



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC.

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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
John Baker, Director, Planning and Development
John McInnes, Director, Office of Long Range Planning

**RE: 2009 -2010 Annual Work Program and Mid-year Report for Land Use Planning
Projects and Policy Initiatives**

The League of Women Voters has two items that we would like to see made priorities for the County Planning and Development Work Plan and the associated budget for the next fiscal year: a Plan For the Gaviota Coast and a Climate Action Strategy.

Plan For the Gaviota Coast:

For several years the League has been concerned about the lack of comprehensive planning for protection and preservation of the Gaviota Coast. We believe that the time for major planning effort to protect this important resource is now. To this end, we would like to see the initiation and work on a Gaviota Regional General Plan Element become an immediate priority for the Long Range Planning Department. We believe that the County should take full advantage of both governmental and private grants that are available to supplement existing County funds.

Climate Action Strategy:

Climate change is one of the National League of Women Voters highest action priorities. Reduction of green house gases is a state League priority. Locally we think that it is critical that the County initiate a Climate Action Strategy so that it can do its part to address these important concerns.

We concur with the staff report that a CAS will ensure compliance and understanding of the regulatory environment and facilitate the sharing of pertinent, accurate and timely information needed to meet state mandates. In addition, we want to see staff equipped to participate and engage in regional and state decision-making to enable the County to voice preferences and influence the State rule-making process for implementation of AB 32 and SB 375. Without a CAS the County will be behind the curve in dealing with how it can and needs to address the impacts of global warming.


Cathie McCammon, Land Use Consultant