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City of Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara Airport

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JAN 18 2008

S.B. COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Administration
805.967.7111

January 18, 2008

Marketing
805.692.6004

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

LATE
DIST

Engineering
805.692.6018

SUBJECT: GOLETA BEACH PARK COASTAL ACCESS AND RECREATION ENHANCEMENT (CARE) - BEACH SAND STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Maintenance
805.692.6000

Operations/Noise
805.892.6005

Honorable Supervisors:

The Santa Barbra Airport supports the proposal to save Goleta Beach through the use of a semi-permeable groin. This proposal adequately balances the needs of the community with responsible environmental stewardship and would positively contribute to wetland restoration projects in the Goleta Slough as well as preserve the economic vitality of the Santa Barbara Airport and surrounding community.

Patrol
805.681.4803

The proposed semi-permeable groin would protect the Goleta Beach Park, a valuable community resource, as well as the mouth of the Goleta Slough, an environmentally sensitive habitat area. The proposed groin is an appropriate structure for trapping sand on an eroding beach, especially where such a beach is important to the community. Given the attention this project has received in the past several years, the high utilization rate of the Park, and the deficiency of improved park space in the Goleta Valley, it is clear that this beach is very important to the local community.

Planning
805.692.6023

Since the semi-permeable groin would be located near the mouth of the Goleta Slough it is likely to function like a jetty for the mouth. This would likely reduce the frequency of closures of the mouth by eroding sediment. Such a reduction would save the cost of County Flood Control re-opening the mouth when it closes and would further protect the Goleta Valley from the flooding of the Slough that can occur when the mouth is closed. Therefore, the project would also contribute positively to the safety of the Santa Barbara Airport and the lower elevations of the Goleta Valley.

Property Mgmt.
805.692.6022

Visitor's Center
805.694.7622

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805.964.1380

601 Firestone Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA
93117



The drawback to beach-enhancing structures such as a groin is that they restrict long-shore flow and prevent down-current beaches from receiving replenishment, causing them to erode. The proposed semi-permeable groin, would still allow

Letter to Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County
RE: Goleta Beach CARE Program
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sediment to travel down current, replenishing down-current beaches and occasionally closing the Goleta Slough mouth. I believe that the Goleta Beach Park is an important resource and its preservation warrants the minor reduction in down-current sand replenishment.

The Santa Barbara Airport relies upon Goleta Beach as a natural barrier from tidal action in storms and floods. The valuable economic stimulus and transportation hub provided by the Santa Barbara Airport would be threatened if Goleta Beach were left to erode. Moreover, the loss of the Beach to erosion would present an irreparable loss of community recreation space in the Goleta Valley and would diminish the quality of life of local residents and employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support and concerns with you. I request that County staff continue to keep the Airport informed of the status of this project so that we may have the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions pertaining to the contents of this letter, please feel free to call me at 967-7111 or Assistant Planner Andrew Bermond at 692-6032.

Sincerely,



Karen Ramsdell

KAR Airport Director

Cc: Dave Ward, County Planning and Development
Planning File