

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Hans Cole <Hans.Cole@patagonia.com>
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 3:28 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Patagonia comment, Gaviota Coast Plan
Attachments: Gaviota Coast Plan.Patagonia Letter.docx

patagonia

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara CA, 93101

November 7, 2016

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing on behalf of Patagonia, Inc., to share my support for strengthening the Gaviota Coast Plan's policies, to preserve the ecological and cultural values and significant biodiversity of the Gaviota Coast. Stretching 76 miles long, this area is one of California's largest remaining continuous stretches of undeveloped rural coastline. The Gaviota Coast is a hotspot for bird and wildlife activity, and contains a number of sensitive habitats and watersheds. It must be preserved for the entire community and for future generations.

Some activities are simply incompatible with the sensitive nature of the Gaviota Coast, including industrialization and pollution brought by fracking, steam injection and enhanced oil and gas recovery methods. Other activities, including agriculture and recreation, are essential to the area's character and history, but great attention is needed to ensure that these activities coexist in harmony with sensitive habitats. In this spirit, please strengthen the Gaviota Coast Plan's policies to accomplish the following:

- Prohibit the use of all fracking, steam injection, and enhanced oil and gas recovery methods in the Gaviota Coast Plan area;
- Protect Gaviota's Environmentally Sensitive Habitats ("ESH") from land clearing by amending the Gaviota Plan ESH Ordinance to protect these habitats from new and expanded large-scale agricultural activities, while supporting smaller-scale agricultural exemptions with low-impact on ESH such as farm stays and stands;
- Ensure that public access is provided along the coast, and that plans for recreational trails also exhibit sensitivity to ESH values;
- Strengthen the incentives plan to encourage people do the right thing environmentally (protecting ESH), culturally (protecting sacred sites and artifacts), and socially (providing more public access plans); and, strengthen the Incentives Program by ensuring additional homes cannot be built until the trail easement is open and accessible to the public;
- Ensure that the Plan complies with the Coastal Act so it can be certified by the Coastal Commission.

Thank you for your attention to the details of this important planning process, which will impact the character and ecology of this coast for generations.

Sincerely,

Hans Cole
Director of Environmental Campaigns and Advocacy
Patagonia, Inc.
(805)667-4652
Hans.cole@patagonia.com



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