



C R A H T A C

County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee

February 1, 2014

Chair

Art Najera

Vice-Chair

Archie Mitchell

Secretary

Kevin Snow

1st DISTRICT

Kalon Kelley

Sheila Snow

Kevin Snow

Art Najera

2nd DISTRICT

Otis Calef

Ray Ford

Dan Gira

Jack Bish

3rd DISTRICT

Jennifer Beyer

Allyson Biskner

Jim Mills

Wanda Weir

4th DISTRICT

John McGray

Archie Mitchell

Ruth Schuyler

5th DISTRICT

Frank Fretas

Barry Stotts

Doug Rich

Luis Escobar

STAFF

Claude Garciacelay

SB County Parks

Joe Duran

Los Padres Forest

Mr. Steve Lavagnino, Chairman

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Paradiso del Mare Development Project

Dear Chair Lavagnino and fellow Board Members,

The Santa Barbara County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC) is a standing committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise the County on matters related to the planning for and implementation of recreational trails. CRAHTAC is composed of three or four members from each supervisorial district.

CRAHTAC is writing in support of the proposed agreement between the developers of this project and the Santa Barbara County Trails Council (SBCTC) to provide \$500,000 to the SBCTC toward planning, permitting and construction of onsite trails. CRAHTAC would also like to thank the project applicant for offering to dedicate easements for a nearshore blufftop alignment of the 6,000 feet of the California Coastal Trail (CCT), a small public parking lot and a vertical access trail connecting with the CCT.

CRAHTAC would like to note:

1. This payment along with the offers to dedicate outlined above would help provide a high quality trail system on and public access to this scenic property. As such, CRAHTAC strongly supports this applicant agreement with the SBCTC and feels that it addresses many of our concerns with this project.
2. We deeply regret the closure of a long standing informal public coastal access trail, but are aware that development of formal public coastal access on this project site is neither desirable or feasible due to physical constrains (i.e., steep high coastal bluffs) and interference with the seal haul out. We look forward to working with Makar properties to provide replacement access as soon as possible at Tomate Canyon west on their adjacent Naples Township lots. Your Board has previously accepted access at this location and it is an appropriate location for public coastal access.
3. We remain concerned over the findings of the Environmental Impact Report regarding impacts associated with closure of the existing coastal access trail. CRAHTAC is concerned that the EIR completely misstates he feasibility of providing replacement coastal access on this site, lacks any credibility and contradicts standard County practice for ensuring that mitigation measures are feasible and enforceable. While we support the proposed compromise, we hope

that your Board will direct County staff to perform more realistic analysis in the future.

4. We respectfully request that your Board not adopt proposed mitigation measures related to white tailed kite studies and possible trail closure. This mitigation measure deviates from past County and City of Goleta practice at More Mesa and Ellwood Mesa where kites nest in close proximity to major public trails. At a minimum, we request that county planning staff provide an explanation for this departure from established practice. Such measures have never been recommended previously and place a major burden on the operation of this important trail.

Finally, we believe that the offer to dedicate a blufftop easement for the California Coastal Trail, with a donation to partially cover the cost of implementing this trail project, should be the standard for other upcoming Gaviota project such as the Santa Barbara and Las Varas Ranches. We would hope that the County would use this example to more actively promote the public interest with regard to negotiating and acquiring blufftop easements for the California Coastal Trail from other pending developments.

Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,



Kevin Snow, Secretary
CRAHTAC, Gaviota Coast Subcommittee

- cc. Doreen Farr, 3rd District Supervisor
Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development Department