3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section describes the following within the existing City boundary:

- environmental setting (existing conditions and regulatory setting) for biological resources relating to the proposed project;
- the impacts associated with biological resources that would result from the proposed project; and
- mitigation measures that would reduce these impacts.

The setting, impacts, and mitigation measures for the future service areas are described in Chapter 4.0, "Future Service Areas." Chapter 5.0," Alternatives to the Proposed Project," discusses the impacts of the alternatives to the proposed project.

Primary sources of information used in preparation of this section are:

- City of Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (GP/CLUP) (City of Goleta 2006);
- Ellwood-Devereux Coast Open Space and Habitat Management Plan (City of Goleta, County of San Barbara, and University of California Santa Barbara 2004);
- Environmental Impact Report for the Comstock Homes Development and Ellwood Mesa Open Space Plan (City of Goleta and URS Corporation 2004); and
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (DFG 2006).

In addition to using the above sources, Jones & Stokes prepared an updated habitat map of the GP/CLUP study area based on 2004 aerial photography (1-foot resolution), the 2004 habitat mapping for the area covered by the Ellwood-Devereux Coast Open Space and Habitat Management Plan, and the map of ESHAs in the Conservation Element of the GP/CLUP (see Figure 4-2 in GP/CLUP). Preparation of the habitat map entailed delineating natural areas within the City and Future Service Areas (excluding Ellwood-Devereux Coast Area) and identifying the habitat types on those lands in terms of a modified Holland classification system. Because the study area contains relatively few locations with natural vegetation, it was possible to conduct visual surveys as part of the mapping effort. The fieldwork was conducted in April and May 2006 and consisted of visual surveys from public vantage points. Jones & Stokes biologists used a tablet computer with ArcGIS 9.1 in conjunction with field maps to collect and record field data. The scale of data collection was 1:2400 or 1 inch equals 200 feet. Results of the Jones & Stokes fieldwork and aerial imagery mapping were merged with the habitat mapping for the Ellwood-Devereux Coast Open Space Area and the ESHA map from the GP/CLUP.

3.4.1 Existing Conditions

Existing conditions for biological resources in the City are presented in terms of:

- local and regional setting;
- habitats;
- wildlife and fish;
- special-status habitats and species;

- wildlife linkages; and
- existing preserves.

3.4.1.1 Local and Regional Setting

There are four biogeographic regions in and near the City: Mountain Region, Foothill, Coastal Plain, and Coastal Mesa. The City is situated primarily on coastal terraces in the Coastal Mesa Region, in the middle of a narrow ecological transition area that extends from the top of the Santa Ynez Mountains to the intertidal zone of the Pacific Ocean.

Twelve creeks cross the City, draining from the foothills south to the Pacific Ocean and linking the City to the surrounding bioregions. Most of the streams exhibit intermittent, seasonal flows, and creek conditions vary greatly. Sections of some creeks have been channelized for flood control purposes, such as along El Encanto, San Pedro, and Tecolotito Creeks. Concrete lining and rock riprap have been placed along some reaches, such as along lower San Jose Creek, Las Vegas Creek upstream of US-101, Los Carneros Creek upstream of Hollister Avenue, and Glen Annie Creek upstream of US-101. Except for Bell and Tecolote Creeks, the creeks in the City drain into Goleta Slough (with a watershed area of 45 square miles) or Devereux Slough (with a watershed area of 3.5 square miles) on the southern end of the City. Both sloughs have a large wetland and estuary area. Goleta Slough is listed as impaired for metals, pathogens, priority organics, and sedimentation/siltation. Bell and Tecolote Creeks drain to the Pacific Ocean on the western end of the City, forming small coastal lagoons at their outlets.

Most of the lands in the City have been converted to urban and agricultural uses. The remaining natural habitats occur in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains, along narrow riparian corridors, in protected open space areas such as Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area and Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historic Preserve, and in small scattered patches on agricultural and undeveloped lands.

3.4.1.2 Habitats

For purposes of describing existing conditions, habitats in the City were classified based on a modified Holland (1986) system. Table 3.4-1 indicates the types identified in the City and the estimated acres of each type. Figure 3.4-1 depicts the distribution of habitat types in the City, with habitat types grouped as indicated in Table 3.4-1.

Approximately 1,209 acres (24 percent) of the City are natural aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The three primary habitat types are nonnative grassland covers approximately 572acres; eucalyptus woodland (approximately 214 acres); and riparian, marsh, and vernal types (approximately 210acres).

TABLE 3.4-1
HABITAT TYPES IN THE CITY OF GOLETA

Habitat Type	Acres
ESHA Types	
Native Grassland	33.7
Native Scrub Southern Foredunes Southern Dune Scrub Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub Coastal Sage Scrub Coyote Bush Scrub	74.6
Native Upland Woodland/Savannah[1] Coast Live Oak Woodland	28.6
Riparian/Marsh/Vernal Southern riparian scrub Southern willow scrub Disturbed southern willow scrub Southern riparian forest Southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest Coast live oak riparian forest South coast live oak riparian forest Disturbed south coast live oak riparian forest Coastal salt marsh Freshwater marsh Vernal marsh Vernal pool Vernal swale	210.2
Unvegetated Open Creek Channel	22.0
Open Water	31.1
Shoreline/Sand[2]	31.5
Monarch Butterfly and/or Raptor Roosting Habitat[3]	132.2
Subtotal	563.9
Other Land Cover Types	
Nonnative Grassland	572.0
Non-ESHA Eucalyptus Woodland[3]	72.0
Disturbed/Landscaped	204.6
Golf Course	145.1
Orchards/Crops	154.5
Developed	3363.3
Subtotal	4,511.5
Total	5,075.4

Notes
ESHA = Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area
1 Includes 0.1 acre occupied by Santa Barbara honeysuckle (a special status species)
2 Includes approximately 15.5 acres of Western Snowy Plover Critical Habitat
3 A subset of 214 total acres of eucalyptus woodland in the City

Native Grassland

Native grassland habitat is a midheight (to 2 feet) grassland dominated by perennial, tussock-forming purple needlegrass (Holland 1986). Native and introduced annuals occur between the perennials, often actually exceeding the bunchgrasses in cover. Native grasslands usually occur on fine-textured (often clay) soils, which are moist or even waterlogged during the winter but very dry in the summer. Historically, native grasslands were much more widespread throughout California than today. The introduction of nonnative grasses and forbs (wildflowers), livestock grazing, and the alteration of the community's natural fire regime are factors that resulted in the displacement of native bunchgrass, other native grasses, and forbs by introduced species. Examples of native grass species occurring in the City: alkali rye (Leymus *triticoides*), purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*), blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), and California brome (*Bromus carinatus*).

Purple needlegrass is the most common native grass and generally grows in relatively pure stands, occasionally intermixing with other native grass species, particularly meadow barley. The most notable stands of native grassland are on Ellwood Mesa.

Nonnative Grassland

European grasses represent the nonnative annual grassland habitat in the City (Holland 1986). This habitat typically occurs along roads, trails, and other areas of disturbance. Characteristic species within the City include wild oats (*Avena* sp.), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), and fescue (*Vulpia* sp.). Filaree (*Erodium botrys*), smooth cat's ear (*Hypochoeris glabra*), fennel, sand spurrey (*Spegularia villosa*), and sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*) are common introduced herbs, while representative native herbs include blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), dove weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*), tarweed (*Hemizonia fasciculata*), and the highly-invasive Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*). Nonnative grassland is the dominant habitat type in the City with a large stands on Ellwood Mesa, vacant parcels, and Bishop Ranch.

Southern Foredunes

Southern foredunes consists of perennial herbs and low-growing shrubs that occupy eolian (wind-blown) beach sand that receives salt spray from steady onshore sea breezes (Holland 1986). It occurs along the immediate coast and intergrades with open beach sand on the ocean side and coastal scrub on the coastal bluffs landward. This dune habitat has been impacted due to the high degree of recreational use that occurs on both the dunes and beach. Dominant species of the southern foredunes habitat in the City include sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*) and beach bursage (*Ambrosia chamissonis*). Other characteristic plants include native species such as beach primrose (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia* ssp. *suffruticosa*) and nonnative species such as European rocket (*Cakile maritime*), hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), sea fig (*C. chilensis*), and New Zealand spinach (*Tetragonia tetragonoides*). Naturalized iceplant or hottentot fig and sea fig, which are invasive exotic plants, have colonized portions of this community along the beach. This habitat occurs on the inland side of the sandy beaches in the City, for example at Ellwood Mesa beach.

Southern Dune Scrub

Southern dune scrub consists of soft woody shrubs with a continuous to open canopy and a sparse ground layer (Holland 1986). It occurs in areas of sand accumulation along the coast, but usually farther back than the foredune. Characteristic species within the project area include saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), croton (*Croton californicus*), happlopappus (*Haplopappus venetus*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), coyote bush, morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*) and California sagebrush, while nonnatives such as iceplant, fennel (*Foeniculum*

vulgare), black mustard (*Brassica nigr*a), nonnative grasses, and vetch (*Vicia* spp.) are common in disturbed areas. This dune habitat has been impacted due to the high degree of recreational use that occurs on both the dunes and beach. This habitat occurs in small patches on the inland side of City beaches.

Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub

Dwarf shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and annuals dominate southern coastal bluff scrub with a varying degree of succulence (Holland 1986). It occurs on exposed to nearly constant winds with high salt and moisture content. The soil is usually rocky and poorly developed. The density of the vegetation varies with the topography. It ranges in density from the sheer cliff faces that completely lack vegetation to areas that are less steep and support dense stands of characteristic coastal bluff scrub. The dominant species of this habitat type are Brewer's saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis* ssp*. breweri*)*,* lemonade berry, and seashore blight (*Suaeda californica* var*. taxifolia*)*.* Other representative native species of this community include coyote brush, sagebrush, haplopappus, and seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium* var*. parvifolium*). Portions of the coastal bluff habitat have been degraded by foot and bicycle traffic where a number of trails provide access to the beach. This disturbed area supports nonnative species of which fennel, pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), hottentot fig, and New Zealand spinach are the most common. This habitat occurs along the steep bluffs bordering City beaches.

Coastal Sage Scrub

Drought-deciduous, soft-leaved, aromatic shrubs dominate Venturan coastal sage scrub (Holland 1986). This habitat occurs on dry, more or less rocky slopes, often at low elevations. It is common within the South Coast region below 3,000 feet. Small isolated patches of Venturan coastal sage scrub frequently intergrades with nonnative annual grassland and coyote bush scrub. The most characteristic species found are coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* ssp. *consanguinea*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), and giant rye grass (*Leymus condensatus*). Other less common species including saw-toothed goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*), seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*), and morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*). This habitat type occurs in small patches on Ellwood Mesa and along the coastal bluffs.

Coyote Bush Srub

This habitat type is dominated by coyote brush, a ubiquitous drought-resistant native shrub that readily colonizes disturbed areas and also is found in coastal sage scrub habitat. Coyote bush scrub occurs along the margins of riparian scrub, in wet areas, and in upper drainages, typically on loamy soil and with a matrix of grasses. It is an important component of grassland communities, occurring in both relatively dense stands and as individual shrubs. Most of the larger stands of this native habitat are localized along the ephemeral drainages and swales where increased water availability probably increases their ability to compete with the annual grasses, especially during seedling establishment. Other less dominant species that occur in this habitat include coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *vernonioides*), brome grasses, purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), and green everlasting (*Gnaphalium californicum*)*.* Coyote bush scrub is found in the Ellwood Mesa Open Space Area and other locations in the City.

Oak Woodland

Oak woodland typically occupies north-facing slopes, valley and canyon bottoms, and the outer edges of stream courses where soil is well developed (Holland 1986). Oak woodlands typically are open and sunlit because the 30-foot tall canopies touch, but seldom overlap. Succession requires a long time because oaks are slow-growing, long-lived trees requiring 60 to 80 years to mature. Within the City, oak woodlands are dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) with an open understory dominated by annual grasses. The oak woodland habitat occurs in small patches on the Coronado Butterfly Preserve in a restoration site and in patches around Lake Los Carneros.

Eucalyptus Woodland

Eucalyptus woodland is a nonnative habitat community dominated by an invasive tree introduced to southern California from Australia around the turn of the century. It has spread widely throughout natural and landscaped communities, due primarily to its status as a fast-growing, beautiful tree, and to its tenacious nature and affinity for southern California's Mediterranean climate. Many large stands of mature eucalyptus trees along the coastal bluffs in Santa Barbara County comprise winter roosting sites for monarch butterflies (Nagano and Sakai 1987). Species of eucalyptus that occur in the City include the more dominant blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), and the less dominant lemon-scented gum (*E. maculata* var. *citriodora*), and red ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*). Due to the buildup of eucalyptus bark and leaf matter, the dense shade created by the eucalyptus canopy, and the chemicals produced by the bark and leaf matter, understory vegetation is mostly absent. This habitat is common in the City, most notably on Ellwood Mesa, Bishop Ranch, and in windrows bordering US-101.

Southern Riparian Scrub

Southern riparian scrub is often found in very dense thickets adjacent to creeks and ponded areas, and in less dense stands near seeps and areas with high water tables. This habitat is usually associated with areas of loose, sandy alluvium, and requires frequent flooding or scouring to prevent succession to a riparian forest dominated by cottonwoods and sycamores (Holland 1986). Dominant species include arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) shrubs with occasional patches of mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), Himalaya blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), canary grass (*Phalaris canariensis*), bristly ox-tongue (*Pichris echioides*), rabbitsfoot grass, and curly dock. A small amount of this type occurs on the Santa Barbara Shores open space area.

Southern Riparian Forest

Southern riparian forest is a tall, open, broadleafed winter-deciduous habitat typically occurring along rivers and streams (Holland 1986). The dominant species require moist, bare mineral soils for germination and establishment. Arroyo willow, black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera trichocarpa*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) occur in isolated patches. In some locations, little to no understory vegetation occurs within this habitat. Where understory vegetation is present, representative species include mostly nonnative grasses and forbs. Black cottonwood predominates on the coastal plain, and the Fremont cottonwood may have been planted or naturalized from planted trees. Examples of southern riparian forest are found along Tecolote and Las Vegas Creeks.

Coastal Salt Marsh

Coastal salt marsh is dominated by halophytic (salt tolerant) species. Most species in this habitat type are active in summer and dormant in winter and occur in bays, lagoons, and estuaries along the coast (Holland 1986). Salt marsh is known to occur in a small patch within

Devereux Creek west of the Ocean Meadows Golf Course at the northeastern edge of Ellwood Mesa. Dominant species include pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), alkali heath (*Frankenia grandifolia*), and sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*).

Freshwater Marsh

Freshwater marsh is dominated by perennial emergent monocots and typically form completely closed canopies in perennially wet areas (Holland 1986). Freshwater marsh occurs at sites with relatively little water current, and where there is prolonged saturation, permitting the accumulation of deep, peaty soils. Common freshwater marsh species in the City include bulrush (*Scirpus californicus*), narrowleaved cattail (*Typha domingensis*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), rush (*Juncus* sp.), ditch grass (*Paspalum* spp.), creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* var. *palustris*), rabbitsfoot grass, alkali rye (*Leymus triticoides*), and meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*). This habitat is common in City creeks.

Southern Vernal Pool

Vernal pools form as winter rains fill topographic depressions where underlying claypan layers prevent the water from percolating through to the subsurface. Eventually these pools become dry due to subsurface drainage, evaporation, and plant evapotranspiration, remaining dry throughout the summer until late fall and winter rains again initiate pool formation. Southern vernal pool habitats are characterized by particular plant associations that are adapted to alternating wet and dry conditions. Such plant species characterizing vernal pools include coyote thistle (*Eryngium vaseyi*), wooly heads (*Psilocarphus brevissimus*), and popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys undulatus*). These species generally decrease in abundance toward the outer margins of pools where grasses become dominant.

Vernal pools known to occur in the City are generally small in area, only a few inches deep, and are dominated by ephemeral annual and perennial hydrophytes such as wooly heads, coyote thistle, common spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), lowland cudweed (*Gnaphalium palustre*), southern tarplant (*Hemizonia parryi* ssp. *australis*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius* var. *bufonius*), loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum* ssp. *gussoneanum*), Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), and rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*). All of the ponds formed on flat mesas appear to have been naturally formed and exhibit little or no evidence of altered hydrology. Some are disturbed from previous remediation activities that left the ground surface uneven in graded areas, making the boundaries between the pools unclear. Vernal pools are scattered throughout the flat mesas and intergrade with the nonnative annual grassland and native grassland habitats on Ellwood Mesa and Santa Barbara Shores Park.

Open Water (Lakes and Ponds)

Two lakes are located within the City of Goleta: Lake Los Carneros and Rancho Goleta Lake. Both lakes are manmade. Small ponds associated with rural residences and orchards are present in the foothills north of the City.

Sand

Sand occurs along the beaches found directly adjacent to the ocean. It is subject to tidal action, and is mostly devoid of vegetation because of frequently moving substrates. The sandy beach interfaces with the sandy intertidal, rocky intertidal, and seasonally rocky intertidal marine habitats located immediately adjacent to the City's beaches.

Disturbed/Ruderal

Disturbed areas are devoid of vegetation and typically result from erosion due to removal of topsoil, disturbance due to recreational use, and the combination of these two factors. Ruderal areas are dominated by highly adaptive and invasive species with few to no native species and are frequently disturbed from human activities. Characteristic ruderal species identified in the project area include mustard, milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), sweet fennel, cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), sweet clovers (*Melilotus* spp.) telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), and ripgut grass. Within the City, ruderal habitat is associated with highly disturbed areas and is typically located adjacent to and on the infrequently used trails in City.

Agriculture

Land actively being used for agricultural purposes includes crop fields, orchards, vineyards, and grazing lands and are not a habitat type as defined by Holland. However, they provide foraging and sheltering and sometimes breeding habitat for certain species, provide buffers between urban uses and adjacent wildlands, and—depending on type of agricultural use—can be part of functioning wildlife linkages. In addition, riparian corridors and patches of other habitat types occur on some of the larger agricultural holdings in the City.

There are approximately 409 acres of agricultural land in the City (see Table 3.2-5 and Figure 3.2-1), ranging from truck farms and greenhouses to avocado orchards and lemons in the foothills. Major agricultural production still occurs on the south facing slopes and hillsides, mainly lemon and avocado orchards. Agricultural activities in the City are generally divided along Cathedral Oaks Road. Agriculture south of Cathedral Oaks occurs in more urban settings, typically on small parcels. Agriculture to the north occurs in primarily rural areas and consists primarily of avocado and lemon orchards, row crops, and specialty crops.

3.4.1.3 Wildlife and Fish Species

Habitats in the City support a wide variety of wildlife and fish species, but the diversity and abundance of species vary greatly between the habitats. The abundance and variety of wildlife are greatest in riparian and oak woodland habitats due to the presence of shelter, food, and linkages to the foothills. Annual grassland, although dominated by nonnative species, provides important foraging habitat for local raptors and nesting habitat for many birds.

Fish are present in the estuaries at the mouths of Winchester/Bell and Tecolote Canyons, and the perennial reaches of major drainages support a combination of introduced and resident fish species. Some anadromous fish may occasionally occur in various streams, such as the San Jose and Maria Ygnacio Creeks.

Common reptiles and amphibians observed in the City include Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), southern alligator lizard (*Gerrhonotus multicarinatus*), western skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), common kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis getulus*), gopher snakes (*Pituophis catenifer*), western terrestrial garter snakes (*Thamnophis elegans*), and western rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*).

Common avian species found in upland habitats include black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), and northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*). The patches of freshwater marsh provide habitat for marsh birds such as Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), warblers, and

American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*). Riparian habitats and estuarine habitats provide foraging and breeding areas for a diversity of species, such as great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), and warblers. Although not restricted to this habitat, many raptor species such as turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), white-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawk (*B. striatus*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), and great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) forage within the grassland habitats.

Common shorebirds and pelagic birds include western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), western grebes (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*), sanderling (*Calidris alba*), marbled godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), and whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). The federally threatened western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) nests on the beach near the mouth of Devereux Slough. Devereux Slough also is an important habitat for bird species during migration along the Pacific Flyway. Many bird species use this area as an annual stopover location for several days of rest and feeding prior to continuing migration to their seasonal destination.

Common medium-sized and large mammal species include Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginianus*), brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmanii*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), grey fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), as well as feral species, such as domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) and domestic cat (*Felis cattus*). Small mammals include Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*), house mouse (*Mus musculus*), and California vole (*Microtus californicus*).

3.4.1.4 Special-Status Habitats

This section identifies the special-status habitats and species in the City. Special-status habitats are described in terms of areas that qualify as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs) under the GP/CLUP; regulated waters, wetlands, and streambeds; and critical habitat designated for Federally listed and proposed species. Regulated wetlands, streambeds, and critical habitat are encompassed by the term ESHA but are called out separately for CEQA purposes.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas

For purposes of this EIR, special-status habitats are presented in terms of habitats that meet the definition of or are designated as ESHAs in the Conservation Element of the GP/CLUP (see Conservation Element, Policy CE 1). ESHAs 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; and

c. any area that has been previously designated as an ESHA by a competent authority.

ESHAs include the following resources:

- marine resources
- beach and shoreline resources
- creek and riparian areas;
- wetlands, such as vernal pools;
- coastal dunes, lagoons or estuaries, and coastal bluffs;
- coastal sage scrub and chaparral;
- native woodlands and savannahs, including oak woodlands;
- native grassland;
- monarch butterfly aggregation sites, including autumnal and winter roost sites, and related habitat areas;
- beach and dune areas that are nesting and foraging locations for the western snowy plover;
- nesting and roosting sites and related habitat areas for various species of raptors;
- other habitat areas for species of wildlife or plants designated as rare, threatened, or endangered under state or federal law; and
- any other habitat areas that are rare or especially valuable from a local, regional, or statewide perspective.

Figure 3.4-2 depicts the approximate location of ESHAs; acres of ESHA types are indicated on Table 3.4-1.

Regulated Waters, Wetlands, and Streambeds

Wetlands and *waters of the United States* under jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), wetlands potentially subject to regulation under the California Coastal Act, and streambeds and riparian areas regulated by California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) are known to occur in the City.

The term *wetland* is used to describe a particular landscape characterized by inundation or saturation with water for a sufficient duration to result in the alteration of physical, chemical, and biological elements relative to the surrounding landscape. Wetland areas are characterized by prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands provide habitats that are essential to the survival of many threatened or endangered species as well as other wetland-dependent species. Wetlands also have value to the public for flood retention, storm abatement, aquifer recharge, water quality improvement, and aesthetic qualities.

Regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands include the ACOE, which has the authority to enforce two Federal regulations involving wetland preservation: the Clean Water Act (Section 404), which regulates the disposal of dredge and fill materials in waters of the United States; and the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10), which regulates diking, filling, and placement of structures in navigable waterways. State regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands include the State Water Resources Control Board, which enforces compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act (Section 401) regulating water quality; the California Coastal Commission, which regulates development within the coastal zone as stated in the California

Coastal Act (Sections 30001, 30231, 302338(c), and 30240); and the DFG, which asserts jurisdiction over waters and wetlands with actions that involve alterations to streams or lakes by issuing Streambed Alteration Agreements under Section 1600 of the Fish and Game Code.

Designated/Proposed Critical Habitat
Critical habitat for a Federally listed or proposed species is considered an ESHA under the GP/CLUP. It is called out separately here for CEQA purposes.

Approximately 15.5 acres of critical habitat for the western snowy plover occurs along the shoreline of the City (see Figure 3.4-2). No other designated or proposed critical habitat occurs within or immediately adjacent to the City.

3.4.1.5 Special-Status Species

Special-status species are defined as plant, fish, and wildlife species that have limited distribution or abundance, are particularly vulnerable to human disturbances, or have special educational, scientific, or cultural/historic interest. The categories of special-status species identified in the GP/CLUP are summarized below, in decreasing order of sensitivity:

- plant, fish, and wildlife species that have been officially designated as rare, threatened, or endangered by the California Fish and Game Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS);
- plant, fish, and wildlife species that have been officially proposed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the State or Federal governments, and are undergoing public review;
- plant species that have been included on List 1B (Rare and Endangered) of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Inventory of California; and
- fish and wildlife species that have been designated as *species of special concern* by the DFG.

Table 3.4-2 identifies the special-status species associated with the habitat types known to occur in the City. Known occurrences of special-status species are shown in Figure 3.4-2 based on available records.

TABLE 3.4-2
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES ASSOCIATED WITH HABITATS IN THE CITY

Common Name/Scientific Name	Listing Status Fed/State/CNPS	Preferred Habitat
Plants		
Contra Costa goldfields *Lasthenia conjugens*	--/--/1B	Vernal pools
Coulter's goldfields *Lasthenia glabrata* spp *coulteri*	--/--/1B	Salt marsh
Coulter's saltbush *Atriplex coulteri*	--/--/1B	Coastal scrub; alkaline or clay soils
Davidson's saltbush *Atriplex serenana* var *davidsonii*	--/--/1B	Coastal scrub
Dunedelion *Malacothrix incana*	--/--/4	Dune
Estuary seablite *Suaeda esteroa*	--/--/4	Coastal scrub, salt marsh

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3.4-2 CONTINUED

Common Name/Scientific Name	Listing Status Fed/State/CNPS	Preferred Habitat
Late-flowered mariposa lily *Calochaortus weedii var. vestus*	--/--/1B	Chaparral, oak woodland
Plummer's baccharis *Baccharis plummerae* ssp. *Plummerae*	--/--/4	Coastal scrub; rocky soils
Santa Barbara honeysuckle *Lonicera subspicata var subspicata*	--/--/1B	Chaparral, oak woodland
Southern tarplant *Hemizonia parryi* ssp *australis*	--/--/1B	Seasonal wetlands and vernal pools
Wooly seablite *Suaeda taxifolia*	--/--/4	Coastal scrub, salt marsh
Invertebrates		
Globose dune beetle *Coelus globosus*	SC/-/-	Foredune
Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	-/SC/-	Woodland
Sandy beach tiger beetle *Cicindela hirticollis gravida*	SC/-/-	Sandy beach, estuarine
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	T/-/-	Vernal pool
Fish		
Southern steelhead (Southern California ESU) *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	E/SC/-	Marine, creek
Tidewater goby *Eucylogobius newberryi*	E/CSC/-	Estuarine
Amphibians		
Red-legged frog *Rana aurora draytonii*	T/CSC/-	Riparian corridors
Reptiles		
California horned lizard *Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*	-/CSC/-	Chaparral and scrub
California legless lizard *Anniella pulchra pulchra*	-/CSC/-	Sandy dunes and washes
Coast patch-nosed snake *Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*	-/CSC/-	Scrub and chaparral
Southwestern pond turtle *Clemmys marmorata pallida*	-/CSC/-	Ponds and streams
Two-striped garter snake *Thamnophis hammondii*	-/CSC/-	Coastal streams
Birds		
Belding's savannah sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*	-/E/-	Salt marsh
Brown pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*	E/E/-	Coastal waters
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	SC/PT/-	Grasslands
California least tern (nesting) *Sterna antillarum browni*	E/E,FP/-	Sloughs, beaches
California thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum*	SC/-/-	Chaparral
Coast horned lark *Eremophila alpestris actia*	-/CSC/-	Grasslands
Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperi*	-/CSC/-	Woodlands
Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	-/CSC/-	Grasslands, scrub, riparian

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3.4-2 CONTINUED

Common Name/Scientific Name	Listing Status Fed/State/CNPS	Preferred Habitat
Least Bell's vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus*	E/E/-	Riparian
Light-footed clapper rail *Rallus longirostris levipes*	E/E,FP/-	Coastal waters, marsh
Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	SC/CSC/-	Grasslands
Merlin *Falco columbarius*	-/CSC/-	Grassland, scrub, riparian, marsh
Northern harrier *Circus cyaneus*	-/CSC/-	Grasslands
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	-/CSC/-	Coastal waters
Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*	SC/E/-	Open water, riparian
Prairie falcon *Falco mexicanus*	-/CSC/-	Grasslands
Sharp-shinned hawk *Accipiter striatus*	-/CSC/-	Grasslands, woodlands
Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*	-/CSC/-	Grasslands
Tricolored backbird *Agelaius tricolor*	SC/CSC/-	Freshwater marsh
Turkey vulture *Cathartes aura*	*	Eucalyptus trees
Western snowy plover *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*	T/CSC/-	Beaches, dunes
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	SC/FP/-	Grasslands, woodlands
Yellow warbler *Dendroica petechia*	-/CSC/-	Riparian woodland
Yellow-breasted chat *Icteria virens*	-/CSC/-	Riparian woodland
Mammals		
Badger *Taxidea taxus*	-/CSC/-	Open scrub, grasslands
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	-/CSC/-	Rock crevices, caves, mines, structures
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	SC/CSC/-	Rock crevices, caves, mines, structures
Western red bat *Lasiurus blossevillii*	-/CSC/-	Grassland, scrub, woodland
Yuma myotis *Myotis yumanensis*	SC/CSC/-	Open woodland with water

Codes
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 = species which information indicates may warrant listing but for which 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
* = Locally protected species
California Native Plant Society (CNPS)
1B = List 1B species: rare, threatened, or endangered in California
4 = List 4 species: plants about which more information is needed to determine their status and plants of limited distribution

3.4.1.6 Wildlife Linkages

The term, habitat linkage is used to describe physical connections that allow wildlife to move between patches of suitable habitat in both undisturbed landscapes as well as environments fragmented by urban development. The fragmentation of open space areas by urbanization creates "islands" of wildlife habitat that are more or less isolated from one another. In the absence of habitat linkages, some wildlife species, especially the larger and more mobile mammals, would not persist over time because fragmentation limits infusion of new individuals necessary to maintain critical population densities and genetic diversity. Habitat linkages mitigate the effects of this fragmentation.

For ground-dwelling vertebrates, habitats in the City are more or less isolated from large expanses of similar habitats in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains. City creeks are the last remaining physical linkages between the coast and relatively undisturbed and unfragmented habitats to the north of the City. Linkages provided by local creeks may occur only infrequently because there are many intervening barriers to dispersal, such as transportation corridors and associated culverted undercrossings and urban development.

3.4.1.7 Existing Preserves

There are four existing nature preserves in the City: Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve (139.9 acres), Sperling Preserve (136.6 acres), Santa Barbara Shores Park (91.7 acres), and Coronado Preserve (6.9 acres).

3.4.2 Regulatory Framework

3.4.2.1 Federal

Endangered Species Act of 1973
The Federal Endangered Species Act and implementing regulations, Title 16 United States Code (USC) Section 1531 et seq. (16 USC 1531 et seq.), Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 17.1 et seq. (50 CFR Section 17.1 et seq.), includes provisions for the protection and management of Federally listed threatened or endangered plants and animals and their designated critical habitats. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires a permit to take threatened or endangered species during lawful project activities.

The administering agency for the above authority is the USFWS for terrestrial, avian, and most aquatic species and NMFS for marine mammals and most anadramous fish species.

National Environmental Policy Act, 42 USC Section 4321 et seq.
This act requires analysis of the environmental effects of Federal actions. The administering agency for projects involving wetlands or other waters of the United States is expected to be the ACOE associated with permitting under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Section 7 of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 USC 742 et seq., 16 USC 1531 et seq., and 50 CFR 17 requires consultation if any project facilities could jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered species. Applicability depends on Federal jurisdiction over some aspect of the

project (e.g., dredge or fill activities in waters of the United States). The administering agency for these authorities is expected to be the ACOE in coordination with the USFWS.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act
The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC Sections 703 through 711) includes provisions for protection of migratory birds, including the nonpermitted take of migratory birds, under the authority of the USFWS and DFG.

Clean Water Act of 1977, Section 404
This section of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251 et seq., 33 CFR Sections 320 and 323) gives the ACOE authority to regulate discharges of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands.

Clean Water Act of 1977, Section 401
This section of the Clean Water Act requires a state-issued Water Quality Certification for all projects regulated under Section 404. In California, the RWQCB issues Water Quality Certifications with jurisdiction over the project area. The RWQCB–Central Coast Region issues Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for applicable project activities in Santa Barbara County.

3.4.2.2 State

California Endangered Species Act
The California Endangered Species Act and implementing regulations in the Fish and Game Code Sections 2050 through 2098 includes provisions for the protection and management of plant and animals species listed as endangered or threatened, or designated as candidates for such listing. The act includes a consultation requirement "to ensure that any action authorized by a state lead agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species…or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of the species" (Section 2090). Plants of California declared to be endangered, threatened, or rare are listed at 14 CCR Section 670.2. Animals of California declared to be endangered or threatened are listed at 14 CCR Section 670.5.14. CCR Section 15000 et seq. describes the types and extent of information required to evaluate the effects of a proposed project on biological resources of a project site.

California Species Preservation Act 1970: California Fish and Game Code Sections 900 through 903
This law includes provisions for the protection and enhancement of the birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles of California, and is administered by the DFG.

Other Relevant Sections of the Fish and Game Code
The Fish and Game Code provides specific protection and listing for several types of biological resources. These include:

- fully protected species;
- streams, rivers, sloughs, and channels;
- significant natural areas; and

- designated ecological reserves.

Fully protected species are listed in Section 3511 (Fully Protected Birds), Section 4700 (Fully Protected Mammals), Section 5050 (Fully Protected Reptiles and Amphibians), and Section 5515 (Fully Protected Fish). The Fish and Game Code of California prohibits the taking of species designated as fully protected.

Section 1600 of the Fish and Game Code requires a streambed alteration agreement for any activity that may alter the bed and/or bank of a stream, river, or channel. Typical activities that require a streambed alteration agreement include excavation or fill placed within a channel, vegetation clearing, structures for diversion of water, installation of culverts and bridge supports, cofferdams for construction dewatering, and bank reinforcement.

The Fish and Game Code Section 1930 designates *significant natural areas.* These areas include refuges, natural sloughs, riparian areas, and vernal pools and significant wildlife habitats. An inventory of significant natural areas is maintained by the DFG Natural Heritage Division and is part of the NDDB.

Section 1580 of the Fish and Game Code lists Designated Ecological Reserves. Designated Ecological Reserves are significant wildlife habitats to be preserved in natural condition for the general public to observe and study.

Section 2081(b) and (c) of the California Endangered Species Act allows DFG to issue an incidental take permit for a state-listed threatened and endangered species only if specific criteria are met. These criteria can be found in Title 14 CCR, Sections 783.4(a) and (b). Section 2081(b) may authorize the take of fully protected species and specified birds. If a project is planned in area where a species or specified bird occurs, an applicant must design the project to avoid all take; the DFG cannot provide take authorization under this act.

CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 2100 et seq.
The CEQA Guidelines provide a framework for the analysis of impacts to biological resources. The administering agency for the above authority is the DFG in cooperation with the CEQA Lead Agency (i.e., City of Goleta).

Native Plant Protection Act of 1977
The Native Plant Protection Act of 1977 and implementing regulations in Section 1900 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code designates rare and endangered plants and provides specific protection measures for identified populations. It is administered by the DFG.

Public Resource Code Sections 25500 & 25527
These code sections prohibit the siting of development in certain areas of critical concern for biological resources, such as ecological preserves, wildlife refuges, estuaries, and unique or irreplaceable wildlife habitats of scientific or educational value. If there is no alternative, strict criteria are applied under the authority of the DFG.

California Coastal Act Section 30000 et seq.
The Coastal Act is the only set of policies that apply to development projects with the City's Coastal Zone, pending certification of the GP/CLUP. The California Coastal Act Coastal Resources Planning and Management Policies include provisions to maintain, enhance, and

restore coastal zone resources (30001, 30230), protect water quality and the biological productivity of coastal waters (30231); avoid and minimize dredging, diking, and filling sediments (30233); protect Environmentally Sensitive Habitats (30240); and mitigation of wetland impacts (30607.1).

Section 30001.5 of the California Coastal Act "declares that the basic goals of the State for the coastal zone are to:

(a) Protect, maintain, and, where feasible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the coastal zone environment and its natural and artificial resources.

(b) Assure orderly, balanced utilization and conservation of coastal zone resources taking into account the social and economic needs of the people of the state.

(c) Maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resource conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners.

(d) Assure priority for coastal-development and coastal-related development on the coast.

(e) Encourage State and local initiatives and cooperation in preparing procedures to implement coordinated planning and mutually beneficial uses, including educational uses, in the coastal zone."

The California Coastal Commission is the State entity that implements the policies of the California Coastal Act. New development in the coastal zone, such as placement of any solid material or structure, a change in land use density or intensity, a change in the intensity of water use or access to water, or the removal of vegetation, requires a permit from the Coastal Commission.

3.4.2.3 Local

City of Goleta Ordinances

Development in the City is subject to the City's Inland Zoning Ordinance for those portions of the City outside of the Coastal Zone and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance for those portions of the City within the Coastal Zone. Following the adoption of the GP/CLUP, the existing Inland and Coastal Zoning Ordinances will be replaced by a single, unified zoning code that includes zoning regulations applicable to inland areas and the coastal zone. Existing City ordinances are not applicable in the context of this EIR because they will be replaced upon the adoption of the GP/CLUP.

3.4.3 Project Impacts and Mitigation

3.4.3.1 Thresholds of Significance

City of Goleta Environmental Thresholds Manual

The City's adopted *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* provides environmental thresholds specific to biological resources. This manual primarily uses Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines for its criteria, which states that a project would have a significant impact on the environment if it exceeds the following thresholds:

- conflicts with adopted environmental plans and goals of the community where it is located;
- substantially affects a rare or endangered species of animal, plant, or the habitat of the species;
- interferes substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species; or
- substantially diminishes habitat for fish, wildlife, or plants.

Determination of impacts is done on a project-by-project basis. Because of the complexity of biological resource issues, substantial variation can occur between projects. Impact assessment must account for both short-term and long-term impacts. Impacts are classified as significant or less than significant, depending on the size, type, and timing of the impact and the biological resources involved. Disturbance to habitats and/or species are considered significant if they affect significant biological resources in the following ways:

- substantially reduces or eliminates species diversity or abundance;
- substantially reduces or eliminates quantity or quality of nesting areas;
- substantially limits reproductive capacity through loss of individuals or habitat;
- substantially fragments, eliminates, or otherwise disrupts foraging areas and/or access to food sources;
- substantially limits or fragments the geographic range or dispersal routes of species; or
- substantially interferes with natural processes, such as fire or flooding, upon which the habitat depends.

Policy-related impacts to biological resources may be considered less than significant where there is little or no importance to a given habitat and where disturbance would not create a significant impact. For example, disturbance to cultivated agricultural fields, or small acreages of nonnative, ruderal habitat, would be considered less than significant.

CEQA Thresholds

The City of Goleta also assesses impacts based on the State CEQA Guidelines. As suggested by Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.), the proposed project may have a significant impact on biological resources if it would:

1. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the DFG or USFWS.
2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the DFG or USFWS.
3. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
4. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

5. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
6. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Appendix G also identifies the following criteria for determining whether a project's biological impacts would trigger mandatory findings of significance:

1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
2. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ('cumulatively considerable' means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?
3. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

3.4.3.2 Discussion of Relevant GP/CLUP Policies

The GP/CLUP includes policies that protect and preserve biological resources within the City by designating specific resources and areas as protected, restricting activities and uses in protected areas, providing for the management of the resources on City lands, specifying impact avoidance and mitigation requirements for types of activities and by type of biological resource, and providing guidance for development and conservation decisions over the long-term. The policies anticipate the potential impacts to biological resources from the land uses and activities that will occur under the GP/CLUP and serve to avoid, reduce, and/or mitigate those impacts. The key policies regarding biological resources are in the Conservation, Open Space, and Land Use Elements. Table 3.4-3 lists the policies and indicates if the policy specifies resource protection/preservation, resource management, impact avoidance, impact mitigation, or other resource-related actions.

Conservation Element

Policies in the Conservation Element reinforce State and Federal regulations that protect special-status habitats and species and apply additional local restrictions to identify, preserve, and protect the City's biological resources. The key protections and guidelines are stated in Policies CE 1, which include the following provisions:

- No development, except as otherwise allowed by Policy CE 1 is allowed within ESHAs.
- A setback or buffer separating all permitted development from an adjacent ESHA is required and must meet the minimum width requirements identified in the Conservation Element.
- Public accessways and trails are considered resource-dependent uses and may be located within and adjacent to ESHAs.

TABLE 3.4-3
GP/CLUP POLICIES RELEVANT TO PRESERVATION OF AND REDUCTION OF IMPACTS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

GP/CLUP Element/ Policy Number and Name	Preservation	Management	Restricted Use	Impact Avoidance	Impact Mitigation	Design Criteria/BMPs
Conservation						
CE 1: ESHA Designations and Policy	X	X	X	X	X	X
CE 2: Protection of Creeks and Riparian Areas	X	X	X	X	X	X
CE 3: Protection of Wetlands	X	X	X	X	X	X
CE 4: Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas	X	X	X	X	X	X
CE 5: Protection of Other Terrestrial Habitat Areas	X	X	X	X		
CE 6: Protection of Marine Habitat Areas	X	X	X	X		X
CE 7: Protection of Beach and Shoreline ESHAs	X	X	X	X		X
CE 8: Protection of Special-Status Species	X			X		X
CE 9: Protection of Native Woodlands	X			X	X	X
CE 10: Watershed Management and Water Quality		X		X		
Open Space						
OS 1: Lateral Shoreline Access		X		X	X	X
OS 2: Vertical Access to the Shoreline		X		X	X	X
OS 3: Coastal Access Routes, Parking, and Signage				X		X
OS 4: Trails and Bikeways		X	X	X	X	X
OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area	X	X	X	X	X	X
OS 6: Public Park System Plan		X	X	X		X
OS 7: Adoption of Open Space Plan Map	X	X	X		X	
OS 8: Financing Public Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities		X			X	
Land Use						
LU 1: Land Use Plan Map and General Policies						X
LU 6: Park and Open Space Uses		X	X			
LU 9.4: Site #4 Santa Barbara Shores Park and Sperling Preserve			X			X
LU 12: Land Use in Goleta's Environs				X		X

- Where there are no feasible, less environmentally damaging alternatives, the following uses may be located in ESHAs and ESHA buffers provided that measures are implemented to avoid or lessen impacts to the maximum extent feasible: public road crossings, utility lines, resource restoration and enhancement, nature education, and biological research.
- Exceptions may be made to allow a reasonable economic use of a parcel, provided the development footprint does not exceed 20 percent of the parcel area. Alternatively, the City may establish a program to allow transfer of development rights from the constrained parcel to other suitable areas.
- Any land use, construction, grading, or removal of vegetation that is not specified in Policy CE 1 is prohibited.

- New development must be sited and designed to avoid impacts to ESHAs. If there are no feasible alternatives that can eliminate all impacts, the alternative with the fewest or least significant impacts will be selected. Any impacts that cannot be avoided must be fully mitigated. Onsite mitigation will be given priority; offsite mitigation will be approved only when is it not feasible to mitigate fully onsite.
- Development adjacent to an ESHA must minimize impacts to habitat values or sensitive species in the ESHA area to the maximum extent feasible.
- ESHA buffers shall have native habitat to serve as transitional habitat and must be of sufficient size to ensure the biological integrity and preservation of the ESHA they are intended to protect.
- Development in or adjacent to ESHA is subject to the following standards:
    - Site designs shall preserve wildlife corridors or habitat networks.
    - Land divisions for parcels (except for open space lots) shall be allowed only if the new lot(s) can be developed without building in an ESHA or ESHA buffer and without impacts to ESHAs related to fuel modification for fire safety purposes.
    - Site plans and landscaping shall be designed to protect ESHAs, with priority given to protecting, supporting, and enhancing wildlife habitat values. Planting of nonnative invasive species is prohibited in ESHAs and ESHA buffers.
    - All new development shall be sited and designed 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 follows for any receiving water body.
    - Light and glare will be controlled and directed away from wildlife habitat. Exterior night lighting shall be minimized, restricted to low intensity fixtures, shielded, and directed away from ESHAs.
    - Noise levels from new development should not exceed an exterior noise level of 60 L_{dn} at the habitat site. During construction, this level may be exceeded if it can be demonstrated that significant adverse impacts on wildlife will be avoided or will be temporary.
    - 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 natural vegetation in and adjacent to ESHAs.
    - 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.
    - Grading, earthmoving, and vegetation clearance adjacent to an ESHA shall be prohibited during the rainy season, generally from November 1 to March 31, except where necessary to protect or enhance the ESHA or to remediate hazardous flooding hazardous geologic conditions.
    - In areas not adjacent to ESHAs where grading may be allowed, erosion control measures shall be implemented prior to and concurrent with all grading operations.
- Management of ESHAs is subject to the following standards:
    - Use of insecticides, herbicides, artificial fertilizers, or other toxic chemical substances that have the potential to degrade ESHAs are prohibited in and adjacent to ESHAs, except where necessary to protect or enhance the ESHA.

- Use of insecticides, herbicides, or other toxic substances by City employees and contractors in construction and maintenance of City facilities and open space shall be minimized.
- Mosquito abatement in and adjacent to ESHAs shall be limited to implementation of the minimum measures necessary to protect human health and shall be undertaken in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to ESHAs.
- Weed abatement and brush-clearing for fire safety purposes shall be the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose and shall be limited to mowing. Disking is prohibited.
- Where there are feasible alternatives, existing sewer lines and other utilities that are located in an ESHA shall be taken out of service, abandoned in place, and replaced with facilities outside the ESHA.
- Removal of nonnative invasive plant species in ESHAs may be allowed, unless the nonnatives contribute to habitat values.
- Desilting, obstruction clearance, and minor vegetation removal may be allowed in creek and creek protection areas.

Other policies in the Conservation Element provide additional details regarding preservation, impact avoidance and reduction, and project-level standards for specific types of ESHA, including creeks and riparian areas, wetlands, monarch butterfly habitat areas, other terrestrial habitat areas (native grasslands, coastal sage scrub and chaparral), marine habitat areas, beach and shoreline habitats, special status species, and native woodlands.

Open Space Element

The Open Space Element integrates the ESHA-related requirements into the City's policies regarding open space, recreation, and coastal access, with an emphasis on coastal public accessways, trails, the Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area, the City's park system, and adoption of the Open Space Map. The accessway and trail policies indicate that impact avoidance and minimization is required in areas with sensitive habitats. Policy OS 5 incorporates the relevant provisions of Ellwood-Devereux Open Space and Habitat Management Plan into the GP/CLUP. Key park-related policies identify standards for and restrict uses of neighborbood and regional open space areas. Policy OS 6 identifies neighborhood open space as areas that integrate natural features and undeveloped landscape with the adjacent neighborhood and sets the following standards for such areas: (1) primary emphasis is on the protection of the natural resource; and (2) uses are limited to passive recreation, such as trails, with structural or land improvements (except dirt trails and resting areas) are to be avoided. Policy OS 6 also identifies regional open space as areas that are contiguous to or encompass significant natural resources and sets the following standards for such areas: (1) they should be easily accessible from surrounding neighborhoods, (2) they are designed to be primarily passive in character, and (3) they are intended to protect open space and natural values. Adoption of the Open Space Map (Policy OS 7) is intended to designate, preserve, and protect significant open space resources, including the natural resources identified in the Conservation Element as ESHAs. Standards that apply to areas designated as open space for preservation of natural resources are as follows:

- The designated natural resource areas shall be managed by the City in accordance with the policies described in the Conservation Element.

- The City may require dedication of open space easements as a condition of approval for development on sites that have open space resources as shown on GP/CLUP Figure 3-5.
- The City encourages the donation of easements or fee-simple interests in open space lands to the City or other appropriate nonprofit entity, such as a land trust.

Land Use Element

The Land Use Element indicates that all new development must meet high environmental standards for the preservation and protection of sensitive resources, including the standards for ESHAs identified in the Conservation Element. Policy LU 6 sets the criteria and standards for open space/passive recreation uses on areas with significant environmental values or resources, wildlife habitats, significant views, and other open space values. These criteria and standards require that open space lands be maintained in a natural condition to protect and conserve sensitive habitats, allow management activities such as habitat restoration, allow only minimal improvements to accommodate passive public uses, prohibit active recreational uses involving structures or similar improvements to the land, and allow limited parking and public access improvements providing that impacts on resources are avoided or reduced. Policy LU 9 specifies the uses and restrictions on the parcels comprising the Santa Barbara Shores Park and Sperling Preserve, as also specified in the Ellwood-Devereux Coast Open Space and Habitat Management Plan. Policy LU 12 describes the City's intent to address resource protection and impact avoidance and mitigation issues on lands outside the City but within its planning and service areas consistent with the policies that apply within the City.

3.4.3.3 Project Impacts

In this EIR, the effects of GP/CLUP implementation on biological resources are considered in terms of habitat impacts, species impacts, impacts to wildlife linkages, and impacts to existing preserves and approved conservation programs. Cumulative and residual impacts also are considered.

For purposes of the analysis, the source of direct and indirect impacts is identified as: (1) the conversion of existing vacant sites to the land uses designated for those areas in the GP/CLUP, (2) the construction of the roads, trails, parks, and public facilities identified in the GP/CLUP; and (3) the maintenance and management of the roads, trails, parks, and public facilities. Each of these three groups of activities is analyzed on a "program" level. The analysis considers whether the type of activity (e.g., construction of trails) has the potential to affect biological resources and, based on the maps and descriptions in the GP/CLUP, would occur in areas with sensitive biological resources. The potential for impacts to specific resources is analyzed as follows:

- Habitat impacts are examined in terms of potential habitat loss (temporary and permanent), habitat degradation, and habitat fragmentation. Where possible, habitat impacts are quantified in terms of acres potentially affected. All ESHAs identified in the GP/CLUP are treated as special-status habitats; these include the vegetation communities identified as ESHAs (e.g., riparian) and other areas designated by the City as ESHAs because of their special values (e.g., monarch butterfly and raptor nesting habitat). The distribution of ESHAs is shown on Figure 3.4-2.
- Species impacts are examined in terms of harm or displacement of listed species; loss, reduction, or isolation of local populations of native species; and reduction in the amount or quality of habitat for special status species. The list of species in Table 3.4-2 includes the

listed, native, and other special status species of concern. Not all of the species are known to occur in the City. However, the City includes habitat associated with each species. Locations where special status species have been recorded are shown on Figure 3.4-2.

- Impacts to wildlife linkages are examined in terms of land uses and activities that: 1) break or substantially narrow an existing linkage, or 2) degrade the habitat quality and function of an existing linkage.
- Impacts to existing preserves and approved conservation programs/plans are examined in terms of inconsistencies of proposed uses or policies and loss or degradation of conserved habitat.

Identified impacts are evaluated in terms of their potential significance based on the thresholds indicated in subsection 3.4.3.1 and the classes of impacts (I through IV) used by the City for CEQA analyses. The EIR also identifies GP/CLUP policies that would reduce potentially significant impacts resulting from Plan buildout to less-than-significant levels.

Cumulative impacts are examined in terms of the combined effects of the impacts associated with GP/CLUP implementation and foreseeable projects in areas adjacent to the City. Residual impacts are examined in terms of the potential for significant effects to occur after mitigation of any Class I, Class II, or significant cumulative impacts.

Table 3.4-4 summarizes the results of the analysis by type, source, and class of impact.

TABLE 3.4-4
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES BY TYPE, SOURCE, AND CLASS

Type of Impact	Development of vacant sites	Construction of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities	Maintenance of roads, trains, parks, and public facilities
Project Impacts			
Temporary impacts to special status habitats and species	Class II	Class II	Class II
Permanent loss of special status habitats	Class II	Class II	Class II
Long-term degradation of special status habitats	Class II	Class II	Class II
Fragmentation of special status habitats	Class II	Class II	Class IV
Harm to listed species	Class II	Class II	Class II
Loss, reduction, isolation of local populations of native species	Class II	Class II	Class II
Reduction in amount or quality of habitat for special status species	Class II	Class II	Class II
Break or impairment of function of existing wildlife linkage	Class II	Class II	Class IV
Loss or degradation of conserved habitat	Class II	Class II	Class II
Inconsistency with conservation programs or local policies	Class II	Class II	Class II
Impacts to non-special status habitats and species	Class III	Class III	Class III
Beneficial effects of preservation/management	NA	NA	Class IV
Cumulative impacts	Class III		
Residual impacts	Class III		

NA = Not Applicable

Class I Impacts

There are no short- or long-term significant and unavoidable impacts to biological resources associated with implementation of the City's GP/CLUP.

Class II Impacts

Short-Term Impacts

Impact 3.4-1. Temporary Impacts to Special Status Habitats and Special Status Species

Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities have the potential to temporarily remove or degrade special status habitats and to have temporary adverse impacts on species status species. Examples of temporary habitat impacts include brush clearing and scraping to provide temporary access roads, pathways, and storage areas; and clearing and trenching in connection with pipeline maintenance and repairs. Although temporary, such impacts are potentially significant when they affect regulated habitats (riparian and wetlands), habitats occupied by listed species, habitats with nesting birds, and special status habitats that occur only in small isolated patches (e.g., native grassland). Examples of temporary impacts to special status species include noise and lighting during construction and temporary displacement from suitable habitat due to disruption by adjacent activities.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-1. The following GP/CLUP policies reduce the potentially significant impacts of temporary habitat loss and modification by requiring impact avoidance where feasible, setting design criteria and management guidelines, and requiring mitigation for impacts to special status habitats:

- Policy CE 1: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area Designations and Policy
- Policy CE 2: Protection of Creeks and Riparian Areas
- Policy CE 3: Protection of Wetlands
- Policy CE 4: Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 5: Protection of Other Terrestrial Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 6: Protection of Marine Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 7: Protection of Beach and Shoreline Habitats
- Policy CE 8: Protection of Special-Status Species
- Policy CE 9: Protection of Native Woodlands
- Policy CE 10: Watershed Management and Water Quality
- Policy OS 1: Lateral Shoreline Access
- Policy OS 2: Vertical Access to the Shoreline
- Policy OS 3: Coastal Access Routes, Parking, and Signage
- Policy OS 4: Trails and Bikeways
- Policy OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area
- Policy OS 6: Public Park System Plan
- Policy OS 7: Adoption of Open Space Plan Map
- Policy LU 1: Land Use Plan Map and General Policies

- Policy LU 6: Park and Open Space Uses
- Policy LU 9: Coastal-Dependent and -Related Uses (Key Pacific Shoreline Sites)

Long-Term Impacts

Impact 3.4-2. Loss of Special Status Habitats

Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that would permanently remove some existing special status habitats.

- Based on the habitat mapping depicted in Figure 3.4-2, the vacant sites identified in the GP/CLUP include approximately 40 acres of ESHA. Most of the ESHAs on or near vacant sites are located near creeks or existing preserves. The actual ESHA impacts of each development would be calculated as part of the planning process and CEQA documentation for individual projects. Although the GP/CLUP policies require impact avoidance and restrict development in ESHA areas, exceptions are allowed. Some loss of existing special status habitats would occur as a result of site development, and such losses are potentially significant.
- Proposed roads, trails, parks, and public facilities are planned mainly for areas outside of ESHAs. However, the GP/CLUP explicitly allows for the inclusion of trails and some roads in ESHAs and ESHA buffers. Plans for the proposed facilities are not at a stage where impacts to ESHAs can be calculated with reasonable certainty. Actual ESHA impacts will be calculated as part of the planning process and CEQA documentation for individual projects. Some loss of existing special status habitats would occur as a result of road, trail, park, and other public facility construction, and such losses are potentially significant.
- Maintenance of existing and future facilities (roads, trails, parks, other facilities) will occur in areas with ESHAs and in ESHA buffers. Actual ESHA impacts will depend on the type, timing, and location of the maintenance and management activities. A limited amount permanent habitat loss may result from some maintenance activities, and such losses are potentially significant.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-2. The following GP/CLUP policies reduce the potentially significant impacts of permanent loss of existing habitat by requiring impact avoidance where feasible, setting design criteria and management guidelines, and requiring that any allowed impacts to special status habitats be fully mitigated:

- Policy CE 1: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area Designations and Policy
- Policy CE 2: Protection of Creeks and Riparian Areas
- Policy CE 3: Protection of Wetlands
- Policy CE 4: Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 5: Protection of Other Terrestrial Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 6: Protection of Marine Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 7: Protection of Beach and Shoreline Habitats
- Policy CE 9: Protection of Native Woodlands
- Policy CE 10: Watershed Management and Water Quality
- Policy OS 1: Lateral Shoreline Access

- Policy OS 2: Vertical Access to the Shoreline
- Policy OS 3: Coastal Access Routes, Parking, and Signage
- Policy OS 4: Trails and Bikeways
- Policy OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area
- Policy OS 6: Public Park System Plan
- Policy OS 7: Adoption of Open Space Plan Map
- Policy LU 1: Land Use Plan Map and General Policies
- Policy LU 6: Park and Open Space Uses
- Policy LU 9: Coastal-Dependent and -Related Uses (Key Pacific Shoreline Sites)

Impact 3.4-3. Long-term Degradation of Special Status Habitats
Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that could result in the long-term degradation of special status habitat. Examples include increased occurrence of invasive nonnative species within special-status habitats due to the proximity of such nonnative species in adjacent landscaping, changes in hydrology and water flow that would degrade the quality and function of riparian systems, or habitat disturbances from unauthorized recreation activities. Because of the relatively small size and fragmented distribution of the ESHAs in the City, degradation of habitat conditions has the potential to result in permanent habitat loss as well as impaired habitat functions. Such impacts are potentially significant.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-3. The following GP/CLUP policies reduce the potentially significant impacts of activities that directly or indirectly result in habitat degradation by requiring buffers and setbacks separating ESHAs from adjacent uses, identifying standards for uses in and adjacent to ESHAs and ESHA buffers, and requiring that impacts to EHSA be fully mitigated:

- Policy CE 1: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area Designations and Policy
- Policy CE 2: Protection of Creeks and Riparian Areas
- Policy CE 3: Protection of Wetlands
- Policy CE 4: Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 5: Protection of Other Terrestrial Habitat Areas
- Policy CE 7: Protection of Beach and Shoreline Habitats
- Policy CE 9: Protection of Native Woodlands
- Policy CE 10: Watershed Management and Water Quality
- Policy OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area
- Policy LU 1: Land Use Plan Map and General Policies
- Policy LU 6: Park and Open Space Uses
- Policy LU 9: Coastal-Dependent and -Related Uses (Key Pacific Shoreline Sites)

Impact 3.4-4. Fragmentation of Special Status Habitats
Development of vacant sites and the construction (but not the maintenance) of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that could result in the fragmentation of existing areas

of special status habitats, especially in riparian corridors. Given the limited amount of ESHAs and the linear nature of the riparian areas, fragmentation of ESHAs has the potential to result in permanent habitat loss as well as permanently impaired habitat functions. Such effects are potentially significant.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-4. Impact 3.4-4 would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by the same GP/CLUP policies that would reduce Impact 3.4-2.

Impact 3.4-5. Harm to Listed Species
Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that could result harm to listed species. Currently listed and proposed species that are known to occur in the City or potentially occur in the City's remaining habitats include vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi),* Southern California steelhead (Southern California ESU) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus),* tidewater goby (*Eucylogobius newberryi),* red-legged frog, *Rana aurora draytonii,* Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi),* brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus),* burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia),* California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni),* least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus),* light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes),* peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum),* and western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus).* Of these species, vernal pool fairy shrimp, red-legged frog, least Bell's vireo, and burrowing owl are most at risk of direct impacts because of the occurrence of their habitats in or near areas designated for development. The habitats of these species are subject to Federal and State regulations as well local ordinances and policies that are designed to protect the species from impacts, except as authorized under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The other currently listed species are similarly protected by regulation and also occur primarily in already conserved habitat area. Other special status species may become listed during implementation of the GP/CLUP. The GP/CLUP policies provide essentially the same protection for listed and non-listed special status species. However, it is possible that species not identified on Table 3.4-2 may be proposed and become listed during implementation of the GP/CLUP.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-5. Impact 3.4-5 would be reduced to less-than-significant levels by GP/CLUP Policy CE 8: Protection of Special Status Species, and by the habitat-related policies identified for Impacts 3.4-1 and 3.4-2. These policies provide for the protection of listed and proposed species, plus other nonlisted special-status species. The protections are largely habitat-based, which provides protection to listed and non-listed species in the same locations. Harm to any listed species would require authorization from USFWS, NMFS, and/or DFG as appropriate in accordance with the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. Such authorization would be a condition of any City approval of any project that would result in harm to a listed species. In addition, Policy CE 8 would apply to any species that fit the definitions of special status species.

Impact 3.4-6. Loss, Reduction, or Isolation of Local Populations of Native Species
Development of vacant sites and the construction (but not the maintenance) of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that could result in the loss, reduction, or isolation of local populations of native species, primarily through habitat loss and degradation. Such impacts are potentially significant, especially given the small size and scattered distribution of habitat for native species of plants, wildlife, and fish. Populations of endemic species such as vernal pool invertebrates and plants generally are at most risk. Most known areas of native grassland (the rarest native habitat in the City) are conserved within an existing reserve; a few areas exist on the residences at Sandpiper site and the Comstock Homes site.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-6. Impact 3.4-6 would be reduced to less-than-significant levels by the same GP/CLUP policies that reduce Impact 3.4-1, 3.4-2, and 3.4-5.

Impact 3.4-7. Reduction in Amount or Quality of Habitat for Special Status Species
Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that could reduce the amount and/or the quality of habitat for special status species. Table 3.4-5 summarizes the habitat associations of the special status species that are known or have to potential to occur in the City. Species associated with grassland habitats (including nonnative grassland) and endemic species such as vernal pool plants and invertebrates are potentially most at risk from habitat reduction.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-7. Impact 3.4-7 would be reduced to less-than-significant levels by the same GP/CLUP policies that reduce Impact 3.4-1, 3.4-2, and 3.4-5.

Impact 3.4-8. Break or Impairment of Function of Existing Wildlife Linkages
Development of vacant sites and the construction (but not maintenance) of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that could result in the break of an existing wildlife linkage or impairment of the linkage's function. Riparian corridors, which also provide movement corridors to upland habitats, are most at risk because of the tenuous nature of existing linkages and impacts from existing surrounding development. Loss of a linkage or impairment of a linkage's function is a potentially significant impact.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-8. Impact 3.4-8 would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by the same GP/CLUP policies that would reduce Impacts 3.4-2, 3.4-3, and 3.4-4.

Impact 3.4-9. Loss or Degradation of Conserved Habitat
Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities could result in potentially significant impacts on biological resources in areas of conserved habitat. These potential impacts are similar to those included in Impacts 3.4-1 through 3.4-8.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-9. Impact 3.4-9 would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by the same GP/CLUP policies that would reduce Impacts 3.4-1 through 3.4-8.

Impact 3.4-10. Inconsistency with Approved Conservation Program or Local Conservation Policy
Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities may entail proposed activities that are inconsistent with approved conservation programs and local conservation policies. Such effects would be potentially significant under CEQA.

Policies That Would Reduce Impact 3.4-10. Impact 3.4-10 would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by the same GP/CLUP policies that would reduce Impacts 3.4-1 through 3.4-9.

TABLE 3.4-5
HABITAT TYPE ASSOCIATIONS OF CITY OF GOLETA SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Habitat Type	Special Status Species
Beaches and dunes	Western snowy plover
Chaparral	California thrasher
Chaparral and oak woodland	Late-flowered mariposa lily Santa Barbara honeysuckle
Coastal scrub	Davidson's saltbush
Coastal scrub and salt marsh	Estuary seablite Wooly seablite
Coastal scrub; alkaline or clay soils	Coulter's saltbush
Coastal scrub; rocky soils	Plummer's baccharis
Coastal streams	Two-striped garter snake
Coastal waters	Brown pelican Osprey
Coastal waters, marsh	Light-footed clapper rail
Dune	Dunedelion
Estuarine	Tidewater goby
Foredune	Globose dune beetle
Freshwater marsh	Tricolored backbird
Grasslands	Burrowing owl Coast horned lark Loggerhead shrike Northern harrier Prairie falcon Short-eared owl
Grasslands and open scrub	Badger
Grasslands and woodlands	Sharp-shinned hawk White-tailed kite
Grasslands, scrub, and riparian	Golden eagle
Grassland, scrub, and woodland	Western red bat
Grassland, scrub, riparian, and marsh	Merlin
Marine, creek	Southern steelhead (Southern California ESU)
Open water and riparian	Peregrine falcon
Open woodland with water	Yuma myotis
Ponds and streams	Southwestern pond turtle
Riparian	Least Bell's vireo Red-legged frog Yellow warbler Yellow-breasted chat
Rock crevices, caves, mines, structures	Pallid bat Townsend's big-eared bat
Salt marsh	Coulter's goldfields Belding's savannah sparrow
Sandy beaches and estuarine	Sandy beach tiger beetle
Sandy dunes and washes	California legless lizard
Scrub and chaparral	Coast patch-nosed snake California horned lizard
Sloughs, beaches	California least tern
Vernal pools	Contra Costa goldfield Southern tarplant Vernal pool fairy shrimp
Woodland	Monarch butterfly Cooper's hawk Turkey vulture (eucalyptus trees)

Class III Impacts

Impact 3.4-11. Impacts to Non-Special-Status Habitats and Species

Development of vacant sites and the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities could remove and degrade non-special–status habitats and adversely affect non-special–status species. However, these activities would not substantially alter the non-special–status resources. Such effects are not potentially significant and do not require mitigation.

Class IV Impacts

Impact 3.4-12. Resources Not Effected by Maintenance/Management

Maintenance/management of roads, trails, parks, and public facilities entail activities that would not fragment special status habitats or break existing wildlife linkages.

Impact 3.4-13. Protection of ESHAs and Maintenance/Management of Regional and Neighborhood Open Space Area

Protection of ESHAs and maintenance/management of regional and neighborhood open space areas have the potential to benefit special status habitats and species by preserving lands with these resources, providing for their ongoing management, and maintaining linkages to other habitat areas. Management and protection of resources in the City's preserves (Lake Los Carneros Natural and Historical Preserve, Sperling Preserve, Santa Barbara Shores Park, and Coronado Preserve) have the potential to enhance the sustainability of the species and habitats on those sites and thereby could have long-term beneficial effects. However, the magnitude and duration of the beneficial effects of reserve management will depend on maintaining linkages to other habitat areas. Protection of ESHAs outside of preserves at a minimum will have short-term beneficial effects for the species and habitats in those locations.

3.4.3.4 Cumulative Impacts

Impact 3.4-14. Cumulative Impacts to Biological Resources

In addition to the development and related activities that will occur in the City, more than 120 projects are proposed for lands controlled by the City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, and University of California (see Table 3-1). As in the City of Goleta, many of these projects will occur on vacant sites within already developed communities. However, some projects will be in or adjacent to areas with special status habitats and species and will have indirect as well as direct adverse effects on those resources. Individually and collectively, the projects in the surrounding area and GP/CLUP study area will contribute to:

- loss of natural open space;
- loss of special status habitats, including breeding habitat for special status species;
- degradation and fragmentation of upland and riparian habitats;
- loss of foraging habitat (grassland) for resident and migratory raptors;
- further degradation of water quality in Devereux Creek and Devereux Slough from increased pollutant runoff and sedimentation;
- loss and impairment of wildlife linkages;
- increased occurrence of nonnative and/or non-indigenous plants;
- increased potential for harm to listed species; and

- increased impacts to local populations of native species, including disruption of breeding due to increased disturbance from adjacent land uses.

While the cumulative effects of the combined projects are potentially significant, the cumulative effects attributable to projects in the City would be reduced to less-than-significant levels (Class III) in accordance with the GP/CLUP policies and applicable federal and state regulations.

Policies That Would Further Reduce Project Contributions to Impact 3.4-14. The following GP/CLUP policies would further reduce project contributions to Impact 3.4-14.

- Policy CE 10: Watershed Management and Water Quality
- Policy OS 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space Area
- Policy LU 9: Coastal-Dependent and -Related Uses (Key Pacific Shoreline Sites)
- Policy LU 12: Land Use in Goleta's Environs

3.4.3.5 Mitigation

Modifications to Proposed GP/CLUP Policies
No modifications are required.

Other Mitigation
No additional mitigation is identified.

3.4.3.6 Residual Impacts

The project's residual contribution to cumulative impacts to biological resources would be reduced to less-than-significant levels (Class III) through implementation of the biological resource protection policies described under GP/CLUP.

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3.10.4 References

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Acronyms

Citations

Tables

Figures

Miscellaneous

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Glossary

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