

**Alexander, Jacquelyne**

---

**From:** Gaviota Ranchers <gaviotaranchers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 1:10 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Fwd: Gaviota Coast Plan, Local Coastal Program Proposed Amendments

## GAVIOTA NEIGHBORS GROUP

May 14, 2018

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
via e-mail: [sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

### Re: Gaviota Coast Plan, Local Coastal Program Proposed Amendments

Dear Chairman Williams and Members of the Board:

We, the undersigned, are a group of landowners in the Coastal Zone portion of the Gaviota Coast Plan Area, and, landowners in the Inland portion that support our coastal neighbors. We collectively represent the vast majority of the privately held land in the Coastal area that is the subject of this hearing. We are writing to you today to urge you not to make any decisions, save one, at your meeting on May 15 regarding the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) proposed modifications to the Gaviota Coast Plan. The process and timelines that are being used in this matter both by the CCC and the County do not allow for adequate understanding and informed participation by the public and affected stakeholders. It can only be interpreted as an attempt to suppress and discourage valid participation and meaningful input.

Here are the problems with the process:

- The County submitted the Gaviota Coast Plan to the CCC for review in December of 2016. No public response was provided by the CCC until April 24, 2018. County staff reports extensive discussions with the CCC staff during these sixteen months, but none of those discussions or deliberations were public.

- The CCC released their comments on April 24, 2018 in a package of documents of more than three hundred (300) pages, including scores of detailed and often technical modifications to the Plan as originally submitted by the County. Public hearing and action was scheduled for the CCC meeting of May 10, 2018, eleven business days later. The May 10 hearing was subsequently postponed.
- The County first provided public notice on May 8, 2018, that the matter of the CCC response would be taken up by the Board of Supervisors on May 15. It wasn't until May 10, that the staff report and documents, consisting of the Coastal Commission staff reports and exhibits, plus twelve (12) pages of a County staff report containing substantial new information and a draft letter from the Board of Supervisors to the CCC accepting all but four (4) of the Commission's proposed modifications, were made publicly available for the May 15 Board of Supervisors hearing and final action, only three business days later.
- The County staff report calls for the Board to approve a bureaucratic withdrawal and resubmission of the Gaviota Coast Plan to the CCC, incorporating most of the CCC's proposed modifications **without any public input**, in order to allow for a rescheduled CCC hearing and action in July 2018. This process allows for no time for local input before the Board of Supervisors acts on matters that have significant impact.

As stakeholders and members of the public we are expected to review, digest, understand and comment on volumes of new material with substantial policy implications affecting our communities, our property and our livelihoods within these extremely tight and unworkable deadlines.

It is not reasonable or prudent for the Board of Supervisors to act on this matter on May 15. You will not have the benefit of informed public and stakeholder input, and, unless you, as Board members, have had advance access to information not available to us, you cannot have adequately reviewed and understood the implications of the actions you are being asked to take in the time allowed.

There is only one reasonable action you can and should take on May 15, and that is to withdraw the Gaviota Coast Plan amendments submitted to the CCC. However, you should not take any further policy actions, nor commit to a resubmission date, until there has been adequate time for the public and stakeholders to fully understand what has already transpired and provide informed and thoughtful input. A reasonable period of time, given the gravity and complexity of the issues would allow for at least 60 to 90 days for public review and we ask that you continue this item for that period of time. We would also strongly recommend that as part of the public outreach and participation process you refer the changes back to the Gaviota Planning Advisory Committee (GavPAC) for review and comment.

Again, please withdraw the Gaviota Coast Plan amendments and continue public comment for a minimum of 60 – 90 days.

Sincerely,

*Aguajitos Ranch, Rancho Arbolado, Briarcliff Trust, Dangermond Preserve, Erburu Ranch, Seymour Fletcher, Freeman Ranch, Conrad Green, Don and Elaine Grimm, Rancho Guacamole, Hollister Ranch Owners Association, La Paloma Ranch, Las Varas Ranch, Mathis Gaviota Ranch, Jeff and Sandra Mezger, Nojoqui Falls Ranch, Orella Ranch, Parks Ranch, Saralegui Ranch, Three Hawks Ranch, Vasquez Ranch, Zacara El Capitan Ranch.*

cc via e-mail to:

Hon. Das Williams [dwilliams@countyofsb.org](mailto:dwilliams@countyofsb.org)

Hon. Janet Wolf [jwolf@countyofsb.org](mailto:jwolf@countyofsb.org)

Hon. Joan Hartmann [jhartmann@countyofsb.org](mailto:jhartmann@countyofsb.org)

Hon. Peter Adam [peter.adam@countyofsb.org](mailto:peter.adam@countyofsb.org)

Hon. Steve Lavignino [steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org](mailto:steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org)