

# NAPLES COALITION

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March 13, 2009

Chairman Joseph Centeno  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101



RE: March 17 Agenda Item # 7, Planning and Development Department 2009-2010 Annual Work Plan

*Chairman Centeno and Members of the Board of Supervisors:*

The Naples Coalition and its member groups are involved in many County land use planning issues, including all significant Gaviota Coast development and preservation issues. We appreciate the effort the Board is making to provide early input to departmental budgeting and planning in advance of the budget hearings, in particular the Planning and Development Department.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to direct your Executive staff to ensure that two specific programs are nominated as priorities for the County Planning and Development Department workplan and associated budget for next fiscal year and beyond.

The highest County priority for the County Planning Department should be the initiation and expeditious development of a Gaviota Regional General Plan component. Another high priority is development of a Climate Action Strategy to slow the effects of global climate change on the Gaviota Coast's sensitive natural resources and allow time for reactive protective strategies to be developed.

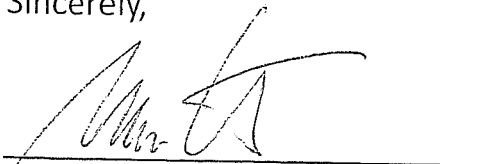
We support efforts to secure private and governmental grants to supplement County General Funds to expedite development of the Gaviota plan. There are numerous sources available, including some under the County's control such as CREF and CIAP. State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Board grants are available, and the local private philanthropic community has supported various County efforts in the past. These sources should be pursued vigorously to gain funds to jumpstart this process.

Additionally, funds are available with the existing budget and agency structure. The Planning and Development Department, including Comprehensive Planning, should reprioritize its existing workload to ensure substantial immediate progress on the Gaviota Plan in FY 2009-2010, including major restructuring of the Long Range Planning Department to liberate funding for more planners and a streamlined supervisorial structure.

Finally, we strongly encourage the Board to direct staff to continue the series of Gaviota Coast workshops by conducting a planning workshop before the Planning Commission swiftly, not later than this June. This will ensure the planning process continues the momentum and progress on Gaviota Coast planning issues from Board workshops conducted last year. A workshop of this nature will provide a framework for the identification of specific milestone, establishing a specific timeline, assignment of individual tasks and ensure expeditious progress in developing the proposed Gaviota Rural Plan. This process should lead to the assignment of capable County planners to lead, and the use of consultants as necessary, to a team that ensures continued advancement of this planning effort.

In advance, thank you for your careful consideration of the perspective of the Naples Coalition and Gaviota Coast Conservancy. We look forward to working in this effort to protect the Gaviota Coast as a valuable County resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Chytilo", is written over a horizontal line.

Marc Chytilo, Esq  
Naples Coalition