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1125 Vereda del Ciervo
Goleta, CA 93117

Mayor and Councilmembers
City of Goleta
130 Cremona Drive
Goleta, CA. 93117

City of Goleta
Planning & Environmental
Review

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RE: City of Goleta New Zoning Ordinance

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

In the early 1980s, I headed up the team that created Article II and Article III of the Santa Barbara County Code, also known as the Coastal Zoning Ordinance and the Inland Zoning Ordinance. The only thing that is important about that fact is that I understand the effort that it takes to create a zoning ordinance and shepherd such a document through the public process. It is with a memory of that experience that I want to commend your staff for enduring and completing that process. Of all of the planning documents that are created, the zoning ordinance has to be one of the driest and least exciting to write, but the one that is used most frequently on a daily basis. I would also like to thank your Council for funding and supporting this program, which is a program that enables the City of Goleta to have its own, new zoning ordinance – an ordinance that is current and not over 3 decades old.

Like any new tool or software program, this New Zoning Ordinance (NZO) is not perfect and will have “bugs” that will surface over time. It is my hope that we can view this document as a dynamic tool that gets refined as time goes on and the need arises. Heck, Apple comes out with system upgrades every time I turn around. It is in that vein that I suggest that the City Council consider annual reviews and revisions to the New Zoning Ordinance for the next few years. Possibly staff could keep a log of issues with the NZO as the year goes on and any needed changes could be considered at a designated anniversary date. I believe that this would give the public comfort in knowing that the NZO is not a “set in stone” document but rather a planning document that is subject to revision and correction.

In closing, thank you for directing and supporting the creation of a new zoning ordinance for the City of Goleta, and my hat is off to the staff for making it happen!

Sincerely,



Kimberly Schizas
Vice-President, Wynmark