

March 17, 2014

Robert Bernstein
448 Mills Way #B
Goleta, CA 93117
robert@robert.name

All Members
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Board Members

I have just sent a letter from the Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group regarding Goleta Beach policy. In addition, I would like to submit my own thoughts as a private citizen who has lived near Goleta Beach for over 30 years.

The Sierra Club letter emphasizes the long-term impacts of Climate Change on Goleta Beach and all coastal areas. And how we need to prioritize limited resources.

In my view the County can and should do far more spending on sustainable transportation and on sustainable energy projects. The environmental community is partly to blame, by protesting against projects instead of rallying for projects.

Something as simple as bike lanes in Old Town Goleta and bike/pedestrian crossings of the freeway have been stalled for decades. With limited resources, I would prefer to see those positive projects built rather than mitigating Climate Change damage.

As for Goleta Beach Park, I support leaving the buried rocks in the sand and getting a permit to make it legal. The same permit that allows rocks in the rest of the Park already. Those rocks saved the Park in recent storms. The beach will come back naturally and cover the rocks. That is what the science shows. And, if not, it does not cost much to cover them up again with dredged sand.

There is no legal "slippery slope" that will lead to "sea walls". Rocks buried in the sand do not constitute a sea wall. And the geography at Goleta Beach Park is unique and can't be applied elsewhere.

In summary: Save money by leaving things pretty much as-is at Goleta Beach Park, which has worked well. Instead, prioritize spending limited County resources to reduce our own carbon footprint. Please invest in sustainable transportation and sustainable energy projects to that end. Thank you!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bernstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Bernstein