

A.1 Initial Assessment of PER Department

The proposal for the 18-Month reorganization of the PER department is not appropriate for Goleta. Citygate is trying to turn Goleta into just another small developed city. This is not what Goletans want. There are a number of changes that would help the department but this is not one of them.

Page 8 Regarding staff, I have had a number of people complain to me about the lack of help and action from Code Compliance.

Page 10 It is obvious that all accounting/financial issues should be handled by the Finance Department. This would allow better use of the Management Assistant's time.

Page 10 It is a shame that the Sustainability Coordinator is being diverted from Current Planning where she is needed. She is the City's best planner and her knowledge should be used in Current Planning.

Page 11 A top priorities for short-term work in the Current Planning Division should be fixing the Design Review Board process. This should be done with input from the DRB and the public unlike the last time. The current process doesn't work.

Page 11 In some cases it would be better to hire a full-time employee for a year or two to handle a project. There is the problem that consultants and their work product are not readily available to the public.

Page 14 The dysfunction identified by Citygate was the result of the Planning Director working against the preferences of the Council and public. She was pro-development and growth oriented and did not work well with others.

Page 20 The Public Works Department should not be responsible for Ellwood Mesa and other open spaces. They demonstrated this when they attempted to remove the eucalyptus trees and disturbed the butterflies on Ellwood Mesa last year. Public Works employees are not trained for working with sensitive open space and environmental issues.

Action 4. The Department shouldn't rely heavily on planning consultants and contract planners. The use of contract planners has a number of problems. There has been a tendency to favor the developer over what the citizens of Goleta want for the community. This is probably because consultants don't want to alienate developers who could be potential future employers. It is usually hard for the public to contact them and get documents and information. Although all information and documents should be available at City Hall, if the planner isn't available, staff often doesn't know where the information or documents are located. This is a problem especially a day or two prior to a public hearing.

A dedicated, full-time staff person should be hired to handle the oil and gas permitting, decommissioning, bankruptcy, and other related issues. The County's Energy Department has been less than helpful on a number of oil and gas issues and shouldn't be relied upon.

Action 5. and 6. These are both good actions to take.

Page 21, Action 7. You should enhance the organizational structure you have and not pursue an 18-Month Organizational Transition Plan.

Page 24 Under Special Projects, funds should be devoted to the much needed and wanted Design review process reform/Design Review Board Bylaws.

Regarding DRB, I recommend limiting non-Goleta members to only two members. Architects and landscape professional should only be in those categories not in at large positions. At large members should be non-development oriented citizens who represent the general public.

I was pleased to read Next Steps on pages 4 and 5. This is a good approach to take.

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