

From: [Gillian Fennessy](#)
To: [Gillian Fennessy](#)
Subject: FW: Protect Goleta's Creeks! - NZO Public Comment 32
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 9:35:23 AM

From: Steve Ferry <sjferry@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Kim Dominguez <kdominguez@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Protect Goleta's Creeks!

Dear Chair Smith and Commissioners,

I am member of Santa Barbara Audubon Society. As a regular birdwatcher, I know how important healthy, vibrant creeks are to birds and other wildlife.

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 by setting forth a process, the required findings, and the evidentiary requirements for feasibility determinations. 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.

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.

Regards,

Stephen J. Ferry