

Draft Goleta Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
 Informational Sheet
 March 20, 2012

Question	Answer
<p>How does the CWPP address environmental conservation measures?</p>	<p>The CWPP addresses environmental conservation measures at a programmatic level and builds on policies in the Goleta General plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (General Plan) and related Open Space Plans. The CWPP is an informational document and therefore does not address site specific fuel treatments and related impacts. Overarching environmental conservation measures identified in the CWPP include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1.3.3, page 9 – “The 1970 CEQA has evolved into one of the most prominent components of community planning in California. It requires state and local agencies to follow a protocol of analysis and public disclosure of environmental impacts in proposed projects and to include feasible measures to mitigate those impacts. Any proposed hazard fuel treatment project recommended in this CWPP must comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations.” • Section 6.3, page 63 – “The recommendations for hazard mitigation projects such as hazardous fuels treatment are general in nature, meaning site-specific planning addressing location, access, land ownership, biological concerns, archaeological and historic site concerns, topography, soils and fuels are required prior to implementation.” • Section 6.3.12, page 81 - “There are special operating circumstances in some of the designated ESHAs in Goleta. If a recommended fuel treatment falls within one of these areas, the project manager must strictly follow the guidelines specific to that ESHA. Regulatory information is found in the Goleta GP/CP and the City’s newly developed Monarch Butterfly Management Habitat Plan.” • Appendix E, page 158 – “Homeowners who do fuels reduction activities that remove or dispose of vegetation are required to comply with all federal, state or local environmental protection laws and obtain permits when necessary. Environmental protection laws may include but are not limited to, threatened and endangered species, water quality, air quality and cultural/archaeological resources.” <p>As explained in the March 20, 2012 CWPP staff report to the City Council, following Council approval, staff will proceed with preparing CWPP Implementation Plans. The Implementation Plans will include details regarding the site specific treatments to address wildfire hazard in City-owned open spaces and will require environmental review under CEQA and permitting. The CWPP itself is not a project under CEQA because it is merely an informational document and does not make decisions for City actions. Instead, the CWPP will serve to guide the preparation of specific action decisions in the Implementation Plan(s).</p>

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<p>Was public outreach and stakeholder input conducted as part of the development of the CWPP?</p>	<p>The CWPP was developed with agency, public and stakeholder input. Refer to page 17 of the CWPP for a summary of attendees at the public planning workshops. A more detailed list of public outreach is as follows:</p> <p>City Council Hearing for Contract Agreements on October 19th, 2010 Standard City noticing for public meetings (staff report, web postings, and mass email).</p> <p>First Public Workshop – February 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ City scroll slide on Public Access – February 9th, 2011○ Wildland Fire Plan Webpage on City website – February 9th, 2011○ Link to Workshop Flyer provided on February 9, 2011○ City Calendar – February 9, 2011○ Notice to Santa Barbara News Press – February 9, 2011○ Notice to Independent – February 9, 2011 (printed in February 17th edition)○ Outreach to UCSB and SB Airport – February 10, 2011○ Mailers – City wide and interested parties list: February 14, 2011○ Copies of Flyers on City Counters – February 11, 2011○ NPR Calendar of Events – KCLU and KPBX; February, 16, 2011○ Edhat, Daily sound publication – February 16, 2011○ Public Comments from Workshop uploaded to Website – Summer 2011 <p>Agency Coordination – March 2011- March 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ongoing input and feedback from Santa Barbara County Fire/CAL Fire.○ Ongoing outreach with Fire Safe Council○ Website Update <p>Second Public Workshop – October 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ City scroll slide on Public Access – September 30th, 2011○ Update to Webpage – September 30th, 2011○ Notice to Daily Sound – September 30th, and October 10th, 2011○ Upload of CWPP on website – October 2011○ General Mass Press Release – October 11th, 2011○ Edhat, News Press, Independent○ City Monarch Newsletter – Winter 2011 edition○ Mailers to Stakeholder List – First week of October (list of attendees from February 2011 Workshop).○ Meeting notes uploaded to website – February 2012
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<p>How are existing City policies addressed in the CWPP?</p>	<p>As stated on page 7 of the CWPP, "This CWPP was prepared in consideration of and consistent with the objectives and policies set forth in the City's General Plan, Strategic Plan and related Open Space Plans". Section 1.3.5, "City Level Policy" identifies local plans that are germane to the CWPP. Future Implementation Plan(s) will address policy consistency as part of the CEQA and permitting process.</p>
<p>How does the CWPP address the potential adverse effects on protected resources from fire prevention activities?</p>	<p>Given the CWPP is not an action document, no site specific effects analysis was completed for the recommended fuel treatments. The treatments provided in the CWPP serve as guidance for implementation of possible future hazardous fuels treatment projects in various fuel types (grass, shrubs and tree-dominated systems). Only through project level analysis can specific impacts be determined for the prescribed treatments at a particular location. This analysis is completed during the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. General strategies designed to support the protection of the raptor nesting and butterfly overwintering areas are identified in the CWPP (Section 6.3.12, page 81). Other general guidelines for working during the rainy season and working when fire danger is elevated are also proposed in this section. Again, analysis of site specific impacts will be assessed and evaluated after the approval of the CWPP and development of the Implementation Plan(s). Public outreach will occur accordingly.</p>
<p>How does the CWPP address habitat restoration and does it address the role that restoring natural system plays in wildfire prevention and wildfire activity?</p>	<p>Treatments described in the CWPP are general prescriptions, intended to guide site-specific plans that will be studied during associated environmental review. Habitat restoration will be evaluated during the site specific Implementation Plan(s) phase. See response to the question below for more information.</p>
<p>Does the CWPP address how fire benefits natural communities and how fire prevention has interfered with those natural processes?</p>	<p>The purpose of the CWPP is to enhance wildfire protection by identifying fire hazard treatments which are in balance with sustainable ecological management and fiscal resources. The CWPP does not address the role of fire as an ecological process as it was deemed to be outside of the scope of federally mandated requirements for a document of this type.</p>
<p>Do creeks or riparian environments slow the progress of fire, and if so, does the CWPP incorporate strategies that build on these natural buffers?</p>	<p>The CWPP addresses wildfire spread or intensity at the City level and in consideration for the generally built out urban environments. Under specific environmental conditions moist/wet creeks and riparian areas that bisect the City could influence wildfire behavior. The FlamMap spatial fire behavior and analysis program that was used to develop the CWPP "fire landscape" includes habitat types, fuel moisture, slope, etc. in assessing fire behavior. As such, wet areas such as riparian corridors are inherently accounted for in the CWPP modeling process from which the vegetation treatments are generated. Site-specific Implementation Plan(s) will address drainage corridors either as part of the treatment or as a mitigation to an impact. See Section 5.0 in the CWPP for more information.</p>