

## CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 OVERVIEW

This supplemental environmental impact report (Supplemental EIR) to the 2006 Final EIR for the City of Goleta (City) General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (GP/CLUP, or Plan) was prepared to address any new or modified environmental impacts associated with selected revisions to the GP/CLUP. This document has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.) and CEQA Statutes provided in California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.

The GP/CLUP was adopted in October 2006 and is the primary means for guiding future change in Goleta as the City faces decisions about growth, housing, environmental protection, neighborhood compatibility/preservation, public facilities/services, and transportation. The Final EIR addressing the potential environmental impacts of the GP/CLUP was certified in October 2006.

In March 2007, the City Council initiated a process for reopening the GP/CLUP to consider the emergence of suggested amendments by City staff, the public-at-large, landowners, developers, and special interest groups. Those City-initiated amendments were subsequently grouped into five categories: *Track 1* for Housing Element revisions to respond to State Department of Housing and Community Development Department comments; *Track 2* for minor technical or editorial revisions presenting no new significant environmental impacts; *Track 3* for revisions meriting more detailed review as to their potential impacts; *Track 4* for project-sponsored amendments; and *Track 5* for Sphere of Influence.

The city hosted a series of four workshops between September 15, 2007, and October 17, 2007, to collect feedback on proposed amendments from the public. Additional City Council hearings were held on January 17, 2008, and January 29, 2008, to take a second look at proposed amendments, and a Notice of Preparation soliciting public and agency review of proposed Track 3 Amendments, was released on July 29, 2008, and concluded on August 28, 2008.

The purpose of this Supplemental EIR is to document the CEQA review for those proposed amendments categorized as Track 3 revisions to the GP/CLUP. The CEQA lead agency for this Supplemental EIR is the City of Goleta.

### 1.2 CEQA GUIDELINES—SUBSEQUENT EIRS, SUPPLEMENTAL EIRS, AND ADDENDUMS TO EIRS

Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that, for a project covered by a certified EIR, preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR *rather* than an addendum is required only if one or more of the following conditions occur:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project that will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.
2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due

to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
  - a) The project will have one or more significant effect not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
  - b) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
  - c) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
  - d) Mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines provides that the lead or responsible agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR rather than a subsequent EIR if:

1. Any of the conditions described in Section 15162 would require the preparation of a subsequent EIR, and
2. Only minor revisions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation.

Given the above definitions, and that the public noticing and circulation requirements for subsequent and supplemental EIRs are identical, this EIR has been prepared as a Supplemental EIR.

### **1.3 SCOPE OF SUPPLEMENTAL EIR**

This Supplemental EIR includes the certified 2006 Final EIR and addendum thereto by reference, and addresses new or modified environmental impacts associated with selected revisions to the GP/CLUP. The Supplemental EIR was prepared following input from affected agencies and members of the public. The scoping of the Supplemental EIR was conducted using several of the tools available under CEQA.

In accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, a notice of preparation (NOP) was prepared and distributed to responsible and affected agencies and other interested parties for a 30-day public review. The public review period for the NOP began on July 29, 2008, and ended on August 28, 2008. The NOP was also posted in the Santa Barbara County Clerk's office for 20 days and sent to the State Clearinghouse at the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to officially solicit statewide agency participation in determining the scope of the EIR (SCH# 2005031151). A public notice was published in the *Goleta Valley Voice* on July 30, 2008, providing the NOP for a Supplemental EIR and soliciting comments on the scope of the Supplemental EIR.

The topical contents of the Supplemental EIR were established based on the findings in the NOP and on public and agency input. A copy of the NOP and comments received during the NOP review period are included in Appendix A.

As mandated by CEQA, the Draft SEIR was circulated for 60 days. This Final SEIR was prepared based on comments made during the public review period, from January 29, 2009, to April 6, 2009. Additions from the Draft SEIR are marked with a bar in the margin of the text.

The scope of analysis contained within this Supplemental EIR addresses each of the environmental resource areas that were previously analyzed in the certified 2006 Final EIR as well as Greenhouse Gas Emissions per new regulatory requirements. The Supplemental EIR addresses the following environmental issues:

- aesthetics and visual resources;
- agriculture and farmland;
- air quality;
- biological resources;
- cultural resources;
- geology, soils, and mineral resources;
- hazards and hazardous materials;
- population and housing;
- water resources;
- land use and recreation;
- noise;
- public services and utilities; and
- transportation and circulation.

Chapter 2.0 of this Supplemental EIR includes Table 2-1, which presents policy text as written in the existing GP/CLUP and three different versions of amended text: City-initiated revisions, alternatives to those revisions, and SEIR recommended revisions. The criteria for determining the significance of environmental impacts in this Supplemental EIR are the same as those contained within the certified 2006 Final EIR.

## 1.4 SUPPLEMENTAL EIR ORGANIZATION

The content and organization of this Supplemental EIR are designed to meet the current requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The Supplemental EIR is organized as described below:

- **Chapter 1.0, “Introduction and Overview,”** describes background and introductory information for the proposed amendments; the background of the GP/CLUP; and the purpose, scope, and content of the Supplemental EIR.
- **Chapter 2.0, “Project Description,”** describes the project location, project details, and the City’s objectives for the proposed project.

- **Chapter 3.0, “Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation,”** presents the environmental analysis for those policies to be considered for amendment as Track 3 revisions. Those policies are summarized in Table 2-1.
- **Chapter 4.0, “Future City Service Area/Sphere of Influence,”** provides a brief summary confirming that the proposed policy revisions would not affect future City service areas.
- **Chapter 5.0, “Alternatives to the Proposed Project,”** provides a brief summary confirming that the proposed policy revisions would not involve new or revised alternatives.
- **Chapter 6.0, “Other CEQA Considerations,”** includes a discussion of significant adverse, irreversible commitments of resources caused by the proposed amendments. It also includes a discussion of direct and indirect growth-inducing impacts that could be caused by the proposed amendments.
- **Chapter 7.0, “List of Preparers,”** lists the individuals involved in preparing this subsequent EIR.
- **Chapter 8.0, “References,”** identifies the documents (printed references) and individuals (personal communications) consulted during preparation of this Supplemental EIR. This chapter includes the agencies and people consulted to ascertain information for the analysis of impacts and support for the conclusions made from the analysis.

## 1.5 ADOPTION AND AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL EIR

The Track 2 and Track 3 policies were the subject of a series of four workshops hosted by the City between September 15, 2007, and October 17, 2007, to collect feedback from the public. Public comment was also received at public hearings held on January 17 and January 29, 2008. After considering public comment from these various workshops and hearings, the City Council decided which policies would proceed toward amendment under Track 3, as well as the scope and content of the proposed amendments. Since the January 2008 hearings, the City’s environmental consultant, ICF Jones & Stokes, evaluated environmental impacts associated with the Track 3 amendments. Other amendments have been addressed under the Track 2 CEQA Addendum process.

The Track 2 General Plan Amendments consisted of 46 minor modifications to the General Plan and resulted in changes to the Land Use, Open Space, Safety, Visual, and Transpiration Elements, and one addition to the GP/CLUP Glossary. The Planning Commission held hearings on April 14, 2008; April 21, 2008; and May 12, 2008, to consider a CEQA Addendum to the Final EIR and make recommendations to the City Council concerning proposed Track 2 General Plan Amendments. The City Council held hearings on June 3, 2008, and June 17, 2008, with Certification of the CEQA Addendum to the Final EIR and Adoption of the Track 2 General Plan Amendments occurring on June 17, 2008 (CC Resolution # 08-30).

The Supplemental EIR will be considered by the City of Goleta Planning Commission and accepted and certified by the City Council. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(d), a Supplemental EIR shall be given the same notice and public review as required under Section 15087. The Supplemental EIR shall state where the previous document is available and can be reviewed. The Supplemental EIR may be circulated by itself without circulating the previous Draft or Final EIR.

The Supplemental EIR is available for general public reference at the following locations:

- City of Goleta  
Planning and Environmental Services Department  
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B  
Goleta, California 93117
- Goleta Valley Public Library  
500 North Fairview Avenue  
Goleta, California 93117

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