

## Chris Noddings

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**From:** Barbara Massey <masseybarb@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 20, 2018 10:38 AM  
**To:** Anne Wells; cnodding@cityofgoleta.org; Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan  
**Subject:** Ellwood Mesa Habitat Management Plan  
**Attachments:** Ellwood Mesa Habitat Plan comments.docx

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I have attached the comments that I had prepared for the Thursday evening workshop. Although I didn't state them at the workshop I want them in the record. I think the format of the workshop was an improvement over some past workshops. Thank you for actually listening to the public.

The drinks and snack were a nice addition. I really enjoyed my cashews.

Barbara

## The Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan and Implementation Plan Comments for August 16, 2018 Workshop

Good evening

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan and Implementation Plan and the areas preservation should not be under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department. These plans should be the responsibility of the Planning and Environmental Review Department.

I can't believe that this Plan would place almost all of the responsibility for the Monarch Butterfly Habitat in the hands of the Public Works Department. The public has seen the Public Works Departments inability to handle the management of the Monarch Butterfly habitat. The public had to bring PW's bad decisions to the attention of the City Manager and City Council. Public Works has done nothing but try to cut down 100's of eucalyptus trees and destroy the habitat. Much damage would have been done to the area if not for public intervention. The Public Works Dept. is not qualified to deal with environmentally sensitive Monarch Butterfly habitat. They don't have the necessary personnel that is environmentally trained and knowledgeable about the habitat to adequately plan and manage this important area.

The way this document is written, it seems that it still permits the cutting down of trees, planting in inappropriate areas, planting trees other than eucalyptus trees, and the ability to do anything staff wants without review. There needs to be more oversight of the habitat.

There are a number of things seriously wrong with the Management and Implementation Plans. Far too much emphasis is placed on public access to the detriment of the aggregation sites. It needs to be remembered that the Monarch Butterfly Habitat is an important and valuable environmental resource and not for the entertainment of the public.

Docents need much better training so that they follow proper procedures. They should never go into areas not approved for visitors even when there is a lack of butterflies at the approved sites. This could be used as a teaching moment to discuss what happens when an area is disturbed or when their numbers decrease.

The plans are weak without specific protections for the butterflies and the trees. There is far too much use of the wording "managed, as feasible," which further weakens any protections. There are no protections in these plans to keep a large number of trees from being cut down at any time without the Council's or public's knowledge. This is exactly what the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management and Implementation Plans were supposed to stop. Don't place the habitat in the hands of the Public Works Department.

Barbara Massey  
August 16, 2018