

Goleta Wildland Fire Plan Public Workshop
February 23, 2011
Notes from the Public Input Stations

From the “Communities Concern Dot Chart”

Topic	Number
Protection of Homes and Neighborhoods	27
Protection of Natural and Historic Resources	15
Protection of Critical Infrastructure	12
Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas	20
Protection of Municipal Property (Community Center, Hospitals, City Hall, Library, Open Spaces etc.)	11
Protection of Sensitive Species Habitats (Monarch Aggregation sites, wetlands etc.)	27
Protection of Vulnerable Populations (Senior Centers, Disabled)	5
Protection of Recreation Uses (Trails, Open Spaces. Parks, Picnic areas)	14
Protection of Commercial and Industrial Zones	3

Hazard and Risk – GeoElements Staff

- Leaning tress within the groves are a safety hazard
- Is downed fuel a positive feature of butterfly habitat?
- Edge and understory vegetation should be retained as part of the plan
- No removal of vegetation within the monarch ESHA. Action is prohibited by the Goleta General Plan
- Large trees along the edge of the habitat areas are falling into homes, onto private property and through Edison power lines

Defensible Space – Santa Barbara County Fire

- What is defensible space?
- A 40 to 50 foot set-back from property lines abutting Ellwood eucalyptus grove is adequate. Currently there is no set-back requirement
- Is the native grassland restoration area next to a home a fire hazard? Should this area be mowed?

Butterfly Habitat Plan – Dr. Dan Meade

- What is the contribution of downed fuel in maintaining the ideal butterfly habitat?
- Does the habitat need to be eucalyptus?
- Is expansion of the current habitat necessary to enhance the positive characteristics of the area

- Lack of eucalyptus woodland management is creating dense, overgrown trees that are dying and posing a fire threat. How can the groves be managed and still protect butterfly habitat?

Issues and Concerns – City Staff – GeoElements Staff

- Expand on the weather parameters used to generate the fire modeling information displayed during the meeting
- Fire history along the immediate coastal strip may be different from what was presented at the meeting. The grove location is only a few hundred feet from the water.
- Leaning trees along the edge of the grove presents a hazard of falling into the homes immediately adjacent to the grove
- Feathered edge with “heritage trees” along the edges of the grove would be a preferred vegetation treatment style
- The stakeholder group should acknowledge the citizens of Goleta
- Land stewardship requirements based on how the area was acquired by the city needs to be researched as it could effect what can be done with the area
- Expand the grove westerly to compensate for any loss of habitat next to the homes. That way all Edison tree trimming and defensible space work can be accomplished without impacting the overall size of the grove
- Develop specific “urban” defensible space standards which would be different from a wildland standards or interface standards. Integrate these “urban” standards within the urban forest management plan
- Consider clearing debris from water channels to assure water flow through the groves and prevent flooding from damaging/killing trees.
- Butterflies are as important as “structures”
- Clear high risk areas along Ellwood Mesa 40 to 50 feet from the edge of private property
- Concerned the property owners adjacent to open space areas won’t have an equal voice concerning development of treatments. Adjacency equals high potential for fire impacts.
- City should consider selling wood to generate revenue.
- Consider using tree trimming companies to do the “work” in exchange for the wood generated from the fire treatment activity.
- Edison should be required to bury the power lines along Ellwood Mesa to limit the potential of an ignition caused by a tree falling through their wires.