

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: Marc Chytilo <marc@lomcsb.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2019 10:24 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comment Letter on Closed Session item
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Clerk – please distribute this letter to the Board members for the Tuesday 1/29/19 Board hearing, closed session

Thank you!

Marc

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

January 28, 2019

Steve Lavagnino, Chair, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor
Santa Barbara, California 93101

By Email:
sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

RE: Closed Session Item – Dangermond Preserve – Real Property Negotiations, January 29, 2019

Chair Lavagnino and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC) has monitored potential developments and activities on the Cojo/Jalama Ranch for over a decade. Late in 2017, The Nature Conservancy purchased the Cojo/Jalama Ranch and renamed it the Dangermond Preserve, honoring the contributions of Laura and Jack Dangermond to preserve this iconic ranch for the benefit of future generations.

Prior to the transfer of the land, GCC supported Cease and Desist Order CCC-17-CD-03 and Consent Restoration Order CCC-17-RO-01 (hereafter collectively “2017 Cease and Desist Order”) offered by the prior owners of Cojo/Jalama to the Coastal Commission in 2017 to address a sizable number of unpermitted development activities at Cojo/Jalama. The actions of the prior owners constituted significant violations of the County Coastal Zoning Ordinance and the Coastal Act and caused significant impacts to the ecology of the area, to coastal access and to other resources on site.

The 2017 Cease and Desist Order was crafted to redress the effects of past violations, and required the then-owners to, among other things, record an offer to dedicate in fee 36 acres of Cojo/Jalama Ranch to the County for expansion of the Jalama County Beach Park.

Jalama is an important coastal park facility that provides affordable recreational opportunities for residents throughout Santa Barbara County, in particular Lompoc. Surfing and water sports are popular at Jalama, and the County’s acquisition of the 36 acres and expansion of the Park will increase opportunities for the public. There are numerous benefits to the County from acquisition of these lands and expansion of Jalama County Beach Park, including increased public coastal access, enhanced control over the site, and opportunities for improved recreational facilities and opportunities for the public.

We urge you to direct staff to pursue the County’s acquisition of these lands. Thank you for considering our views and acting to accept this important offer to benefit residents throughout the County.


Marc Chytilo
For Gaviota Coast Conservancy

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