

Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan Adoption

Presentation By:

Anne Wells, Advance Planning Manager

Chris Julian, Rincon Consultants

Dan Meade, Althouse & Meade

March 19, 2019





Public Hearing Agenda

- Staff Presentation
 - Background
 - Environmental Review
 - Public Input
 - Funding, Coastal Conservancy Action, and Next Steps
- Public Comment
- Council Deliberation
 - MBHMP Mitigated Negative Declaration
 - MBHMP Adoption (with Errata Sheet)



BACKGROUND



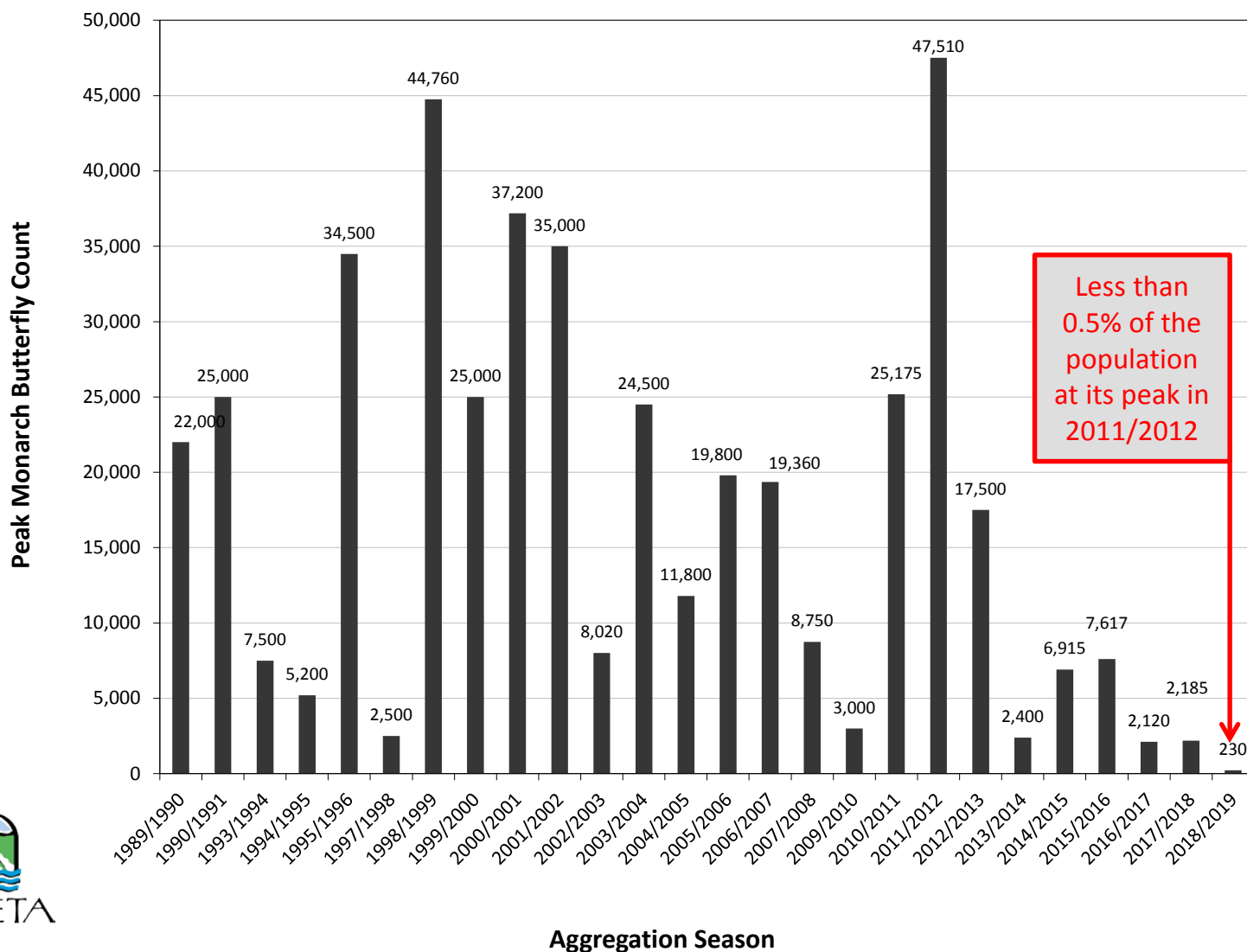
Background: Eucalyptus & Monarch Butterflies

- Eucalyptus planted on Ellwood Mesa in late 1800s
- There are 5 aggregation sites in Ellwood Mesa
- Monarchs typically overwinter at Ellwood Mesa from Oct. - March
- Monarch populations have declined to extreme lows due to:
 - Dead/dying trees
 - Drought stress
 - Pest infestation
 - Reduced tree canopy that is critical for wind protection and other microclimate factors (temperature, humidity)





Monarch Butterfly Populations at Ellwood Main





Monarch Butterfly Populations in the 2018/2019 Overwintering Season

Aggregation Area	Oct 13 2018	Oct 25 2018	Nov 8 2018	Nov 25 2018	Dec 13 2018	Jan 4 2019	Jan 17 2019
Ellwood Main	0	11	11	205	230	170	0
Ellwood East	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ellwood West	0	5	7	1	0	0	0
Ellwood North	0	3	0	0	1	0	2
Sandpiper	2	3	8	1	0	0	0
Total	2	22	27	207	231	170	2



Existing Policy

General Plan – Conservation Element

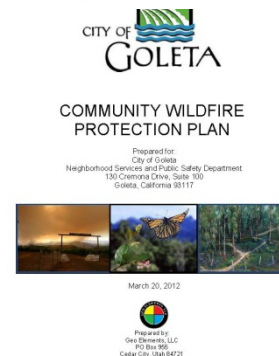
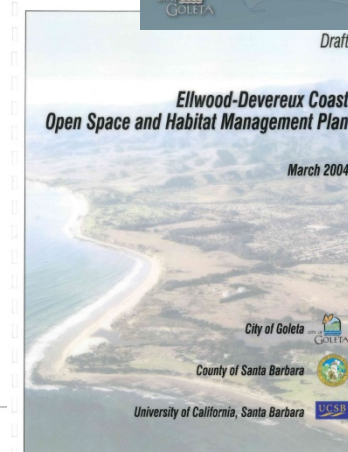
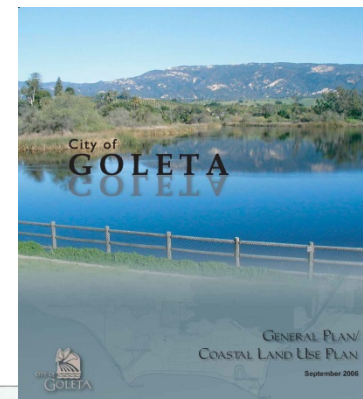
- CE Policy 4: Protection of Monarch Habitat
- OS Policy 5: Ellwood-Devereux Open Space

Ellwood Mesa Open Space Plan

- Guides Ellwood Mesa management actions

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

- Enhances wildfire protection with a multi-objective approach





MBHMP Public Outreach

- 2011 Public Workshop Project Kick-off
- 2012 Butterfly Docent Workshops, Plan Studies, Fire Plan (CWPP)
- 2013 Habitat Assessments, Workshops, Draft Plan Release
- 2014 Draft Plan Revisions and Further Studies
- 2017 Workshops, Tree Surveys, Plan Revisions, Tree EMP
- 2018 Workshops, Council Site Visit, Stakeholder Meeting, PTAC, State Funding
- 2019 MBHMP Revisions, Environmental Review

Note: Butterfly counts conducted annually.





Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan (MBHMP)

- Programmatic approach to managing butterfly aggregation habitat
- Purpose is to:
 - Maintain and improve habitat conditions
 - Ensure long-term viability of the monarch butterfly population
 - Facilitate scientific study, educational opportunities, & recreational access
- Prepared in compliance with General Plan, Ellwood Open Space Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



MBHMP Structure

Plan includes:

- **Programs:** series of activities
- **Goals:** statement of program intentions
- **Policies:** a set of actions
- **Actions:** the process of achieving a goal

Draft
Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space
Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan

January 2019

Prepared by:



*Planning and Environmental Review Department
Public Works Department
130 Cremona, Suite B
Goleta, California 93117
(805) 961-7500*

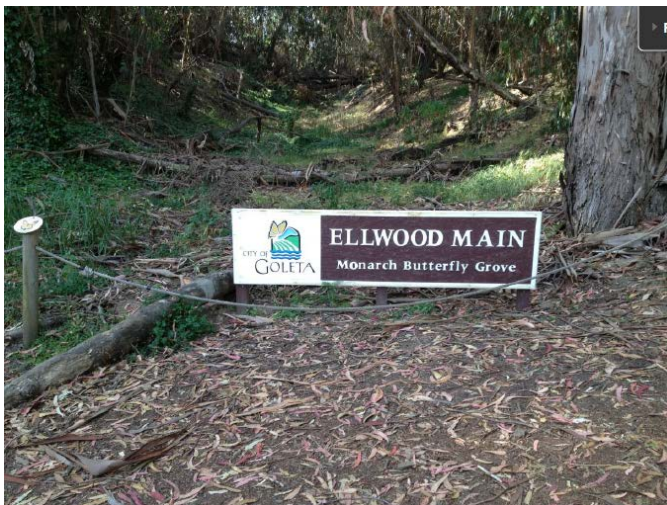




MBHMP Organization

4 Groups of Programs with 22 total programs:

- Administrative (9 Programs)
- Natural Resource Management (7 Programs)
- Outreach (3 Programs)
- Monitoring, Research, and Adaptive Management (3 Programs)





MBHMP – Priorities, Schedule, and Costs

Appendix 1:

- 5 Years Cost Plan (\$3.9 million and 23,082 hours of staff time)
- Programs prioritized as high, medium, or low priority
- Timing of programs vary by actions
- Annual and one-time costs assigned by action
- City staff time estimates assigned by action
- Responsible department assigned



MBHMP – Implementation Plans

IPs serve functions:

- Implement MBHMP actions
- Cover a specific time period
- Can include multi-year projects
- Require City Council approval



Draft Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space
Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan
2018 Implementation Plan



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW



California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Discloses potential environmental impacts of a proposed action
- Examines all phases (short-term construction/long-term operation)
- Identifies mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts
- Enhances public participation in the planning process

Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

- Only when there are no “significant and unavoidable” impacts
- Includes mitigation measures to reduce impacts to “less than significant”



Note: CEQA focuses specifically on physical changes to the environment when evaluating environmental impacts.



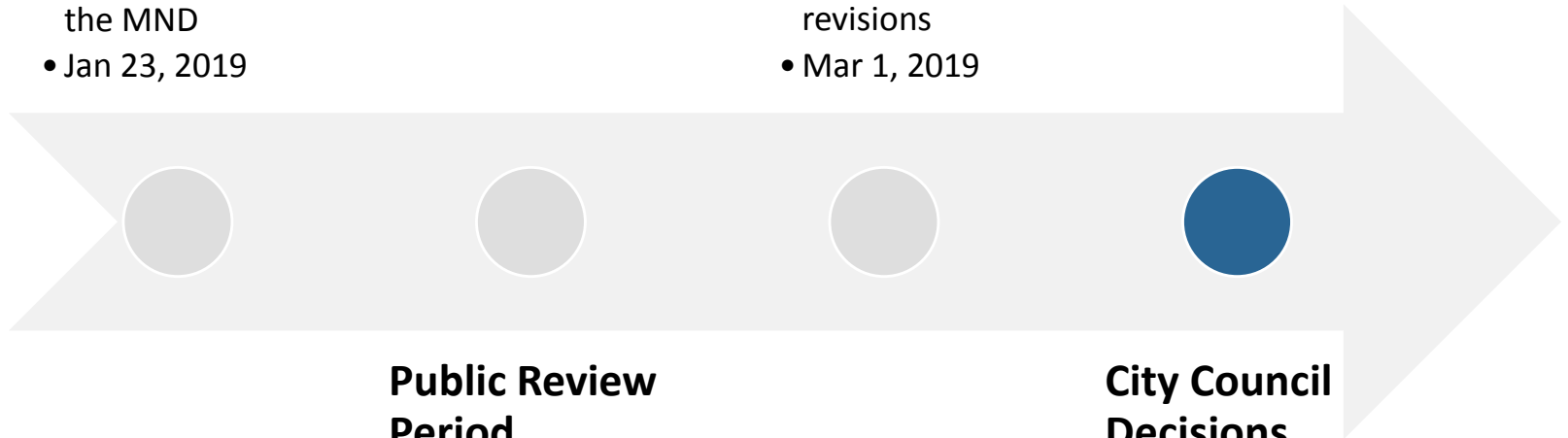
CEQA Process for the MND

MND & Notice of Intent

- City solicits input on contents of the MND
- Jan 23, 2019

Final MND (optional)

- Includes responses to comments, changes, & revisions
- Mar 1, 2019



Public Review Period

- Interested parties provide comments
- Through Feb 24, 2019

City Council Decisions

- Adoption of MND & MBHMP
- Mar 19, 2019



MBHMP – 22 Programs in 4 Categories

Administrative

- Municipal Management Program
- Fiscal Program
- Interagency Cooperative Program
- Community Wildfire Protection Program
- Trail Management Program
- Waste Management Program
- Aesthetic Resources Management Program
- MBHMP Review, Update, and Amendment Program
- Catastrophic Event Response Program

Natural Resources Mgmt

- Monarch Butterfly Management Program
- Wildlife Habitat Management Program
- Tree Management Program
- Integrated Pest Management Program
- Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program
- Invasive Plant Management Coordination Program
- Ecosystem-wide Management Coordination Program

Outreach

- Community Advisory and Docent Program
- Interpretive Program
- Education Program

Monitoring, Research, & Adaptive Mgmt

- Biological Monitoring Program
- Monarch Research Program
- Adaptive Management Program



Community Wildfire Protection Program

MBHMP pledges support for the CWPP (adopted by City Council in March 2012):

- CWPP covers the City of Goleta, including Ellwood Mesa
- The CWPP was developed with consideration of the butterfly aggregation sites on Ellwood Mesa
- Activities under the CWPP would occur in Ellwood Mesa Open Space regardless of whether the MBHMP is implemented

The MBHMP includes one covered activity separate from, but designed to be consistent with the CWPP:

- Maintain and revegetate moderate cover of understory in and around aggregation sites with fire-resistant, native plant species



Issue Areas with No Impact or a Less than Significant Impact

- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Wildfire



Issue Areas with Potential Impacts Requiring Mitigation

Aesthetics

- Issue: Potential degradation of existing visual character or quality of public views

MM BIO-7, Tree Replacement, requires replacement trees are monitored for a minimum of 5 years, and replaced if necessary

Air Quality

- Issue: Potential generation of fugitive dust during ground-disturbing activities

AQ-1, Requires implementation of dust control measures



Issue Areas with Potential Impacts Requiring Mitigation (cont)

Biological Resources

- Issue: Potential adverse effects on candidate/sensitive/special status species
- MM BIO-1, General Housekeeping (requires site maintenance)
- MM BIO-2, Qualified Biological Monitor
- MM BIO-3, Biological Resources Awareness Training
- MM BIO-4, Special-status Plants, requires surveys and follow-up activities
- MM BIO-5, Red-legged Frog, restricts timing and location of ground-disturbing activities and requires surveys
- MM BIO-6, Nesting Bird Survey, restricts timing of tree trimming activities, and otherwise requires surveys



Mitigation Measures

Biological Resources (cont.)

- Issue: Potential adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community, or wetlands

MM BIO-7, Requires replacement trees and monitoring for a minimum of 5 years

MM BIO-8, Defines requirements for staging and temporary stockpiling of materials to avoid native habitats

MM BIO-9, Requires avoidance of vernal pools, wetlands, and streambeds to the maximum extent practicable, and requires that the City acquire and comply with regulatory permits for vegetation trimming, removal, or ground disturbing activities



Mitigation Measures (cont.)

Cultural Resources

- Impact: Potential adverse change in the significance of a historical or archeological resource

MM CUL-1, Requires Archaeological and Native American Monitoring during ground-disturbing activities

Geology and Soils

- Impact: Potential to directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site

MM GEO-1, Requires that work halt in the event of an unanticipated discovery of a paleontological resource



Mitigation Measures (cont.)

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Impact: Potential degradation of surface water or groundwater

MM HWQ-1, Requires measures to reduce potential erosion during ground-disturbing activities

MM HWQ-2, Restricts when and what type of pesticides and herbicides may be used, and requires a biologist-approved plan prior to application

Noise

- Impact: Potential temporary increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan

MM N-1, Restricts timing of noise-generating activities and requires sound-control devices on construction equipment



Environmental Review Conclusions

The Final MND concludes that:

- the MBHMP would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment; and
- standard mitigation measures address impacts.



PUBLIC INPUT



Public Review and Comment

30-day Public Review Period

- January 25 through February 25, 2019

9 Comment Letters Received

- 8 letters from the public
- 1 letter from California Coastal Commission

Comments Addressed

- MBHMP as well as MND

City Staff Responded to All Comments

- Comments related to MND addressed in Appendix C to the Final MND
- Comments related to the MBHMP language addressed in Final MND Appendix B
- Errata sheet describes minor changes to MBHMP after Final MND completed



Major Public Comment Topics

- Importance of Monarch Habitat Restoration
- Need for Replanting and Maintaining Trees in the Grove, Including Eucalyptus
- Fire Safety and Vegetation Management
- Need to Abate Risks to Adjacent Properties and Power Lines from Hazard Trees
- Importance of Including Native Habitat Restoration in the MBHMP



Follow-Up Discussions

City Staff Meetings with Public and Agencies

- *Friends of the Ellwood Monarch*: Focusing on entire eucalyptus forest, restoring monarch habitat by replanting eucalyptus
- *Maeton Freel*: Addressing risks posed by hazard trees that could fall and strike power lines
- *California Coastal Commission*: Importance of using native species and avoiding planting eucalyptus in the Coastal Zone if possible. Options for Coastal Act permitting of the MBHMP



Funding, Coastal Conservancy Action, and Next Steps



Funding, Coastal Conservancy and Next Steps

If Council adopts the MND and MBHMP:

- The Coastal Conservancy will seek an agreement at a May hearing for the \$3.9 million in State funding that was previously allocated. Implementation would be funded.
- Coastal Commission permits necessary (and perhaps other agencies)

If no adoption, or delayed adoption:

- The \$3.9 million in State funding would expire and City would fund implementation



Recommendation

- A. Adopt Resolution No. 19-__ entitled “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta Adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan; Case No. 13-085”; and
- B. Adopt Resolution No. 19-__ entitled “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta Adopting the Ellwood Mesa/Sperling Preserve Open Space Monarch Butterfly Habitat Management Plan”. <<with Errata>>