

# PARKS/OPEN SPACE

Principle	
Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection	
Strategy	Target
Funding	Fed/State

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Santa Barbara County Parks provides services to over seven million annual visitors to 71 day use parks, open space locations, an aquatic facility and two camping parks as well as a network of trails and coastal access easements. The County is interested in preserving and expanding the amount of open space located within its boundary. As such, the County is supportive of funding opportunities that enable local governments to: (1) maintain existing facilities (i.e. funding for park and trail maintenance); (2) acquire additional land for open space preservation and (3) ensure safe access to beaches, parks and open space. Examples of these projects are listed below as well as in other areas of the 2019 platform.

**Gaviota Coast Preservation:** The Gaviota Coast is a largely undeveloped area along Highway 101 North of Goleta and South of Lompoc that consists primarily of agricultural land in private ownership, Vandenberg Air Force Base, US Forest Service land, and three state parks. There are a number of endangered or threatened species in the area, including the red legged frog, steelhead trout, and California tiger salamander. A National Park Service Study looked at various conservation methods, including a potential federal designation, and concluded that the area is “nationally significant” and the best conservation approach was through local and private conservation efforts. Currently there is no interest in reconsidering a potential federal designation for the Gaviota Coast. There is a need for federal funding and assistance for planning efforts and land conservation acquisition by local government and/or private land trusts.

**Point Sal Access and Management Plan and Implementation:** This project will provide public access to Point Sal “Reserve”, which consists of 2,600 acres of publicly and privately-owned lands located along the coast of the Pacific Ocean in the northwestern corner of the County. In 1991, an original management plan was developed and revised in 2002 under an internal administrative draft to include parcels acquired by the County since the original 1991 plan. Costs total approximately \$8 Million to update the management plan (\$50,000), implement public access including land acquisition and vehicle improvements to the trail-head and pedestrian trail (\$7.6 Million) and install signage and cattle control (\$350,000). The United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service provided a \$136,000 California Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant for the preparation of environmental documents and design for a parking lot at the Southern Point Sal public access point and culvert enhancement permit applications for improved public access. The County will provide funding for construction of the culvert enhancements.

**Santa Claus Lane Beach Access and Development:** This project will secure public access rights and easements to the beach and open an access way over the existing railroad tracks and rock seawall. The total project cost is approximately \$6.9 million which includes acquiring access rights and the design and construction of safety developments for the railroad and seawall crossings, installation of a parking lot, landscape screening, a restroom and other ancillary facilities. The United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service provided a \$380,000 California Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Grant to facilitate securing access rights.

**Jalama Beach Facility Improvements:** This project will improve existing facilities to better serve the public at one of the only overnight camping parks in northern Santa Barbara County. The total project cost is approximately \$3.0 million and includes systematic renovations to the restroom and shower facilities to meet major maintenance needs and bring facilities into ADA compliance. The Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF) has provided \$551,000 to facilitate some of the restroom improvements.

**Goleta Beach Park:** This project includes ongoing efforts to insure sand replenishment at the County’s most visited beach. Essential to the sand replenishment project is the rather work intensive task of a future long-term sustainable plan, including federal and state permitting, to address beachside access and erosion.

## REQUEST STRATEGY AND ACTION

**Strategy:** Choose an item that identifies how we will address the issue.

Funding Request                       Legislative Proposal                       Targeted Advocacy

**Action:** Enter proposed actions to request funding, propose legislation or advocate. . .

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors County requests support from its delegation to: (1) assist the County in its interaction with other affected agencies and (2) identify funding opportunities for these projects.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

These projects enhance the opportunities of residents and visitors to the County to gain safe access to beaches, partake in recreational activities and learn more about natural habitat.

## COST TO GOVERNMENT

The County has secured partial funding for many of these projects and is seeking additional funding to complete these projects.

## CONTACT

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