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To: County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

From: Chris Crabtree

Subject: Comments on Hearing of April 11, 2017 Agenda Item # 17-00272 - Consider Recommendations Regarding a Resolution for Emergency Purchases to Repair and Protect Goleta Beach Park

Date: April 10, 2017

The following comments are continuations of those that I provided as part of the Goleta Beach Park Project 2.0 process, including the project EIR NOP, DEIR, FEIR, and Board of Supervisors and California Coastal Commission (CCC) hearings on the project. My focus is coastal processes and their effects on Goleta Beach Park (the Park). My evaluation is based on my knowledge of observing coastal processes along the Goleta coastline for the last 43 years and in detail at the Park for the last 8 years, plus 37 years as a forecaster of weather and ocean sea and swell conditions in the region. My goal in this process has been to find reasonable and environmentally responsible solutions to protecting the Park from surf damage. I encourage you to permanently retain the emergency rock revetment placed at the Park in February of this year for the following reasons.

1. Rock revetment is the most effective and economical solution for the protection of the Park from wave damage. It is effective, as for example, all of the Park landward of existing revetments incurred little to no damage over the last 2 winters of heavy surf. It is economical, as it is a minimalist-maintenance solution, requiring replacement of a few rocks that might settle off of the main revetment at most only once every several years. The presence of the rock revetment eliminates the need for any other forms of surf protection for the Park, such as sand berms.
2. The rocks have virtually no negative impact on sand supply at the Park. The amount sand at Goleta Beach is a function of wave energy and the presence of sand in the regional littoral system and not due to agitation between surf and the rock revetment. While the last 2 winters of heavy surf produced a narrow beach at the Park, it also did the same along the entire Goleta coastline. This is the case, as the littoral system along the Goleta coastline currently is in a cycle of minimum sand supply. In other words, the narrow beach at the Park these last 2 winters has been due to larger-scale effects and not micro-scale effects due to the rocks.
3. The rocks lie where once there was Park. In other words, they now reside where there was recently Park and lawn. This is the case for all of the rock revetments at the Park west of the Beachside Café - surf energy ate away at the front of the Park and associated lawn areas, necessitating the County to install rocks for surf protection. However, historically, the Park resides on an old sand spit and beach.

As part of the future process to permit the emergency rock revetment as a permanent solution to protect the Park and perhaps the need to revise the associated Goleta Beach Park Project Coastal Development Permit, I have the following request - consider eliminating permit conditions 2.D.1 and 2.F. I believe these requirements were developed in part on the fallacy that the rocks affect the sand supply at Goleta Beach. In addition, they have caused excessive and unnecessary expenditures by the County from covering the rock revetments with sand.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of my comments.

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