

CHAPTER 5.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6 requires an assessment of a reasonable range of alternatives to a project. The alternatives must meet most of the objectives and avoid or substantially lessen potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the project. CEQA also requires that an EIR assess the No Project alternative, providing an assessment of what would reasonably be expected to occur if the project were not implemented.

In compliance with these requirements, the 2006 Final EIR analyzed the following alternatives: No Project Alternative; Reduced Development Scenario 1; and Reduced Development Scenario 2. In addition, the Final EIR disclosed that four other Planning Alternatives were identified and rejected as not feasible during the process of developing the GP/CLUP. These planning alternatives include the Environmental Vitality, Economic Stability, Economic Center, and Housing Needs alternatives.

5.2 APPLICABILITY OF FINAL EIR ALTERNATIVES TO SUPPLEMENTAL EIR

In contrast to the requirements described above for alternatives in a project- or program-level EIR, CEQA does not require the identification or analysis of alternatives in a Supplemental EIR. As provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15163(b), "The supplement to the EIR need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised." Given that this Supplemental EIR has been prepared to address amendments to policies contained within the adopted GP/CLUP and Final EIR, the analysis of development alternatives not approved therein is not applicable to the proposed policy amendments, and no further discussion is necessary in this Supplemental EIR.

5.3 ALTERNATIVE POLICY REVISIONS

Chapter 2.0 of this Supplemental EIR identifies policies that the City has initiated for review in this Supplemental EIR. All proposed revisions are to existing policies, tables, figures, etc. and related information in the adopted GP/GLUP. No revisions are proposed to the guiding principles and goals of the overall Plan or individual elements. One new policy is proposed by Mitigation Measure AQ-1, which requires development of a greenhouse gas reduction plan.

Four sets of alternative (optional) policy text are presented in this Supplemental EIR (see Table 2-1):

- **Alternative 1—No Changes:** This alternative is the "No Project" alternative as defined in CEQA. This alternative represents the continuation of the existing GP/CLUP policies. It provides the basis for comparing the impacts of not amending or amending the GP/CLUP. This alternative also expresses recommendations made at the workshops and public hearings urging no change to these sections of the GP/CLUP at this time.
- **Alternative 2a—City-Initiated Revisions:** This alternative is the "Proposed Project" as defined in CEQA, and presents the text of policy revisions as initiated by the Goleta City Council. The precise wording of these revisions incorporates that originally requested by advocates of the revision, as modified (where applicable) by the City Council during their public hearing deliberations.

- **Alternative 2b—Options Associated With City-Initiated Revisions:** This alternative presents the text of optional revisions to Alternative 2a for selected ESHA, wetlands, and related policies. This optional text concerns the development of plans and guidelines that would provide further guidance on policy implementation or could replace the existing policy. The precise wording of these options is based on suggestions to City staff regarding other ways to resolve issues associated with the ESHA, wetland, and related policies in the existing GP/CLUP.
- **Alternative 3—SEIR Recommended Revisions:** This alternative consists of revisions that the SEIR preparer (ICF Jones & Stokes) and City staff recommend in order to better reflect the intention of the initiated amendment, consistency with other applicable rules and regulations, and lessons learned during the environmental analysis process. The specific revisions are based on the materials circulated at the workshops and public hearings in fall 2007 and January 2008. In some instances, the wording combines similar versions of a proposed change or was developed in response to comments made at the workshops and hearings.

5.4 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

The alternative policy revisions identified above in Section 5.3 represent alternate sets of text from which the City may choose in amending the GP/CLUP. As these are not “alternatives” as defined under CEQA Guidelines Section 15126, the identification of an environmentally superior alternative is not applicable to this Supplemental EIR.