



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Parks
Department No.: 052
For Agenda Of: September 21, 2010
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Thomas D. Fayram, Interim Parks Director (805) 568-2461
Director(s)
Contact Info: Erik Axelson, South County Deputy Director (805) 681-5651

**SUBJECT: Preliminary Engineering Studies and other actions related to Goleta Beach 2.0;
Second Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Authorize the Director of Parks to initiate preliminary engineering studies for the Goleta Beach 2.0 concept plan.

Summary Text:

At the Board of Supervisors hearing on July 6, 2010, the Board voted to accept the Goleta Beach 2.0 recommendations, and directed County Parks to return in the Fall with proposals for specific studies and proposed strategies to implement the concept plan.

This recommendation authorizes County Parks to initiate preliminary engineering studies for the Goleta Beach 2.0 project including:

1. Remove 48,000 square feet of asphalt at parking lots six and seven, and restoration of beach environment
2. Relocation of utilities
3. Relocation of the existing bike path away from the beach
4. Investigate feasible alternative protection technologies for the transportation/utilities corridor protection zone, including criteria for future installation of such measures

5. Remove un-permitted sections of rock revetment (approximately 950 linear feet) installed under CA Coastal Commission emergency permits in 2002 and 2005 that have since expired
6. Design of protective structure along approximately 175 linear feet west of Beachside restaurant to encompass the Goleta Sanitary District vault
7. Prepare preliminary cost estimates for construction of items above

The Santa Barbara County Park Commission at its regular meeting on August 26, 2010 recommended unanimously that the Board of Supervisors allocate \$75,000 from the South Coast West Development Fee Fund (#1405) to fund the preliminary engineering service studies and related costs.

The proposed schedule at this time includes:

| <u>Task</u> | <u>Schedule</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Preliminary Engineering Studies | October 2010 – April 2011 |
| CEQA Review* | May 2010 – * |

*note – grant funding to be pursued for an estimated \$125,000 for CEQA / Environmental Processing

It is estimated that preliminary engineering studies will take approximately six months to complete. Preliminary engineering documents will identify potential environmental impacts and be the initial agenda for an environmental document for Goleta Beach 2.0, which we anticipate will commence in Spring 2011, subject to funding. Staff intends to prepare a new application for relocation of utility lines, designation of protected areas, and the removal of emergency rock revetment (estimated \$3 million) to the California Coastal Commission during 2011. Provided that the application is approved by the Coastal Commission, we anticipate being able to begin construction as early as FY 2012/2013, again subject to funding.

County Parks is also moving forward on other fronts to implement elements of the Goleta Beach 2.0 concept plan including;

1. Issued an RFP for a kayak concession at three South County beaches, including Goleta Beach, initiating a recommendation for a kayak concession at the park
2. Requested of the State Lands Commission execution of the master lease for state land in the park as was previously approved by the Board
3. Ongoing meetings with adjacent utilities to plan for the relocation of three underground utility lines that transit the western end of the park
4. Coordination with CalTrans, Santa Barbara Airport, and UCSB potential benefits and shared projects growing out of Goleta Beach 2.0
5. Discuss with BEACON, US Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Conservancy, and California Coastal Commission the potential involvement of each agency in various aspects of Goleta Beach 2.0

Background:

Santa Barbara County has been concerned about persistent erosion and consequent loss of beach area and other amenities at Goleta Beach County Park. This 29 acre County park, located to the east of the UCSB campus, is the most heavily used park in the County system, attracting approximately 1.5 million visitors annually. While the 4,200 foot-long beach grew substantially during the three decades after World War II, in the early 1980's the beach was subjected to storms that severely eroded the beach. Many scientists correlate the waxing and waning of Goleta Beach with macro scale climate patterns, especially the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). This climate pattern is related to the presence of warmer or cooler waters in the temperate areas of the Western Pacific and is believed to trigger El Nino or La Nina weather patterns in California. In El Nino years, weather here is characterized by wetter than average rainfalls and more violent coastal storms. La Nina years show the reverse: less rainfall and fewer destructive coastal storms. The period from 1980 through 2005 has been one of frequent El Nino weather patterns, and consequently more storms that can promote beach erosion. Some scientists suggest that the multi-decadal pattern of the PDO has recently shifted to a primarily La Nina form. If so, this would likely correlate with a period of more benign weather and perhaps a time of beach accretion rather than erosion.

The demonstrated erosion that has taken place in the past 30 years caused the County to convene a working group of interested stakeholders earlier in this decade to review options for the long term health of the beach. At the same time, in response to El Nino storms in 2001-2002 and 2005 the County received emergency permits from the California Coastal Commission to install temporary rock revetments at the western end of the park (installed in December 2002 and January 2005). While these permits have since expired, the Coastal Commission is willing to let the revetments remain in place until the County has developed an approved long term plan for Goleta Beach.

Santa Barbara County has also used sand replenishment as a strategy to maintain the width and depth of Goleta Beach. In the past decade the beach was the recipient of sand and sediment dredged from County Flood Control basins, and in March 2010, the beach was the recipient of about 50,000 cubic yards of sand removed from Santa Barbara Harbor and West Beach. The \$1.3 million cost of this sand replenishment was funded by FEMA as mitigation for the 2005 storm damage. By expending these funds before a deadline of March 31, 2010 the county continued FEMA's designation of Goleta Beach as a "maintained beach," making it eligible for future storm mitigation funding.

The Goleta Beach Working Group identified two strategies for the park: (1) a structural solution; or (2) a form of managed retreat in which infrastructure at risk from erosion would be relocated. The County elected to prepare an environmental impact review (EIR) for a proposal to construct a 10,000 square foot addition to Goleta Pier (the permeable pile pier proposal). Coastal engineers suggested that a dense array of pier pilings would slow down the west-to-east transport of sand and promote the natural buildup of the beach west of the pier. The EIR also looked at other alternatives for Goleta Beach, including managed retreat and no project. In January 2008, the County submitted an application to the Coastal Commission for installation of the permeable pile pier and other related work. In June 2009, the staff of the Coastal Commission recommended approval of the application with many conditions, including extensive monitoring. On July 9, 2009, the Commission voted 9-1 to reject the staff recommendation and denied the county's application. At that hearing several of the commissioners suggested that the county pursue some form of managed retreat as an alternative.

In October 2009, Santa Barbara County Parks was charged by the Board with conducting a new concept planning process for the park. This process, called Goleta Beach 2.0, was designed to take a fresh look at the future of the park, how to maintain essential infrastructure, and enhance recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Working with the County's Enterprise GIS unit and the county surveyor, staff electronically mapped the entire park and all features, including utility lines, parking, structures, trees, lawns, signs, and active recreation areas. This GIS mapping of the park formed the basis for an in-depth analysis of features in the park and location of infrastructure most at risk from erosion.

County Parks staff also consulted extensively with park stakeholders, including utilities, Beachside restaurant, environmentalists, local government officials, CalTrans, MTD Transit, UCSB, and coastal scientists. In February 2010, County Parks unveiled the Goleta Beach 2.0 recommendations and began a series of a half-dozen public information meetings to explain the details to the public. Public meetings on the plan were conducted by County Parks, the Park Commission, and the Planning Commission. In addition, County Park's staff conducted public briefings for the Goleta City Council, Goleta Chamber of Commerce, and Goleta Rotary Club. Briefings were also given to the senior staff of the Coastal Commission, to UCSB's planning staff, and to the senior staff of Santa Barbara Airport.

Goleta Beach 2.0 focused on the far western area of the park, which scientists have called the "Prime Erosion Zone." In this area are infrastructure most at risk from persistent erosion, including utility lines, a section of the Coastal Trail bike path, and two parking lots with 150 parking spaces. Adopting a limited managed retreat approach and enhancement plan, Goleta Beach 2.0 recommended the following general approach to addressing planning for Goleta Beach Park:

1. Relocate the 150 parking spaces and develop off-site satellite parking nearby (over 450 parking spaces would still remain in the park, coupled with 150-200 spaces nearby)
2. Restore 48,000 square feet of asphalt covering the relocated parking into a new beach area as a buffer zone and for new recreation
3. Relocate the county's pressurized wastewater line, as well as reclaimed water, high-pressure gas, and telecom underground utility lines, closer to CA Route 217 and farther away from the ocean
4. Relocate a section of the bike path closer to Route 217
5. Establish a transportation/utility corridor protection zone and set triggers that would precipitate installation of innovative, soft protective technology
6. Improve auto and truck access to the park with a new bridge to replace the current, structurally compromised bridge, and replace current bridge with bike/pedestrian access to separate auto traffic from bikes and pedestrians
7. Explore transit connections to Goleta Beach, and offer alternative access routes to the park including water taxi, interpretive trail, and shuttle bus
8. Remove un-permitted rocks at the western end of the park once infrastructure has been relocated and an agreement about protection zone is executed
9. Establish an additional protection structure at the center of the park to protect Goleta Sanitary District's underground outfall vault
10. Explore expansion of activities on Goleta Pier, including the Goleta Pier Angler Center, and potential for retrofit to accommodate excursion vessels, pleasure craft, and UCSB's sailing program
11. Expand park concessions to include recreational activities such as kayak rentals and excursions, boating services, and limited overnight accommodations
12. Expand recreational, cultural, and interpretive programming

Performance Measure:

Goleta Beach 2.0 embraces the County's core mission of Accountability, Customer Focus, and Efficiency. Goleta Beach 2.0 concept planning was a highly accessible, transparent process, involving extensive consultation with stakeholders and frequent public information meetings, as well as posting maps and other documents on a page on the County Parks website. The plan's focus on customer service is evident in the recommendations for expanded activities in the park, such as boating, kayaking, and excursions. Adoption of the Goleta Beach 2.0 recommendations is likely to result in more efficient operations for County Parks.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No. Budget Revision Request included with summary Budget Revisions on the September 21, 2010 Board agenda.

Fiscal Analysis:

| <u>Funding Sources</u> | <u>Current FY Cost:</u> | <u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u> | <u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| General Fund | | | |
| State | | | |
| Federal | | | |
| South Coast West Development Fees | \$ 75,000.00 | | \$ 75,000.00 |
| Other: | | | |
| Total | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 75,000.00 |

Narrative:

County Parks proposes to fund the preliminary engineering services studies for the initiation of Goleta Beach 2.0 using \$75,000 from the South Coast West Development Fee Fund (#1405). As of August 31, 2010, the fund had approximately \$422,000 as Cash in Treasury. In addition, the Park Commission voted to recommend this source of funding at its meeting on August 26, 2010.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

No staffing impacts are anticipated. Management of preliminary engineering studies and other tasks will be done using existing County Park's staff.

Authored by:

Erik Axelson, South County Deputy Director