

From: [Gillian Fennessy](#)
To: [Gillian Fennessy](#)
Subject: FW: New Zoning Ordinance Language Regarding Creek Setbacks - NZO Public Comment Attached letter
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:15:04 PM
Attachments: [SBCK Comments Goleta Creeks Setback 9.23.2019.pdf](#)

From: Molly Troup <molly@sbck.org>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Kim Dominguez <kdominguez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: New Zoning Ordinance Language Regarding Creek Setbacks

Dear Ms. Dominguez,

Attached is a comment letter submitted on behalf of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper regarding the New Zoning Ordinance language regarding creek setbacks.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Molly Troup
Science & Policy Associate
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
805-563-3377 x 5
www.sbck.org



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September 23, 2019

Kim Dominguez
Management Assistant
Planning Commission
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B
Goleta, CA 93117

Re: Support for the Environmental Defense Center's Draft Language for a New Zoning Ordinance Regarding Streamside Protection Areas

Dear Chair Smith and Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper ("Channelkeeper"), a local non-profit environmental organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through science-based advocacy, education, field work, and enforcement. With support from the City of Goleta, Channelkeeper has been monitoring the water quality of the Goleta Valley Watershed since 2002. Every month, Channelkeeper collects water quality data from 23 sites along 11 creeks. Over the past seventeen years, 745 volunteers have contributed to this effort.

Water quality data collected by Channelkeeper and other entities has supported the listing of 8 creeks within the Goleta Valley Watershed on the 303(d) list for impaired waterways that do not meet water quality standards. The creeks that are listed on the 303(d) list are impaired for multiple parameters including bacteria, nitrate, turbidity, pH, and conductivity to name a few.

Stream buffers protect water quality and are one important tool in minimizing and reducing the impact of urban development and activities on the water quality of our watersheds. The City's General Plan Policy CE 2.2 calls for a streamside protection area (SPA) buffer to be a minimum of 100 feet on both sides of a creek in order to protect the associated riparian habitats and ecosystems. The recommendations made by the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) to adopt the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) language for analyzing when the 100-foot setback is feasible is necessary to effectively implement CE 2.2. For this reason, Channelkeeper supports the EDC's recommendation to incorporate the CCC's language in the New Zoning Ordinance, which must be consistent with the City's goals to maintain, enhance, and restore its creeks and waterways.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City of Goleta's Draft New Zoning Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Molly Troup
Science & Policy Associate
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Keeping watch for clean water

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