of the habitat such as roosting sites and foraging areas.

c. A detailed map that shows the conclusions regarding the boundary, precise location and extent, or current status of the ESHA based on substantial evidence provided in the biological studies.

d. A written report that summarizes the survey methods, data, observations, findings, and recommendations.

CE 8.4 **Buffer Areas for Raptor Species. [GP/CP]** Development shall be designed to provide a 100-foot buffer around active and historical nest sites for protected species of raptors when feasible. In existing developed areas, the width of the buffer may be reduced to correspond to the actual width of the buffer for adjacent development. If the biological study described in CE 8.3 determines that an active raptor nest site exists on the subject property, whenever feasible no vegetation clearing, grading, construction, or other development activity shall be allowed within a 300-foot radius of the nest site during the nesting and fledging season.

Policy CE 9: Protection of Native Woodlands [GP/CP]

Objective: *To maintain and protect existing native trees and woodlands as a valuable resource needed to support wildlife and provide visual amenities.*

CE 9.1 **Definition of Protected Trees. [GP/CP]** New development shall be sited and designed to preserve the following species of native trees: oaks (*Quercus* spp.), walnut (*Juglans californica*), sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), cottonwood (*Populus* spp.), willows (*Salix* spp.), or other native trees that are not otherwise protected in ESHAs, unless as otherwise allowed in CE 9. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 9.2 **Tree Protection Plan. [GP/CP]** Applications for new development on sites containing protected native trees shall include a report by a certified arborist or other qualified expert. The report shall include an inventory of native trees and a Tree Protection Plan.

CE 9.3 **Native Oak Woodlands or Savannas. [GP/CP]** Native oak woodlands and savannas are designated as ESHAs and shall be preserved and protected. A minimum buffer area shall be established via the implementation of CE-IA-4, Preparation of a Tree Protection Ordinance. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 9.4 **Tree Protection Standards. [GP/CP]** The following impacts to native trees and woodlands should be avoided in the design of projects: 1) removal of native trees; 2) fragmentation of habitat; 3) removal of understory; 4) disruption of the canopy, and 5) alteration of drainage patterns. Structures, including roads and driveways, should be sited to prevent any encroachment into the protection zone of any protected tree and to provide an adequate buffer outside of the protection zone of individual native trees in order to allow for future growth. Tree protection standards shall be detailed in the Tree Protection Ordinance called for in CE-IA-4. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 9.5 **Mitigation of Impacts to Native Trees. [GP/CP]** Where the removal of mature native trees cannot be avoided through the implementation of project alternatives or where development encroaches into the protected zone and could threaten the continued viability of the tree(s), mitigation measures shall include, at a minimum, the planting of replacement trees on site, if suitable area exists on the subject site, or offsite if suitable onsite area is unavailable, consistent with the Tree Protection Ordinance (see also CE-IA-4). The Tree Protection Ordinance shall establish the mitigation ratios for replacement trees for every tree removed. Where onsite mitigation is not feasible, offsite mitigation shall be provided by planting of replacement trees at a site within the same watershed. If the tree removal occurs at a site within the Coastal Zone, any offsite mitigation area shall also be located within the Coastal Zone. Minimum sizes for various species of replacement trees shall be established in the Tree Protection Ordinance. Mitigation sites shall be monitored for a period of 5 years. The City may require replanting of trees that do not survive. *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

Policy CE 10: Watershed Management and Water Quality [GP/CP]

Objective: *To prevent the degradation of the quality of groundwater basins and surface waters in and adjacent to Goleta.*

CE 10.1 New Development and Water Quality. [GP/CP] New development shall not result in the degradation of the water quality of groundwater basins or surface waters; surface waters include the ocean, lagoons, creeks, ponds, and wetlands. Urban runoff pollutants shall not be discharged or deposited such that they adversely affect these resources.

CE 10.2 Siting and Design of New Development. [GP/CP] New development shall be sited and designed to protect water quality and minimize impacts to coastal waters by incorporating measures designed to ensure the following:

a. Protection of areas that provide important water quality benefits, areas necessary to maintain riparian and aquatic biota, and areas susceptible to erosion and sediment loss.

b. Limiting increases in areas covered by impervious surfaces.

c. Limiting the area where land disturbances occur, such as clearing of vegetation, cut-and-fill, and grading, to reduce erosion and sediment loss.

d. Limiting disturbance of natural drainage features and vegetation.

CE 10.3 Incorporation of Best Management Practices for Stormwater Management. [GP/CP] New development shall be designed to minimize impacts to water quality from increased runoff volumes and discharges of pollutants from nonpoint sources to the maximum extent feasible, consistent with the City's Storm Water Management Plan or a subsequent Storm Water Management Plan approved by the City and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Post construction structural BMPs shall be designed to treat, infiltrate, or filter stormwater runoff in accordance with applicable standards as required by law. Examples of BMPs include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Retention and detention basins.

b. Vegetated swales.

c. Infiltration galleries or injection wells.

d. Use of permeable paving materials.

e. Mechanical devices such as oil-water separators and filters.

f. Revegetation of graded or disturbed areas.

g. Other measures as identified in the City's adopted Storm Water Management Plan and other City-approved regulations. *(Amended by Reso. 08-06, 2/19/08 and Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE 10.4 New Facilities. [GP/CP] New bridges, roads, culverts, and outfalls shall not cause or contribute to creek bank erosion or creek or wetland siltation and shall include BMPs to minimize impacts to water quality. BMPs shall include construction phase erosion

control, polluted runoff control plans, and soil stabilization techniques. Where space is available, dispersal of sheet flow from roads into vegetated areas, or other onsite infiltration practices, shall be incorporated into the project design.

CE 10.5 Beachfront and Blufftop Development. [GP/CP] Development adjacent to the beach or blufftop shall incorporate BMPs designed to prevent or minimize polluted runoff to the beach and ocean waters.

CE 10.6 Stormwater Management Requirements. [GP/CP] The following requirements shall apply to specific types of development:

a. Commercial and multiple-family development shall use BMPs to control polluted runoff from structures, parking, and loading areas.

b. Restaurants shall incorporate BMPs designed to minimize runoff of oil and grease, solvents, phosphates, and suspended solids to the storm drain system.

c. Gasoline stations, car washes, and automobile repair facilities shall incorporate BMPs designed to minimize runoff of oil and grease, solvents, car battery acid, engine coolants, and gasoline to the stormwater system.

d. Outdoor materials storage areas shall be designed to incorporate BMPs to prevent stormwater contamination from stored materials.

e. Trash storage areas shall be designed using BMPs to prevent stormwater contamination by loose trash and debris.

CE 10.7 Drainage and Stormwater Management Plans. [GP/CP] New development shall protect the absorption, purifying, and retentive functions of natural systems that exist on the site. Drainage Plans shall be designed to complement and use existing drainage patterns and systems, where feasible, conveying drainage from the site in a nonerosive manner. Disturbed or degraded natural drainage systems shall be restored where feasible, except where there are geologic or public safety concerns. Proposals for new development shall include the following:

a. A Construction-Phase Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Plan that specifies the BMPs that will be implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation; provide adequate sanitary and waste disposal facilities; and prevent contamination of runoff by construction practices, materials, and chemicals.

b. A Post-Development-Phase Drainage and Stormwater Management Plan that specifies the BMPs—including site design methods, source controls, and treatment controls—that will be implemented to minimize polluted runoff after construction. This plan shall include monitoring and maintenance plans for the BMP measures.

CE 10.8 Maintenance of Stormwater Management Facilities. [GP/CP] New development shall be required to provide ongoing maintenance of BMP measures where maintenance is necessary for their effective operation. The permittee and/or owner, including successors in interest, shall be responsible for all structural treatment controls and devices as follows:

a. All structural BMPs shall be inspected, cleaned, and repaired when necessary prior to September 30th of each year.

b. Additional inspections, repairs, and maintenance should be performed after storms as needed throughout the rainy season, with any major repairs completed prior to the beginning of the next rainy season.

c. Public streets and parking lots shall be swept as needed and financially feasible to remove debris and contaminated residue.

d. The homeowners association, or other private owner, shall be responsible for sweeping of private streets and parking lots.

CE 10.9 Landscaping to Control Erosion. [GP/CP] Any landscaping that is required to control erosion shall use native or drought-tolerant noninvasive plants to minimize the need for fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and excessive irrigation.

Policy CE 11: Preservation of Agricultural Lands [GP/CP]

Objective: *To promote and retain Goleta's agricultural heritage by conserving existing agricultural resources for future generations and supporting agricultural production by minimizing activities and uses that may conflict with agricultural use of the land.*

CE 11.1 Agricultural Uses. [GP/CP] The City shall encourage agriculture and floriculture uses as part of its land use program, and expansion and intensification of agricultural activities (except for large-scale confined animal uses and the addition of structures that could reduce the productive capacity of soils) shall be supported.

CE 11.2 Conversion of Agricultural Lands. [GP/CP] Conversion of agricultural lands as designated on the Land Use Plan Map (Figure 2-1) to other uses shall not be allowed. Lands designated for agriculture within the urban boundary shall be preserved for agricultural use.

CE 11.3 Compatibility of New Development With Agriculture. [GP/CP] Development adjacent to lands designated for agriculture shall be designed and located so as to avoid or minimize potential conflicts with agricultural activities. Right-to-farm covenants and disclosure notices will be required for any development located adjacent to agricultural land.

CE 11.4 Buffers Adjacent to Agricultural Parcels. [GP/CP] New development adjacent to property designated for agricultural uses shall include buffers and other measures such as landscape screening to minimize potential conflicts with agricultural activities. The widths of the buffers shall be determined based on site-specific findings at the time of approval of the development.

CE 11.5 Productive Agricultural Use. [GP/CP] The City supports appropriate agricultural activities on land designated for agriculture on the Land Use Plan Map (Figure 2-1) and Open Space Plan Map (Figure 3-5).

CE 11.6 Community Supported Agriculture. [GP/CP] The City encourages local food production through the Community Supported Agriculture approach. Fairview Gardens, the primary example of this type of agriculture, shall be preserved and protected as a model for future uses.

Agricultural Lands Adjacent to Los Carneros Creek

CE 11.7 Agricultural Practices. [GP/CP] The City shall develop and implement appropriate plans, programs, and policies that are intended to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Agricultural uses shall conform to the rules and regulations of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District.

CE 11.8 Mitigation of Impacts of New Development on Agriculture. [GP/CP] The review of discretionary land use development proposals near the designated agricultural lands shall include an analysis of the direct and indirect effects of the proposal on conducting agricultural practices. The City shall apply appropriate conditions on the proposal to mitigate any potential impacts. If such impacts cannot be mitigated, the proposal may be denied.

CE 11.9 Direct Marketing of Agricultural Products. [GP/CP] The City shall promote and support the direct marketing of local agricultural products to the community by farmers. Marketing methods or activities include certified farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, seasonal produce stands, and year-round markets. Such uses should be allowed subject to appropriate controls to manage traffic and potential use conflicts in any commercial or industrial land use designation. Seasonal sales of agricultural products may be allowed on agricultural lands, provided that the emphasis is on marketing of commodities produced on the site and at farms in the nearby south coast area.

CE 11.10 Permanent Protection of Agricultural Lands. [GP/CP] The City shall encourage the protection of agricultural lands in perpetuity through the acquisition of conservation easements or development rights by an appropriate entity such as a nonprofit land trust.

Policy CE 12: Protection of Air Quality [GP]

Objective: *To maintain and promote a safe and healthy environment by protecting air quality and minimizing pollutant emissions from new development and from transportation sources.*

CE 12.1 Land Use Compatibility. [GP] The designation of land uses on the Land Use Plan Map (Figure 2-1)and the review of new development shall ensure that siting of any new sensitive receptors provides for adequate buffers from existing sources of emissions of air pollutants or odors. *Sensitive receptors* are a facility or land use that

includes members of the population sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Sensitive receptors may include children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. If a development that is a sensitive receptor is proposed within 500 feet of U.S. Highway 101 (US-101), an analysis of mobile source emissions and associated health risks shall be required. Such developments shall be required to provide an adequate setback from the highway and, if necessary, identify design mitigation measures to reduce health risks to acceptable levels.

CE 12.2 Control of Air Emissions from New Development. [GP] The following shall apply to reduction of air emissions from new development:

a. Any development proposal that has the potential to increase emissions of air pollutants shall be referred to the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District for comments and recommended conditions prior to final action by the City.

b. All new commercial and industrial sources shall be required to use the best-available air pollution control technology. Emissions control equipment shall be properly maintained to ensure efficient and effective operation.

c. Wood-burning fireplace installations in new residential development shall be limited to low-emitting state- and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-certified fireplace inserts and woodstoves, pellet stoves, or natural gas fireplaces. In locations near monarch butterfly ESHAs, fireplaces shall be limited to natural gas.

d. Adequate buffers between new sources and sensitive receptors shall be required.

e. Any permit required by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District shall be obtained prior to issuance of final development clearance by the City.

CE 12.3 Control of Emissions during Grading and Construction. [GP] Construction site emissions shall be controlled by using the following measures:

a. Watering active construction areas to reduce windborne emissions.

b. Covering trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials.

c. Paving or applying nontoxic solid stabilizers on unpaved access roads and temporary parking areas.

d. Hydroseeding inactive construction areas.

e. Enclosing or covering open material stockpiles.

f. Revegetating graded areas immediately upon completion of work.

CE 12.4 Minimizing Air Pollution from Transportation Sources. [GP] The following measures are designed to reduce air pollution from transportation sources:

a. Hollister Corridor Mixed Use. The Land Use Plan for the Hollister Corridor is designed to:

1) Provide new housing near existing workplaces and commercial services to encourage short trips by foot and bicycle.

2) Provide new housing near existing bus routes with convenient and high frequency service.

3) Provide new housing near the US-101 ramps so as to minimize the length of auto trips on streets within the community.

4) Provide new housing at locations near the existing Amtrak line, which could be considered for commuter rail service in the future.

b. Other Land Use Policies: The following land use policies are designed to reduce demand for auto travel and promote less polluting modes such as bus transit, walking, and bicycling:

1) Clustering of moderate density housing and incorporation of residential apartments on upper floors of buildings, particularly in Goleta Old Town.

2) Integration of new housing into existing neighborhood commercial centers.

3) Emphasis on moderate density residential development rather than low-density sprawl.

4) Integrating pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities into new development.

5) Establishment of a fixed urban boundary to reduce sprawl outward from the existing urbanized area.

c. Transportation Policies: The following transportation measures are designed to lower emissions of air pollutants by promoting efficient use of the street system:

1) Fine-tuning of intersections and their operations to minimize delays.

2) Coordinated signal timing to improve traffic flow.

3) Promotion of improved transit services.

4) Creation of a linked pedestrian circulation system.

5) Provision of a bikeway system.

6) Encouragement of employer-based trip reduction measures such as subsidized bus fares, flexible work hours, vanpools, and similar measures.

Policy CE 13: Energy Conservation [GP]

Objective: *To promote energy efficiency in future land use and development within Goleta, encourage use of renewable energy sources, and reduce reliance upon fossil fuels.*

CE 13.1 Energy Efficiency in Existing and New Residential Development. [GP] The City shall promote the following practices in existing and new residential construction:

a. Retrofitting of existing residential structures to reduce energy consumption and costs to owners and tenants is encouraged. These retrofits may include: increased insulation, weather stripping, caulking of windows and doors, low-flow showerheads, and other similar improvements. Master metering is discouraged, and conversions to individual metering where practicable is preferred.

b. The City shall enforce the state's residential energy conservation building standards set forth in Title 24 through its plan check and building permit issuance processes.

c. New residential development and additions to existing homes shall be designed to provide a maximum solar orientation when appropriate, and shall not adversely affect the solar access of adjacent residential structures. Use of solar water heating systems, operational skylights, passive solar heating, and waste heat recovery systems is encouraged.

CE 13.2 Energy Efficiency in Existing and New Commercial and Industrial Development. [GP] The following measures shall be employed to reduce energy consumption in existing and new commercial and industrial buildings:

a. Reduction of energy consumption in existing buildings through improved design and management of heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems, and lighting is encouraged. Master metering is discouraged, and conversions to metering for individual tenant spaces shall be promoted where feasible.

b. The City shall enforce the state's residential energy conservation building standards set forth in Title 24 through its plan check and building permit issuance processes.

c. The City shall encourage nonresidential buildings to be designed in a manner that is appropriate for local climate conditions, taking into account natural light and ventilation, placement of landscaping, and use of integrated energy systems. This encompasses concepts such as cogeneration, waste heat systems, and other similar technologies.

CE 13.3 Use of Renewable Energy Sources. [GP] For new projects, the City encourages the incorporation of renewable energy sources. Consideration shall be given to incorporation of renewable energy sources that do not have adverse effects on the environment or on any adjacent residential uses. The following considerations shall apply:

a. Solar access shall be protected in accordance with the state Solar Rights Act (AB 2473). South wall and rooftop access should be achievable in low-density residential areas, while rooftop access should be possible in other areas.

b. New development shall not impair the performance of existing solar energy systems. Compensatory or mitigation measures may be considered in instances where there is no reasonable alternative.

c. Alternative energy sources are encouraged, provided that the technology does not contribute to noise, visual, air quality, or other potential impacts on nearby uses and neighborhoods.

CE 13.4 Energy Conservation for City Facilities and Operations. [GP] The City shall implement energy conservation requirements for City-owned facilities at the time of major improvements. Energy conservation measures may include energy-efficient interior and exterior building lighting, energy-efficient street lighting, natural ventilation and solar hot water systems, and landscaping with drought-tolerant species and deciduous trees to shade streets and the south and west sides of buildings in summer. For all City construction projects, the City shall comply with the

state's energy conservation building standards set forth in Title 24. The City vehicle fleet shall use a mix of fuels that best achieves energy efficiency while meeting operational needs.

CE 13.5 Public Information and Education. [GP] The City shall prepare an informational program to advise building contractors and the public regarding energy conservation measures and practices.

Policy CE 14: Preservation and Enhancement of Urban Forest [GP]

Objective: *To protect, preserve, and enhance Goleta's urban forest for its aesthetic, visual, and environmental benefits to the community.*

CE 14.1 Definition of Urban Forest. [GP] Goleta's urban forest consists of all public and private trees, which include the street tree system, trees on parks and other public lands, trees on private properties throughout the city, and others.

CE 14.2 Public Urban Forest Management. [GP] Urban forests are recognized as a resource created and sustained for people. The urban forest is different from wildland forests in that it requires a higher level of management. The City considers the urban forest a valuable resource. As of 2005, it was estimated that the total number of trees situated within city street rights-of-way was about 7,500. The public portion of the urban forest shall be protected, preserved, and enhanced to:

a. Provide an appropriate shade canopy for each of the various types of land uses so that the average total canopy will increase over time.

b. Provide for a tree population of mixed ages, diverse species, and appropriate mix of tree types (evergreen and deciduous; native and nonnative in non-ESHA areas) in order to support a diverse forest ecosystem able to adapt to changing environmental pressures such as disease, pest infestation, and climate change.

c. Maximize availability of planting spaces.

d. Survive within the limitations of the existing resources with minimal maintenance once establishment occurs.

e. Recognize that the maximum environmental benefit, such as those related to air quality, storm water runoff, and shade, occurs as trees reach maturity.

CE 14.3 Tree Species List. [GP] The City shall prepare and maintain an official public tree species list and apply it, as appropriate, to streets, parks, and other public areas.

CE 14.4 Conservation of Trees on Public Property. [GP] Trees on City property, including street rights-of-way, are valuable resources that will not generally be added to, removed, or substantially altered without City authorization.

CE 14. 5 Public Urban Forest Master Plan. [GP] The City may develop and maintain an Urban Forest Master Plan that describes and maps the resource, provides a vision statement, establishes measurable urban forest management goals and performance standards, presents a timeline for managing the Goleta urban forest, and includes any additional information that the City determines is appropriate.

CE 14. 6 Public Information. [GP] The City will create and maintain a public information program to educate property owners on the benefits of and responsibilities for the care of Goleta's urban forest.

CE 14. 7 Ordinance Standards. [GP] The City will consider an ordinance to strengthen standards for trees in streets, medians, parkways, parks, or open space; heritage and native trees where they occur in an urban setting; parking lot shade; tree replacement; heat island mitigation; and anti-topping. The ordinance may establish an advisory committee and define its roles and responsibilities. The Urban Forest Ordinance shall be designed with the intention to meet the requirements to obtain Tree City USA status.

Policy CE 15: Water Conservation and Materials Recycling [GP]

Objective: *To conserve scarce water supply resources and to encourage reduction in the generation of waste materials at the source and recycling of waste materials.*

CE 15.1 Water Conservation. [GP] The City shall promote water conservation and will work cooperatively with the Goleta Water District to:

a. Establish goals for reducing water use in the City.

b. Monitor and document water use.

c. Promote water conservation through a public information program.

d. Provide guidelines for the use of water.

e. Provide emergency guidelines for water use in times of drought.

f. Seek available grants to initiate or sustain conservation efforts.

CE 15.2 Water Conservation for City Facilities. [GP] In order to minimize water use, the City shall upgrade City-owned facilities with low water use plumbing fixtures, water-conserving landscaping, low flow irrigation, and reclaimed water for exterior landscaping at the time of major improvements.

CE 15.3 Water Conservation for New Development. [GP] In order to minimize water use, all new development shall use low water use plumbing fixtures, water-conserving landscaping, low flow irrigation, and reclaimed water for exterior landscaping, where appropriate.

CE 15.4 Waste Reduction and Recycling. [GP] The City shall promote waste reduction and recycling programs for residences and businesses, encourage commercial composting and education programs, recycle public green waste materials for mulch and compost, reuse removed trees for lumber when possible, and implement waste and recycling standards for all new developments and remodels.

CE 15.5 Reduction of Construction Wastes. [GP] In instances where demolitions of existing buildings and structures are authorized, it is encouraged that such structures be deconstructed and that structural components, fixtures, and materials be salvaged for future reuse. Provisions for recycling of waste materials at all construction sites, including and demolition sites shall be required.

4.5 IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS [GP]

CE-IA-1 **Preparation of New Zoning Code**. The new zoning code shall include an ESHA overlay zone that establishes regulations to protect habitat resources, including habitats for special-status species. The zoning code shall also include provisions to implement protections of native woodlands, agricultural lands, and provisions for BMPs for stormwater management in new development.

Time period: 2006 to 2007

Responsible party: Planning and Environmental Services Department

CE-IA-2 **Update of the *CEQA Thresholds Manual*.** The City's *CEQA Thresholds Manual* will be revised to incorporate environmental standards consistent with the policies and standards set forth in the Conservation Element.

Time period: 2008

Responsible party: Planning and Environmental Services Department

CE-IA-3 **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.

Time period: 2008

Responsible party: Planning and Environmental Services Department; Community Services Department

CE-IA-4 **Preparation of a Tree Protection Ordinance.** The City shall prepare and adopt a Tree Protection Ordinance that addresses standards, for example: heritage trees; public right-of-way trees; parking lot shade trees; native trees; protective buffer widths for native trees, tree protection zones, and mitigation ratios; street and parkway trees; and anti-topping.

Time period: 2010

Responsible party: Planning and Environmental Services Department; Community Services Department *(Amended by Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

CE-IA-5 **Preparation of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.** Within 24 months of the adoption of the Track 3 GP/CLUP Amendments, the City of Goleta will develop a Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHG) Plan with implementation to commence 12 months thereafter. The Plan is intended to address City activities, as well as activities and projects subject to ministerial and/or discretionary approval by the City.

At a minimum, the Plan will:

a. Establish an inventory of current GHG emissions in the City of Goleta including, but not limited to, residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural emissions.

b. Forecast GHG emissions for 2020 for City operations.

c. Forecast GHG emissions for areas within the jurisdictional control of the City for business-as-usual conditions.

d. Identify methods to reduce GHG emissions.

e. Quantify the reductions in GHG emissions from the identified methods.

f. Establish requirements for monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions.

g. Establish a schedule of actions for implementation.

h. Identify funding sources for implementation.

i. Identify a reduction goal for the 2030 Planning Horizon.

j. Consider a biological resource component.

During preparation of the GHG Reduction Plan, the City will also continue to implement City policies regarding land use and circulation as necessary to further achieve the 2020 and 2030 reduction goals and measures to promote urban forestry and public awareness concerning climate change.

In addition to the above, the GHG Reduction Plan will include a plan for City Operations that will address, but is not limited to, the following measures: an energy tracking and management system; energy-efficient lighting; lights-out-at-night policy; occupancy sensors; heating, cooling, and ventilation system retrofits; ENERGY STAR appliances; green or reflective roofing; improved water pumping energy efficiency; central irrigation control system; energy-efficient vending machines; preference for recycled materials in purchasing; use of low or zero-emission vehicles and equipment and recycling of construction materials in new city construction; conversion of fleets (as feasible) to electric and hybrid vehicles; and solar roofs.

Time Period: 2009 through 2014

Responsible Party: Planning and Environmental Services Department *(Added per Reso. 09-59, 11/17/09)*

This page intentionally left blank.

Acronyms

Citations

Error! No table of figures entries found.

Tables

Figures

Miscellaneous

Error! No table of figures entries found.

Glossary

Error! No table of figures entries found.