

#3

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 2

From: maarata@aol.com
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 3:52 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: replacement of an existing culvert off Highway 101



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Install culvert to aid in safe animal crossings.

Ramirez, Angelica

From: michael@lajibs.com
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 5:03 PM
To: sbcob; www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org@webmail04.register.com
Subject: Caltrans Gaviota Culvert Project

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Supervisors,

Problem solving, Leadership, and Critical thinking are key aspects of your role on the board. The issue before you today is the Gaviota Culvert project which will require these skills as well as compassion, understanding, and a long-term view of our environment and ecosystem. The long term consequences are rarely thought through, and short term benefits and political considerations usually win out.

The proposed project site is currently owned and managed by the State Parks. I don't understand why this prime public property is being given away, with no compensatory return for the public. No trails, no wildlife crossing corridor, nothing for the public land. The 5 acre land giveaway is shockingly short sighted and unfair. And, the 2-acre Gaviota Village property "*is deed restricted for use as open space, habitat restoration and conservation, and passive and recreation including trails.*"

So WHY are we proposing to give it away for nothing? It's outrageous that Caltrans proposes nothing in the way of recreational facilities or amenities. I ask you to look at our world today, racked by pandemic, wildfire, deforestation, wildlife and habitat loss, and consider this proposed wildlife corridor as a opportunity. Where Caltrans maintains (incorrectly) there are no wildlife corridors to consider, I would suggest to each of you to spend an hour walking in the woods, or on the beach, or being outside, and off your phones and away from your computers.

We are blessed in California with an abundant and rich state full of natural wonders such as our beaches, trails, waterfalls, trees, animals, and plants. Please consider your great grandchildren and theirs..what will our world look like in 7 generations? Its up to you and I and all of us and the decisions we make every day.

Do the right thing, Show leadership with critical thinking, and solve this problem.

Thank you

Michael Jarocki

US Navy Veteran, husband, father, businessman

Ramirez, Angelica

From: gching@cox.net
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 8:06 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Appeal of the CalTrans Gaviota Culvert project
Attachments: Gaviota letter.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached is a letter to the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors regarding a concern I have regarding potential damage to a segment of a historic road adjacent to the CalTrans Gaviota Culvert project. Please transmit the attached letter to the Board of Supervisors.

Reference:

Appeal of approval of the Caltrans Gaviota Culvert project
September 1, 2020 meeting of the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Item 3 of the Departmental Agenda
Planning Items and Public Hearings

Gerard Ching
462 S. San Marcos Rd.
Santa Barbara CA 93111
805-964-5411
gching@cox.net

Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara 93101

Reference: Appeal of approval of the Caltrans Gaviota Culvert project
September 1, 2020 meeting of the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
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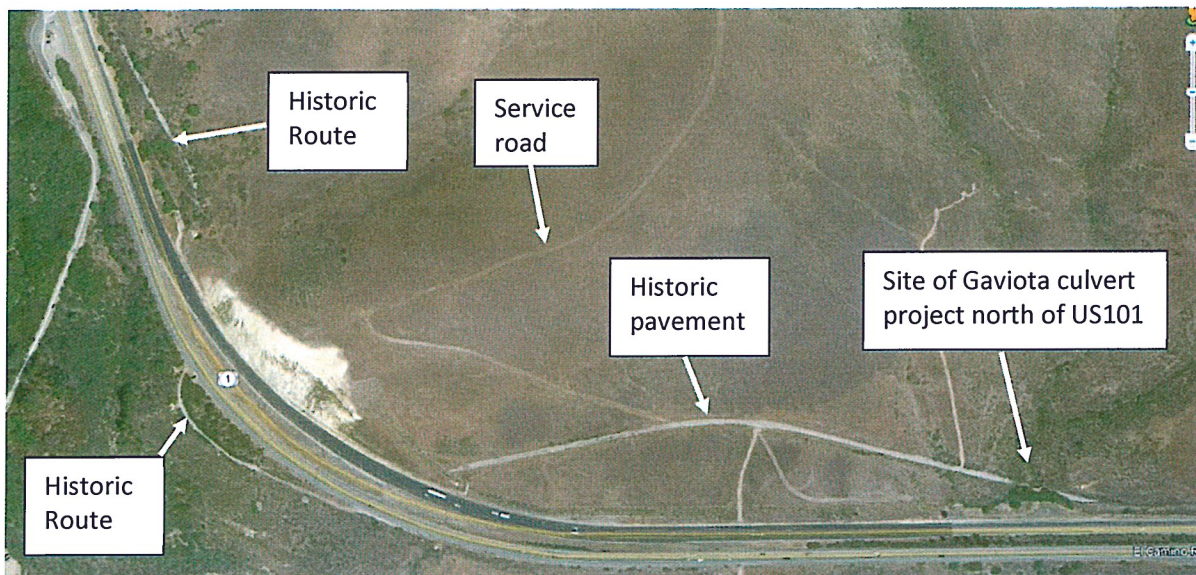


Figure 1-US 101 Gaviota Curve Area

I have a concern about the Gaviota Culvert Replacement project proposed by CalTrans. My concern is that during the replacement operations, heavy equipment will probably use the existing adjacent pavement to access the repair area north of US101. Attachment 6 of the CalTrans MMP seems to confirm this. This could result in damage to the pavement.

Description of Historic Pavement

This pavement is the original historic pavement of the US 101 predecessor. It starts near the project north of the freeway and continues for about 0.35 mile just short of the newly revamped curve on US 101. The pavement is in generally good shape, in spite of its age. The original road edgings and a few roadside features still exist. There are still other short segments of the original route south and east of the freeway.



Figure 2- Portion of the Historic Pavement

Historic Pavement Use

CalTrans has previous used the western portion of the historic pavement during the construction of the revamped Gaviota Curve. Luckily no major damage occurred.

This same portion is also used by gas and oil pipeline contractors to access an unpaved service road for inspection and service of portions of a high-pressure gas pipeline and the presently inactive Plains oil pipeline. CalTrans may also use this access to maintain a water pipeline serving the Gaviota rest stops. Fortunately, these uses generally do not involve the use of heavy equipment.

Although no formal trails have been established on this State Park land north and east of US101, the historic pavement does serve as a de facto route to connect to an unpaved service road for hikers wishing to get to a viewpoint overlooking the northbound Gaviota rest stop. Foot access to the historic pavement is via the Gaviota Village property.

Suggestions to Avoid Damage

Possible damage could be avoided or minimized if heavy equipment access on the north side of the project could be made from the Gaviota Village (State Park property), east of the project area. Some access via the historic pavement may be required as there seems to be quite a bit of on-site mitigation on each side of the pavement. Can we request that CalTrans take note of the historic pavement and take reasonable care to avoid damage?

Gerard Ching
462 S. San Marcos Rd.
Santa Barbara CA 93111
805-964-5411
gching@cox.net

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Linda Marais <lindamarais@mac.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 2:56 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Caltrans' request to replace a culvert off Highway 101: Canada del Barro

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

- Caltrans' Highway 101 facilities have severely impacted Gaviota Coast wildlife including bobcat and deer, which have been recently observed at the mouth of the culvert proposed for removal.
- New expert studies confirm the need to reevaluate the Project's impacts to wildlife, including whether the proposed habitat restoration activities will attract wildlife and increase wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- The culvert must be redesigned to accommodate wildlife passage as described in Caltrans' own Wildlife Crossings Guidance Manual.
- Land under the control of State Parks must not be transferred to Caltrans without offsetting mitigation such as provision of a California Coastal Trail (CCT) segment.
- Unless and until State Parks has secured approval to transfer or encumber the Gaviota Village property, the transfer is not permissible and the Project cannot proceed as proposed.
- The Project cannot be approved as proposed due to conflicts with the Gaviota Coast Plan including with recreation policies requiring that existing and proposed trails be preserved and provided for in discretionary development projects, and policies protecting sensitive wildlife and wildlife corridors.
- The GCC and CRC appeals raise serious flaws in the Project design and environmental review, and should be granted.

Please do the right thing for the environment and grant the GCC and CRC appeals.

Linda Marais

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Bill Zeldis <billzeldis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 7:46 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: doug.kern@gaviotacoastconservancy.org
Subject: Canada del Barro culvert project

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Sirs;
I am writing in hopes you will reconsider and delay the Caltrans culvert project at the Canada del Barro drainage off Hwy. 101.
The environmental reviews and planning for the project is haphazard and inadequate. It also has conflicts with deed restricted portions of the property.
There needs to be further evaluation and mitigation to protect wildlife crossing the corridor here, and well as further planning for passive recreational uses of the area.
The culvert itself should be redesigned to accommodate wildlife and prevent collisions with traffic, especially as the area is being restored to attract more wildlife.

This project also has conflicts with the Gaviota Coast Plans requirements for existing and proposed public trails to be considered as part of developments in the area.
There should be a California Coastal Trail segment added here as part of the permit; we want to encourage public use of this coast for future generations.
This precious coastal land deserves the utmost respect as we prepare to restore and preserve its character, and keep it safe and healthy for the future.
Please grant the appeals from both the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and the Coastal Ranches Conservancy to require further environmental review and design changes for this project before allowing it to proceed.

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Stephen Black <stephenblacksb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 1:54 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Cal Trans drainage work.

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Caltrans has requested County approval of a Development Plan, Coastal Development Permit, and Conditional Use Permit, to authorize the replacement of an existing culvert off Highway 101 in the Canada del Barro drainage on park land just east of Gaviota State Beach Park.

Please protect the remaining open coast and wildlife.

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Thanks,
Stephen Black
(805) 452-7114

Ramirez, Angelica

From: susan christol-deacon <susancdeacon@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 3:15 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Caltrans Gaviota Culvert Project

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors,

Our family lives on the Gaviota Coast, and for that reason I was alarmed to learn of the proposal by Caltrans regarding the culvert replacement and the intention to transfer State Park land to Caltrans. We regularly hike and walk the beaches near the proposed location and know firsthand that this is an area rich in wildlife. Sadly, the notion that there are no wildlife corridors to consider with the Gaviota Culvert is clearly misguided. The need for safe public recreation, especially now, should mean more trails be preserved and added, not less, as would likely happen if Caltrans takes possession of the property in question. Thank you for not approving the project as proposed and granting the appeals by the Gaviota Coastal Conservancy and the Coastal Ranches Conservancy. Please vote as if our wildlife depends on it.

Kind Regards,

Susan Deacon

Ramirez, Angelica

From: BILL WOODBRIDGE <bill.woodbridge@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 7:49 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Caltrans proposed Gaviota culvert replacement

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Santa Barbara county Supervisors:

Please deny the CalTrans Gaviota culvert replacement proposal for the following reasons:

- Caltrans' Highway 101 facilities have severely impacted Gaviota Coast wildlife including bobcat and deer, which have been recently observed at the mouth of the culvert proposed for removal.
- New expert studies confirm the need to reevaluate the Project's impacts to wildlife, including whether the proposed habitat restoration activities will attract wildlife and increase wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- The culvert must be redesigned to accommodate wildlife passage as described in Caltrans' own Wildlife Crossings Guidance Manual.
- Land under the control of State Parks must not be transferred to Caltrans without offsetting mitigation such as provision of a California Coastal Trail (CCT) segment.
- Unless and until State Parks has secured approval to transfer or encumber the Gaviota Village property, the transfer is not permissible and the Project cannot proceed as proposed.
- The Project cannot be approved as proposed due to conflicts with the Gaviota Coast Plan including with recreation policies requiring that existing and proposed trails be preserved and provided for in discretionary development projects, and policies protecting sensitive wildlife and wildlife corridors.
- The GCC and CRC appeals raise serious flaws in the Project design and environmental review, and should be granted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Woodbridge
Goleta resident

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Melissa Kreger <meliskreger@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 6:29 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Gaviota Coast - Caltrans Highway 101 Culvert Project
Attachments: letter to SB Board of Supervisors Gaviota Culvert.pdf

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please see attachment -

thank you.

**Board of Supervisors Hearing on GCC's appeal of Caltrans Culvert Project
1 September 2020**

I am writing out of concern for the preservation of the Gaviota Coast at the site of the proposed Caltrans culvert replacement off Highway 101 in the Canada del Barro drainage on park land just east of Gaviota State Beach Park.

The Caltrans Development Plan lacks sufficient background work to adequately address the environmental impact of the proposed project. The portion of Highway 101 where the Project is proposed has been studied by Dr. Stratton of UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration and Dr. Shilling of UC Davis. Both have reported large wildlife populations, that require thorough consideration, in this region of the North Coast.

Caltrans' own Wildlife Crossing Guidance Manual identifies culvert replacements as an "opportunity to enhance existing rates of crossing and decrease rates of vehicle-animal collisions if the new culverts are larger than the existing culverts and include wildlife ledges, fencing, and vegetation to enhance their use". For the Gaviota Culvert, Caltrans incorrectly maintains that there are no wildlife corridors to consider. Caltrans has declined to accommodate wildlife crossing in its project, in an area with an extraordinary level of wildlife-vehicle conflicts, per Dr. Stratton & Dr. Shilling.

These expert studies confirm:

1. the need to reevaluate the Project's impacts to wildlife, including whether the proposed habitat restoration activities will attract wildlife and increase wildlife-vehicle collisions.
2. the culvert must be redesigned to accommodate wildlife passage as described in Caltrans' own Wildlife Crossings Guidance Manual.

In addition, the land under the control of State Parks must not be transferred to Caltrans without offsetting the mitigation such as provision of a California Coastal Trail segment. The Project cannot be approved as proposed due to conflicts with the Gaviota Coast Plan including recreation policies requiring that existing and proposed trails be preserved and provided for in discretionary development projects, and policies protecting sensitive wildlife and wildlife corridors.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to uphold the appeal of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC) and the Coastal Ranches Conservancy (CRC). I urge the Board of Supervisors to require extensive environmental review. I urge the Board of Supervisors to support Project modifications to accommodate wildlife passage under Highway 101 and passive recreational uses.

The Project cannot be approved as proposed due to conflicts with the Gaviota Coast Plan including recreation policies requiring that existing and proposed trails be preserved and provided for in discretionary development projects, and policies protecting sensitive wildlife and wildlife corridors.

The GCC and CRC appeals raise serious flaws in the Project design and environmental review, and should be granted.

Thank you for your consideration in protecting this beautiful stretch of the Gaviota Coast, the wildlife that inhabits the area, and the Gaviota Village land for generations to come.

With best regards,
Melissa A Kreger, PhD.