Dear Chair and Commissioners,

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.

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.

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.

Please insure that the CCC’s language is incorporated in the New Zoning Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Smith