

A-36



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

2008 MAR -7 PM
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Department Name: **BOS**
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: March 18, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item:
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required:

0318-29

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Joni Gray, 4th District Supervisor
Director:
Contact Info: Ron Cortez, Deputy CEO, 568-2243

MAR 18 2008

SUBJECT: Snowy Plover

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors approve the submittal of the attached letter from Supervisor Joni Gray to the California Coastal Commission regarding beach closures of Surf, Ocean, and Point Sal Beaches.

Summary Text:

Background:

On March 1, the beach at Lompoc will be closed for the next seven months to protect the nesting of the Western snowy plovers. Surf and Ocean Beach will be off-limits to visitors until September 30, 2008.

While the County certainly understands the importance of protecting the snowy plovers we also believe in protecting the interest of County residents to visit County beaches. Therefore, we encourage an open dialogue to determine all reasonable alternatives to providing adequate access to local beaches as well as protecting sensitive habitat. These discussions must include all individuals including the California Coastal Commission, California State Fish and Game and all other interested parties.

The California Coastal Commission will be meeting on April 4th, 2008 at the Board of Supervisors hearing room. Consequently, there is an opportunity for the Board to openly advocate for a much thorough examination of the situation. Attached is a copy of a proposed letter to be signed by the Fourth District Supervisor, Joni Gray, for the Boards consideration. We are encouraging the Coastal Commission to take the lead on this discussion and hope that they will re-examine such an extreme action as closing the beaches. The letter could be read during public comment during the California Coastal Commission meeting.

Attachments:

Letter to California Coastal Commission

Authored by:

Ronald S. Cortez, Deputy County Executive Officer

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District, Chair

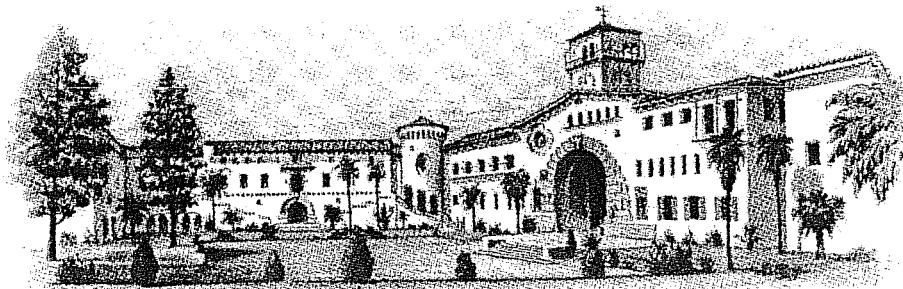
JANET WOLF
Second District

BROOKS FIRESTONE
Third District

JONI GRAY
Fourth District

JOSEPH CENTENO
Fifth District, Vice Chair

March 18, 2008



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Mr. Patrick Kruer, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: *Request the Commission's Support in Restoring Public Access to Surf, Ocean, and Point Sal Beaches*

Dear Chair Kruer:

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the assistance of the California Coastal Commission in restoring public access to Surf, Ocean, and Point Sal Beaches. These beaches provide coastal access for the residents of the Lompoc Valley, and are important tourist destinations for people from all over the world. Since 1999, coastal access has been prohibited at Ocean Beach and significantly restricted at Surf Beach for seven months of the year, from March 1 through September 30. These closures have been the result of plover requirements. Point Sal Beach has been closed to the public by the Department of Defense since the beginning of 2007 due to an access dispute.

The Memorandum of Understanding/Evacuation Agreement (1992 et seq.) between the County and the Department of Defense memorializes the historic public use of Jalama, Surf, Ocean, and Point Sal Beaches. In part, this MOU documents the public's right to access five miles of shoreline (1.5 miles north and 3.5 miles south) from Ocean Beach County Park. This agreement was negotiated as part of a Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination (CD-21-82) involving the construction of a project at Vandenberg Air Force Base which restricted public access to some of the County's coastal parks during space launches.

Coastal access is a matter of great importance to the people of Santa Barbara County. The Board of Supervisors therefore respectfully requests the Commission's assistance in restoring the people's right to full access to Surf, Ocean, and Point Sal Beaches. In furtherance of this goal, the County requests that the Coastal Commission calendar a discussion of this issue at the earliest opportunity at a public hearing accessible to the residents of the Lompoc Valley. Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Terri Maus-Nisich at (805) 568-3400.

Sincerely,

Joni Gray, Board of Supervisors – 4th District