

**From:** [Gillian Fennessy](#)  
**To:** [Gillian Fennessy](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Goleta Creek Protection - Public Comment for NZO No. 28  
**Date:** Monday, September 23, 2019 9:00:34 AM

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**From:** Jem Unger Hicks <[jemhelena@gmail.com](mailto:jemhelena@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2019 11:31 AM  
**To:** Kim Dominguez <[kdominguez@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:kdominguez@cityofgoleta.org)>  
**Subject:** Goleta Creek Protection

Dear Chair Smith and Commissioners,

I was the Goleta Watershed Protection and Education intern for the Environmental Defense Center in 2018. I coordinated 6 creek cleanups in Goleta and assisted in authoring the comprehensive Goleta Watershed Protection and Creek Cleanup Project Report which detailed the state of Goleta's waterways and EDC's recommendations for further protection. I am very glad to see our work has been taken to heart by the city and I urge you to adopt the Coastal Commission's language for creek setbacks in the New Zoning Ordinance.

I am writing you today to request that the City make creek protection a priority in Goleta by developing an ordinance that effectively implements the General Plan Policy CE 2.2 by setting forth a process, the required findings, and the evidentiary requirements for feasibility determinations. Despite the strong protections for creeks and riparian habitats under Policy CE 2.2, the City has struggled with the implementation of this Policy and has routinely approved projects with reduced creek setbacks without an adequate process to evaluate whether adherence to the minimum 100-foot setback was infeasible.

For this reason, I support the recommendations made by the Environmental Defense Center and Urban Creeks Council to adopt the California Coastal Commission's language for analyzing when the 100-foot setback is feasible. This language was adopted by the County of Santa Barbara in its Coastal Zoning Ordinance and is in the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan. Please direct staff to incorporate the California Coastal Commission's language in the New Zoning Ordinance. The New Zoning Ordinance must be consistent with the City's goals to maintain, enhance, and restore its precious creeks and waterways.

Sincerely,

Jem Unger Hicks