City of Goleta Planning Commissioners,

In 1851 at the bequest of the Santa Barbara City Council Salisbury Haley surveyed and laid out the city’s streets. He simply plopped down a grid of 450’ squares on the town, completely ignoring the creeks and existing development.

Wackenruder map, 1855

Bird’s Eye View, 1877

The result has been serious problems over the years for both the City and the creekside property owners, ranging from great difficulty in developing creekside lots to flooding of near creek development.

In the past there has been discussion of creating a trail along Mission Creek from the beach up to Stevens Park. It is impossible because of existing development, much of it with little setback from the creek.

You have a wonderful opportunity to assure that Goleta does not end up with the problems the City of Santa Barbara has along its creeks. I urge you to require 100’ setbacks from the top of creek banks. With those setbacks Goleta will have the ability to create linear parks the length of its creeks and to better manage flooding.
Sincerely,

Sheila Lodge
Mayor, City of Santa Barbara, 1981-1993
Santa Barbara City Planning Commissioner, 2009 to present