

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

3



From: Ana Citrin <ana.citrin@gaviotacoastconservancy.org>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 4:53 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: GCC Comments - Open Space Element - BOS Item 3
Attachments: 20250825_GCC to BOS_Open Space Element Scope_FINAL.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk, attached please find a 1-page letter regarding Departmental Item 3 on the Board's Tuesday agenda. Best regards, Ana

--

Ana Citrin
Legal and Policy Director



(805) 570-4190

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed, and may be confidential and legally privileged. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender and delete the original message and any copies. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this email is strictly prohibited.



August 25, 2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Via email

RE: Open Space Element Update – Project Scoping and Options

Dear Chair Capps and Honorable Supervisors,

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC) is a California public benefit organization committed to permanently protecting the rural character and environmental integrity of the Gaviota Coast for present and future generations. The Gaviota Coast has substantial open space, including undeveloped wildlands, working agricultural lands, and recreational areas. Protecting these open space areas is central to our mission.

In adopting the Gaviota Coast Plan (GCP), the County recognized the “*immense public value and benefit of having working landscapes and scenic open space in a coastal area such as the Gaviota Coast [,] one of the last remaining stretches of lightly developed coastline in Southern California, ...[and] the need to protect and maintain healthy, productive agriculture that provides an economic underpinning to protecting the open spaces.*” (GCP p. 3-7) The GCP also recognizes the important role of open space in wildlife movement, “[t]he relatively undisturbed nature of the Gaviota Coast and the Santa Ynez Mountains creates migration corridors between inland, mountainous and coastal habitat areas as well as offering environmental refuge for plant and animal communities.” (See GCP, p. 2-1.)

We appreciate that the County is advancing this important update to the Open Space Element of the County’s Comprehensive Plan, which will provide crucial policy guidance for open space protection on the Gaviota Coast and beyond. **We support the third “High Option”, which would achieve full compliance with SB 1425 and AB 1889 by updating both the Open Space and Conservation Elements at the same time.** There are significant efficiencies to be gained from this combined and proactive approach including in the environmental review process. In addition, a multi-element approach would help ensure consistency across elements and deliver a comprehensive strategy for protecting and managing the County’s open spaces.

Sincerely,

Ana Citrin
GCC Legal and Policy Director