

## CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS EIR

This environmental impact report (EIR) was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with approvals related to the City of Goleta (City) General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan (GP/CLUP, or Plan), and to address appropriate and feasible mitigation measures or project alternatives that would reduce or eliminate these impacts. 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.

All *projects* within California are required to undergo an environmental review in accordance with CEQA to determine the environmental impacts associated with implementation of a project. CEQA was enacted in 1970 by the California Legislature to disclose to decision makers and the public the significant environmental effects of proposed activities and the ways to avoid or reduce those effects by requiring implementation of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures. CEQA applies to all California government agencies at all levels, including local government agencies that must issue permits or provide discretionary approvals for projects proposed by private applicants. As such, the City is required to conduct an environmental review of the GP/CLUP and consider the environmental effects before making a decision on the Plan. In accordance with CEQA, the City is the lead agency for the preparation of this EIR, and the City will be taking primary responsibility for conducting the environmental review and certifying the EIR.

This EIR is a program EIR. A program EIR is prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related either geographically, as part in the chain of contemplated actions, or a plan or regulatory program whose implementation actions are being undertaken by the same regulatory agency, in this case, the City of Goleta. Program EIRs generally analyze the potential broad environmental effects of a plan. Later environmental analysis for more specific projects undertaken by the City or individual applicants are prepared if appropriate.

The Draft EIR was circulated to the public and agencies for review and comment. One of the primary objectives of CEQA is to enhance public participation in the process of planning a project. This EIR was meant to inform agencies and the public of significant environmental effects associated with the proposed project, to describe and evaluate reasonable alternatives to the project, and to propose mitigation measures that would avoid or reduce the project's significant effects. Therefore, public involvement is considered an essential feature of CEQA, and community members are encouraged to participate in the environmental review process, request to be notified, monitor newspapers for formal announcements, and submit substantive comments at every possible opportunity afforded by the agency. The environmental review process provides several opportunities for the public to participate through scoping, public notice, public review of the CEQA document, and public hearings. Additionally, agencies are required to consider comments from the scoping process in the preparation of the Draft EIR and respond to public comments in the Final EIR.

The preparation of an EIR is guided by a complex set of laws and guidelines. The process begins by determining whether the project is subject to environmental review. The second phase involves determining whether the project would have significant environmental effects on

the environment. If it is determined that the project could result in significant environmental effects, then a notice of preparation (NOP) is circulated, and a draft EIR is then prepared. The final EIR will be considered for certification by the City of Goleta Planning Agency and the City Council, following the public review and comment period.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, this document has been submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to interested state agencies. As mandated by CEQA, the Draft EIR was circulated for 45 days. Responses to any comments received and any necessary revisions to the Draft EIR are provided in this Final EIR.

## **1.2 INTENDED USE OF THIS PROGRAM EIR**

This Final EIR serves two primary purposes. First, the EIR evaluates the potential impacts of implementing the GP/CLUP and proposes mitigation measures typically in the form of new or modified policies that reduce impacts to a less than significant level consistent with CEQA. Second, as a program-level document, the EIR will help to streamline the environmental review of new projects. New projects will be evaluated for their consistency with this EIR. Where they are consistent, the environmental review process may be streamlined. Projects found inconsistent may require additional environmental review.

Public agencies other than the City, including Responsible and Trustee Agencies (as defined under CEQA) may have used this EIR during their review of the GP/CLUP. Although the City of Goleta has primary project approval authority for the project, Responsible Agencies may also have some discretion over elements of the project and/or over project proposed by public agencies or private interests that implement the plan. The discretionary approval may include issuance of a permit or other required action. The following is a list of potential agencies that may use this EIR for such purposes:

- City of Goleta
- City of Santa Barbara
- County of Santa Barbara
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
- California Coastal Commission
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Conservation
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- South Coast Air Pollution Control District
- Goleta Water District
- Goleta Sanitary District
- Goleta West Sanitary District

## 1.3 EIR ORGANIZATION

### 1.3.1 Scope of the EIR

The draft EIR addressed the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and was prepared following input from affected agencies and members of the public through the EIR scoping process. The scoping of the EIR was conducted using several of the tools available under CEQA.

In accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, an 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 March 25, 2005, and ended on April 26, 2005. 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 *Santa Barbara NewsPress* on March 25, 2005, providing the NOP for an EIR and soliciting comments on the scope of the EIR.

The contents of the draft 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.

Comment letters received during the NOP public review period helped the City identify potential impacts and mitigations for this project. These issues are summarized in Appendix A.

Based on the findings of the NOP, an EIR is required to address potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed project. Issues found at the scoping phase that would have less-than-significant impacts, or no impact, do not require further evaluation.

This Final EIR was prepared based on comments made during the public review period, from May 31, 2006, to July 18, 2006. Additions from the Draft EIR are marked with a bar in the margin of the text.

This 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 3 of this EIR is divided into sections for each of the issues listed above and includes a detailed discussion of the impacts. Pursuant to CEQA, impacts evaluated in this program EIR were determined through a process in which existing conditions are compared and contrasted with conditions that will exist once the planned projects are implemented. The significance of each identified impact was determined using the applicable federal and state regulations, as well as the City of Goleta Thresholds of Significance and Appendix G of the CEQA guidelines. For each adverse impact identified, possible mitigation measures are presented that are designed to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. In those instances where mitigation measures cannot reduce adverse impacts to less than significant levels, the impacts are highlighted as Class I Impacts. Beneficial impacts are also identified.

This EIR uses the following terminology to denote the significance of environmental impacts:

- “no impact” (Class IV) means that no change from existing conditions is expected to occur;
- a “less than significant impact” (Class III) would cause no substantial adverse change in the physical environment (no mitigation is recommended);
- a “significant impact” (Class II) would cause a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in the physical environment that can be feasibly mitigated or avoided; and
- a “significant and unavoidable impact” (Class I) is one that would cause a substantial adverse change in the physical environment and cannot be avoided if the project is implemented; mitigation measures may be recommended but will not reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

### 1.3.2 Required EIR Contents

In addition to the environmental issues identified above, this EIR includes all of the sections required by CEQA. Table 1-1 contains a list of sections required under CEQA, along with a reference to the chapter(s) or section(s) in which they can be found.

**TABLE 1-1  
REQUIRED EIR CONTENTS**

<b>Requirement/CEQA Section</b>	<b>Location in EIR</b>
Table of contents (Section 15122)	Table of Contents
Summary (Section 15123)	Executive Summary
Project description (Section 15124)	Chapter 2.0
Significant environmental impacts (Section 15126.2)	Sections 3.1– 3.13, Chapter 4.0
Environmental setting (Section 15125)	Sections 3.1– 3.13, Chapter 4.0
Mitigation measures (Section 15126.4)	Sections 3.1– 3.13, Chapter 4.0
Cumulative impacts (Section 15130)	Sections 3.1– 3.13, Chapter 4.0
Alternatives to the proposed project (Section 15126.6)	Chapter 5.0
Growth-inducing impacts (Section 15126.2)	Chapter 6.0
Effects found not to be significant (Section 15128)	Chapter 1.0, Sections 3.1– 3.13, Chapter 4.0
Unavoidable significant environmental impacts (Section 15126.2)	Sections 3.1– 3.13, Chapter 4.0
List of preparers (Section 15129)	Chapter 7.0
Organizations and persons consulted (Section 15129)	Chapter 8.0

### 1.3.3 EIR Organization

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

- **“Executive Summary”** presents a summary of the proposed project and alternatives, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and impact conclusions regarding growth inducement and cumulative impacts.
- **Chapter 1.0, “Introduction and Overview,”** describes the purpose and overview of the EIR process and the scope of this EIR and outlines required EIR contents and the organization of the 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,”** describes the existing conditions for each environmental issue before project implementation, methods and assumptions used in the impact analysis, criteria for determining significance, impacts that would result from the proposed project, and applicable mitigation measures that would eliminate or reduce significant impacts. A cumulative impact analysis is also included that evaluates the environmental effects of combined recent past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area that have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts. This section also discusses the project’s contribution to the cumulative conditions and determines whether the project would result in cumulatively “considerable” impacts.
- **Chapter 4.0, “Future Service Areas,”** identifies Goleta’s probable ultimate physical boundaries and service areas, including boundaries for future additions to Goleta’s service area. Descriptions are provided of the existing conditions for each environmental issue before project implementation, methods and assumptions used in the impact analysis, criteria for determining significance, impacts that would result from the GP/CLUP, and applicable mitigation measures that would eliminate or reduce significant impacts.
- **Chapter 5.0, “Alternatives Considered,”** evaluates the environmental effects of project alternatives, including the No-Project Alternative. It also identifies the environmentally superior project alternative.
- **Chapter 6.0, “Other CEQA Considerations,”** includes a discussion of significant adverse, irreversible commitments of resources caused by the project. It also includes a discussion of direct and indirect growth-inducing impacts that could be caused by the proposed project.
- **Chapter 7.0, “List of Preparers,”** lists the individuals involved in preparing this EIR.
- **Chapter 8.0, “References,”** identifies the documents (printed references) and individuals (personal communications) consulted during preparation of this 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.
- **Technical Appendices** provide information and technical studies that support the environmental analysis contained within this document.

### 1.4 AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL EIR

The Final EIR for the proposed project is being distributed directly to agencies, organizations, and interested groups and persons. The Final EIR is available for general public review 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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Acronyms

draft environmental impact report (EIR)..... 1

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) ..... 1

California Code of Regulations [CCR]..... 1

notice of preparation (NOP)..... 2

Citations

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Miscellaneous

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Glossary

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