PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS FOR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ELLWOOD-DEVEREUX OPEN SPACE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA

Wednesday August 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
Dos Pueblos High School - Cafeteria
7266 Alameda Avenue, Goleta, California 93117

The City of Goleta, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the County of Santa Barbara are preparing three Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) to address the potential environmental effects of the proposed residential developments within each agency’s jurisdiction and the multi-agency Ellwood-Devereux Open Space and Habitat Management Plan (Open Space Plan). A scoping meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2003 to receive public and agency comments on the scope of each of the three independent but related EIRs.

Each EIR will address the potential environmental impacts from the proposed residential developments within each agency’s jurisdiction as follows:

The City of Goleta EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of three proposed project actions: 1) construction of the 78-unit Comstock Homes Monarch Point Development on a 39.81 acre portion of the existing City of Goleta Santa Barbara Shores Park; 2) expansion of the existing Santa Barbara Shores Park to include the existing Ellwood Mesa area (currently undeveloped open space); and 3) reduction of the development potential for the existing Goleta Union School District site from 6 units/acre to 3.3 units/acre.

The University of California, Santa Barbara EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of faculty and student housing on the University’s North Campus. The EIR will address two housing scenarios - Project “A” and Project “B.” Project “A” consists of 236 faculty housing units north of Ocean Meadows Golf Course, and 151 family student housing units along Storke Road and Whittier Drive on the eastern side of Ocean Meadows Golf Course. Under Project “A,” habitat enhancement and restoration and public trails and access improvements would occur under the Open Space Plan. Project “B” consists 207 faculty-housing units south of Ocean Meadows Golf Course on the North Campus South Parcel, and 84 family student-housing units along Storke Road. Under Project “B” there would not be development north of the Golf Course.

Under Project “B,” West Campus Bluffs, open space areas around West Campus Mesa, and the northern slough finger would remain as they are today. There would be no restoration or enhancement of these areas.

Both project scenarios would also include the elimination of the student housing designation while retaining the faculty housing designation for construction of 50 units on the West Campus Mesa. In addition, both project scenarios include implementation of aspects of the Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan.

All proposed development project components including Project “A” and Project “B” would require an amendment to the University’s Long Range Development Plan.

The County of Santa Barbara EIR will evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed Ocean Meadows Residences project on a portion of the existing Ocean Meadows Golf Course property. The proposed development includes a residential subdivision and construction of 32 single-family homes on approximately 7 acres on the southeastern portion of the golf course and 22 apartment units on approximately 2.5 acres in the northeastern corner of the golf course property as well as modifications to the club house, maintenance building, and driving range. The proposed development also includes public parking and a segment of the De Anza Trail connecting into the Open Space Plan area.

The physical components of the Open Space Plan that will be analyzed as the part of each agency’s EIR will include the following: 1) location of trails and trail connections to adjacent open space lands; 2) construction of trails, creek crossings, benches, and signage; 3) parking facilities; 4) public restrooms; 5) beach access improvements; and 6) habitat restoration and enhancement activities.

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Notices of Preparation (NOPs) were prepared for three EIRs for the purpose of soliciting comments from Responsible Agencies. Copies of the NOPs are available for review at the Goleta Branch Library, 500 N. Fairview Avenue, Goleta, California and the University of California, Office of Government Publications at the University Library. Copies are also available by contacting URS Corporation at (805) 964-6010. Current project information is also available online at http://www.ellwood-devereux.org
See text for description of residential projects.