

GAVIOTA COAST STUDY GROUP
317 East Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
March 16, 2009

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County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara 93101
VIA HAND DELIVERY

RECEIVED
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
MARCH 16 2009

Re: 2009-2010 Annual Work Program and Mid Year Report for Land Use Planning Projects and Policy Initiatives

Dear Chairman Centeno and Members of the Board:

As chairman of the Gaviota Study Group, I am writing to urge your placing the proposed Gaviota Rural Community Plan at the highest level of priority for the Long Range Planning Five Year Work Plan.

The Gaviota Study Group is composed of a very diverse of Gaviota landowners and other stakeholders in Gaviota who came together and developed a comprehensive proposal for enhanced protection of the resources and property rights of Gaviota under an integrated plan in which a remarkable synergy was achieved between protecting the property owners' existing entitlements with the preservation of the natural resources of Gaviota for the benefit of those property owners and of the public as whole.

One of the central recommendations of the Study Group's report is that the County initiate an update to the General and local Coastal Plans for the Gaviota Coast. The proposed Gaviota Rural Community Plan would be a most appropriate vehicle to accomplish this most central and critical element necessary for the long range preservation of Gaviota.

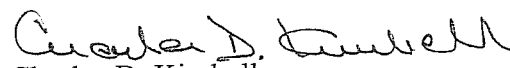
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In addition the Study Group recommended the appointment of a General Plan Advisory Committee to foster landowner and community participation in the plan update and implementation of the rural planning area.

There is little argument that Gaviota is a region of extreme importance in the preservation of the biological diversity necessary to sustain life in this region. The overlapping of the northern and southern California ecological provinces which occurs at Gaviota produces an unusual array of species both in number, diversity and aggregation. It is a treasure which you as the stewards of this County are charged with protecting. It has been well managed by its owners whose interests and entitlements must be respected in the upcoming process.

We strongly urge your adoption of the proposal for the Gaviota Rural Community Plan and General Plan update as the highest priority in the Long Range Planning Work Plan.

Very truly yours,


Charles D. Kimbell,
Chairman