



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
Trails Council

March 31, 2014

Mr. Steve Lavagnino, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Beach Club Development Project

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Board Members,

The Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Trails Council) wishes to express our concern over the loss of a historic and planned coastal access at Toro Creek as part of the Beach Club development project. We urge the Board to uphold the appeal and deny the project for the following reasons:

- The County must uphold and defend the public coastal access provisions of the Summerland Community Plan which involved extensive public input and have strong community support;
- Toro Creek has a long history of public access, interrupted by the potentially illegal installation of a gate across this historic public use area;
- There is no feasible alternative access between Loon Point, often impassible at even medium tides, and Santa Clause Lane, a currently unsanctioned access, more 2 miles to the south;
- Trails are specifically permitted within Environmentally Sensitive Habitats; and,
- The environmental document grossly undervalues and mischaracterizes loss of coastal access as insignificant and largely overlooks *cumulatively significant* loss of coastal access along the South Coast at Anderson Lane in Goleta, informal or planned access at Edwards Point (Las Varas Ranch), and other Gaviota locations and potentially, at Goleta Beach.

The Trials Council is deeply concerned over a trend to undervalue loss of existing coastal access, attempts to explain away the loss of coastal access and the failure to actively protect and defend the public's right to access to and along the coast as set forth in its adopted Local Coastal Plan and the Summerland Community Plan. Thank you for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Otis Calef, President

cc. Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development
Steve Hudson, California Coastal Commission