

## Appendix G. EGVCP Environmental Protection Policies and Standards

### Applicable Environmental Resources Protection Policies and Development Standards from Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan

The following summarizes applicable policies and development standards. Additional policies may be required, including those addressing restoration in the event vegetation is cleared without permits when permits are required, or more vegetation is removed than the minimum prescribed by SBC Fire and consistent with this CWPP.

- DevStd FIRE-EGV-1C – (INLAND) Within high fire hazard areas, vegetation management practices within Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH)/Riparian Corridor (RC) overlay and setback areas should be limited to the following activities to balance environmental resources preservation against wildfire protection: (pages 63-64)
  - Removal of non-native trees or immature native trees
  - Removal of surface debris
  - Removal of invasive non-native plants as defined and listed in the California Invasive Plant Council's "California Invasive Plant Inventory"
  - Removal of vegetation in non-riparian oak woodland or forest within the minimum defensible space area from structures as required by the County Fire Department
  - Selective limb removal of mature trees away from structures within minimum defensible space area as required by the County Fire Department
  - Thinning, pruning or mowing of vegetation (except trees) to no less than that required to meet fuel modification criteria (in no case less than 4 inch stubble) and leaving the roots intact
- Policy ECO-EGV-2.3 – (INLAND) Where sensitive plant and sensitive animal species are found pursuant to the review of a discretionary project, the habitat in which the sensitive species is located shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible ... (page 134).
  - DevStd ECO-EGV-2A – (INLAND) If potentially suitable habitat exists for a sensitive plant species prior to any grading or vegetation clearing for future projects in the plan area, **focused rare plant surveys shall be conducted ... (page 134).**
  - DevStd ECO-EGV-2B - (INLAND) ... **prior to any grading or vegetation clearing for future projects in the plan area, focused presence/absence shall be conducted ... (page 134).**
  - DevStd ECO-EGV-2C - (INLAND) If sensitive species, suitable nesting habitat, or other sensitive areas are found on or adjacent to a project site in the Plan area and have potential to be impacted by implementation of the project, the following avoidance and mitigation measures would apply (see pages 135 – 138 for specifics).
- OBJECTIVE ECO-EGV-3: Preserve and enhance the ecological value and function of habitats of Eastern Goleta Valley (page 143).

- Policy ECO-EGV-3.1: Habitats that shall be preserved and enhanced include, but are not limited to: (page 143)
  - Creeks, streams, and waterways, and fish passage.
  - Wetlands and vernal pools.
  - Riparian vegetation.
  - Wildlife corridors between habitat areas.
  - Roosting, nesting, and foraging habitat for bird species.
  - Nesting and foraging habitat for subterranean species.
- Policy ECO-EGV-4.1: (INLAND) Protecting Existing Trees: Existing trees in Eastern Goleta Valley shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible, prioritizing "protected trees." Protected trees are defined for the purposes of this policy as mature native, naturalized, or roosting/nesting trees that are healthy, structurally sound, and have grown into the natural stature particular to the species (Species list page 144).
- Policy ECO-EGV-4.2: (INLAND) All existing "protected trees" shall be protected from damage or removal, except in cases where preservation of trees would preclude reasonable use of a parcel, or threaten life and/or property (page 145).
  - DevStd ECO-EGV-4A: (INLAND) Where development may damage or destroy existing trees, a Tree Protection Plan shall be required by the County when either the project site contains protected trees per Policy ECO-EGV-4.1 (page 145).
  - DevStd ECO-EGV-4C: To the extent feasible, fuel modification practices involving mature oaks and other native trees shall be limited to removing dead trees and materials, proper pruning, mowing the understory, and limbing up the branches. Fuel modification practices shall not result in the removal or substantial risk of loss of protected trees (page 146).

#### Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) and Riparian Corridor (RC)

- Policy ECO-EGV-5.4: (INLAND) ESH Habitat Types: In the Urban, Inner-Rural, EDRNs and Mountainous Areas, the following habitats shall be considered environmentally sensitive and shall be protected and preserved through provisions of the ESH Overlay (Full list pages 149-150). ... RC Habitat Types: On lands designated Agriculture in the Rural Area, the following habitats shall be considered environmentally sensitive and shall be protected and preserved through the provisions of the RC Overlay. ... **riparian** woodlands and riparian corridors.
- Policy ECO-EGV-5.5: (INLAND) Minimum Buffer Areas for ESH: (pages 152-153)
  - ESH areas within the Urban Area and EDRNs: a minimum setback of 50 feet from either side of top-of-bank of creeks or existing edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is further.
  - ESH areas within the Mountainous-GOL zone district: a minimum buffer of 200 feet from the edge of existing riparian vegetation.
- DevStd ECP-EGV-5B: Storage of equipment, supplies, vehicles, or placement of fill or refuse shall not be permitted within an established ESH setback or buffer area. Except in rural areas designated for Agriculture, P&D may require installation of a temporary protective fence along the outer boundary of an established ESH buffer, at the applicant's expense, prior to initiation of any grading or development activities to prevent disturbance of the buffer (page 153).

## Specific Habitat Area Protection Policies

- Policy ECO-EGV-6.1: Native woodlands, native grasslands, and coastal sage scrub shall be preserved and protected as viable and contiguous habitat areas (page 158).
- DevStd ECO-EGV-6B: Native Woodland Buffer Areas: Within urban areas and existing developed rural neighborhoods, native woodlands shall be preserved by providing a minimum 25-foot buffer around the respective habitat area. Within areas zoned Mountainous-GOL, the buffer around native woodlands will be 50 feet (page 158).
- DevStd ECO-EGV-6C: Native Grassland and Coastal Sage Scrub Buffer Areas: Native grasslands and coastal sage scrub shall be preserved by providing a minimum 25-foot buffer vegetated with native species and by placing the project outside of the buffer rather than in or through the middle of the habitat area (page 158).
- DevStd ECO-EGV-6E: (INLAND) Any construction, grading or development within 200 feet of known or historic butterfly roosts shall be prohibited during the months between November 1 and April 1 (page 158).
- Policy ECO-EGV-6.3: Riparian vegetation shall be protected and shall not be removed except where clearing is necessary for the maintenance of free flowing channel conditions, the removal of invasive exotic species, the provision of essential public services, or where protection would preclude the reasonable use of a parcel (page 160).
- Policy GEO-EGV-2.2: No development shall be allowed on slopes of 30 percent or greater. Avoid ground disturbances and development on slopes of 20 percent or greater unless such avoidance would preclude reasonable use of the parcel (page 167).