

CalTrans Highway 101 Gaviota Culvert Replacement Project

Case Nos. 19DVP-00000-00034,
19CUP-00000-00054, 19CDP-00000-00133

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
September 1, 2020



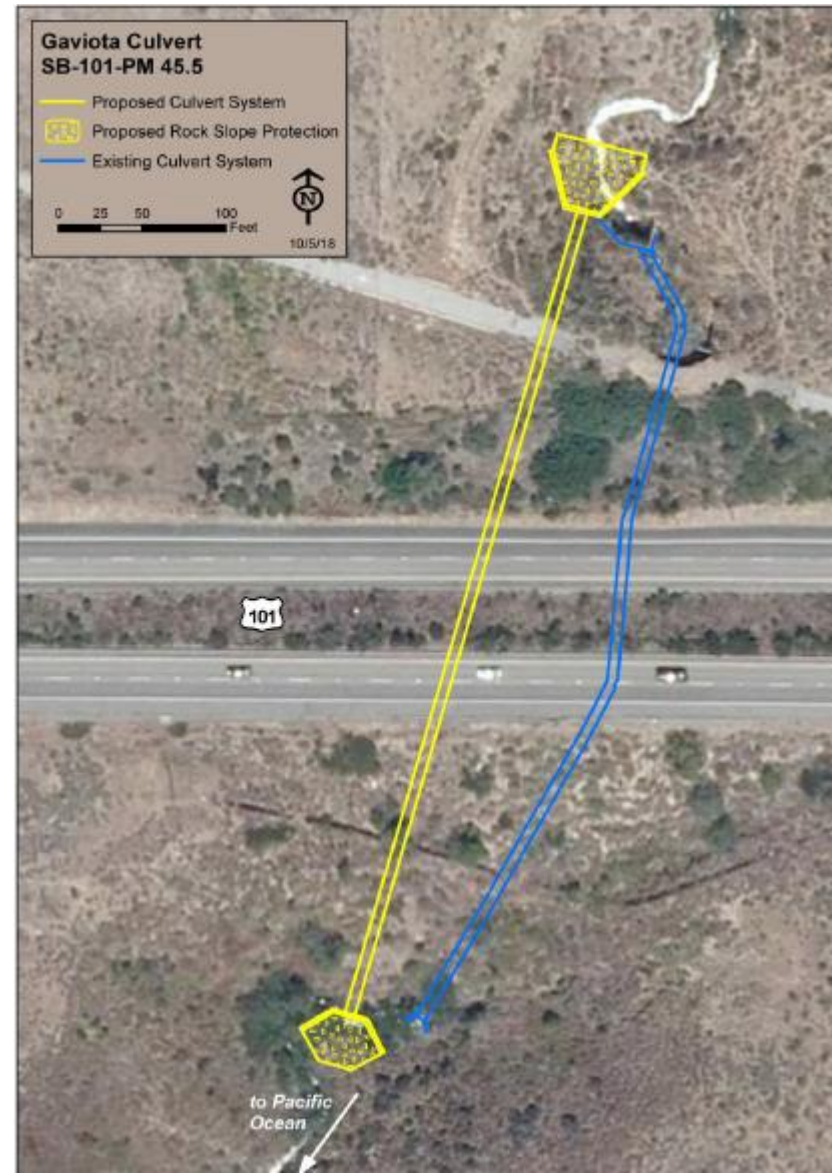
County of Santa Barbara
Planning and Development
Ciara Ristig

Vicinity Map



Project Description

- Existing culvert to be grouted/abandoned in place
- Construction of
 - new culvert
 - rock slope protection
 - outlet endwall and wingwall
 - inlet headwall



Project Analysis

- Condition of existing culvert necessitates replacement
- Impacts to USACE/RWQCB/CDFW/CCC jurisdictional areas
 - Caltrans coordinated w/agencies during preparation of MND
- Temporary access roads will be regraded and revegetated after construction is complete
- Onsite and offsite mitigation proposed

Environmental Review

Project required a MND, prepared by Caltrans:

- Impacts to biological resources were found to be less than significant with mitigation.
- MND circulated July 2018, approved February 2019,
- Gaviota Coast Plan adopted November 2018

Planning Commission- May 27, 2020

- Two timely appeals filed

Appellant #1-

Coastal Ranches Conservancy

- Caltrans MND is inadequate
 - Wildlife Passage
 - Caltrans confirmed that Canada del Barro is not a regionally or locally important wildlife corridor
 - “New information” does not suggest existing conflict in the project area
 - CEQA is limited to mitigating impacts of the project
 - Caltrans Regulations
 - County does not enforce Caltrans’ regulations

Appellant #1-

Coastal Ranches Conservancy

- Caltrans MND is inadequate
 - State Park Property
 - 5.01 acres to be transferred to Caltrans ownership
 - Offsite Mitigation
 - Meets intent of GCP policy NS-11
 - In-kind mitigation opportunities exist only at Refugio Creek
 - Will contribute to existing project with recorded deed restriction
 - Mitigation measure has already been adopted by Caltrans- not subject to modification by the County

Appellant #2-

Gaviota Coast Conservancy

- MND Fails to Incorporate Gaviota Coast Plan
 - Coastal Trail
 - GCP plan, including trail maps, adopted after the MND was circulated
 - No impact to future or mapped trail, thus no nexus to require construction of trail
 - Wildlife Corridors
 - No evidence has been provided that the project affects a wildlife corridor
 - Replacement of culvert will not further inhibit wildlife movement

Appellant #2-

Gaviota Coast Conservancy

- Project doesn't comply with CEQA
 - Project complies with CEQA requirements
 - MND circulated prior to certification of GCP
 - Relevant GCP policies were analyzed in staff report
 - No conditions in CEQA section 15162 have occurred to require a subsequent MND or EIR

Policy Consistency

- Consistent with Gaviota Coast Plan, Coastal Land Use Plan
- Project not visible from Highway 101
- Will not impact existing or future recreational opportunities on REC zoned land
- Designed to minimize impacts to ESH
- Necessary to protect Highway 101
- Coordination with Coastal Commission, USFW, CDFW, California State Parks

Recommended Actions

- Deny the appeals, 20APL-00000-00009 and 20APL-00000-00010
- Make the required findings for approval of the project, including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings.
- Determine that none of the conditions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 that require a subsequent MND or EIR have occurred.