Agenda Item B.1
PRESENTATION
Meeting Date: December 1, 2021

TO: Chair and Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jaime A. Valdez, Interim Neighborhood Services Director

CONTACT: JoAnne Plummer, Parks & Recreation Manager
Claudia Dato, Senior Project Manager

SUBJECT: Open Space Acquisitions Along Mathilda and Ellwood Beach Drives

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on the City's effort to acquire 18 parcels at the south end of Mathilda Drive and Ellwood Beach Drive for open space and habitat preservation.

DISCUSSION:

It has long been a goal of the City to acquire the 18 parcels located at the south ends of Mathilda and Ellwood Beach Drives for resource and open space preservation. The parcels are designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) in the City of Goleta's General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan, and General Plan Figure 2-1 includes the 18 parcels in the Open Space Overlay. General Plan Implementation Action OS-IA-1 specifically identifies these parcels as future sites for passive-use parks, coastal access, trails, and open space. The parcels are constrained by the presence of wetlands, existing and potential Monarch Butterfly habitat, eucalyptus groves, willow woodlands, and Devereux Creek with its associated floodplain. These constraints significantly reduce, but do not eliminate the potential for development to occur on these parcels which are currently zoned for residential land uses.

Collectively, these parcels are adjacent to the Sperling Preserve/Ellwood Mesa open space area. In 2017, the City Council expanded the scope of the eucalyptus grove health assessment to include the subject property and surrounding parcels acquired by the City. To date, the City has acquired seven of these parcels and is in the process of acquiring the eighth parcel. Most acquisitions have been accomplished through the use of grant funding, augmented by City General funds, and all were willing sellers.

Approved By:

Jaime A. Valdez, Interim
Neighborhood Services Director