

From: [Gillian Fennessy](#)
To: [Gillian Fennessy](#)
Subject: FW: Comment letter - Creek Setbacks - NZO Public Comment 39
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 11:30:56 AM

From: Cherie Gmail <cherie.topper@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Kim Dominguez <kdominguez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Comment letter - Creek Setbacks

Dear Chair Smith and Commissioners,

I am writing you today to request that the City make creek protection a priority in Goleta by developing an ordinance that clearly and effectively implements the General Plan Policy CE 2.2 by setting forth a process and specific criteria that must be met to establish the lack of "feasibility" that would allow modification to the required setback.

Despite the strong protections for creeks and riparian habitats under Policy CE 2.2, the City has struggled with consistent 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 and avoid unintended consequences to our fragile marine ecosystems downstream.

Sincerely,

Cherie Topper

Sent from my iPhone - pardon the brevity!