

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Board Letters
Subject: Goleta Beach Master Plan

From: Mike Pahos [<mailto:mixail1@cox.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 12:14 PM
To: Rauch, Jessica
Cc: anne.athanassakis
Subject: Fw: Goleta Beach Master Plan

..THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME THE NOTICE RE: THE B/S MEETING ON MARCH 18 th....please forward this letter to the board, along with any ther public comments you are sending them...it would be interesting if you advised the Board just how Goleta Beach would have endured had the proposed plan was aready constructed whn the rains came last week...thank you..

*mike pahos
682-7547*

----- Original Message -----

From: [Mike Pahos](#)
To: Voices@NewsPress.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2013 9:06 AM
Subject: Goleta Beach Master Plan

Editor:

I completely agree with the remarks of John Olson regarding the Goleta Beach Master Plan (News-Press September 4, 2013).

Several truths about this long and exhausting effort to approve a plan that would result in the destruction of Goleta Beach Park as we know it, should be emphasized for the members of the Board of Supervisors at their next hearing to discuss this plan.

A rock revetment (not a sea wall) was placed in front of the restaurant, the foot of the pier, and the restroom at the pier, in 1985 or 1986. The conditions at that time were so serious that an emergency permit from the Coastal Commission was granted. There was a 6 to 13 foot drop in the sand level in front of these facilities in that year. The revetments (not a Seawall) that were placed were 6 to 13 feet high and are now buried in the sand. Those facilities would have been lost during the winter storms that year if the revetments had not been placed. The revetments are still there, 28 years later. This is the least expensive way to save the public facilities at Goleta Beach Park which serve 1.2 million visitors a year.

Santa Barbara County has the longest coastline with the least public access of any County on the coast of California (Santa Barbara County Recreation Elements, County General Plan, 1980)

Finally, E. A. Keller, UCSB - 1-14-04, has stated: "Of utmost importance in developing a plan for Goleta Beach County Park is 'a values clarification'. It is difficult to maximize for two things; and as such we need to be clear whether we are trying to have the primary management goal to save the park or if the primary management goal is to save the beach". Well, here the issue is joined. This is a false choice. The beach cannot be "saved". It must be artificially constructed and periodically replenished - forever.

We have learned from our engineers, that 85,000 cubic yards of sand are missing from the littoral drift that passes Goleta Beach Park. That sand is trapped in Goleta Slough and its tributaries. The Park, of course, must be preserved because it is irreplaceable. The way to preserve the park is with a "hard" solution. Of the "hard" solutions that have been recommended, a rock revetment (not a sea wall) is the best solution because it has a significantly less probability of causing sand erosion than a sea wall. The on-going maintenance of a revetment (our experience tells us) will cost a hell of a lot less than the millions of dollars necessary to move all of the existing structures, above and underground, away from the sea. The cost to the recreational public of sacrificing the facilities at Goleta Beach for some vague, and untried, "planned migration of the beach" is not a solution that serves the public interest.

If, after all this time, there is still an argument about the minimal effect a rock revetment has on sandy beach erosion, as opposed to the use of a sea wall, it is because some people deliberately disguise the significant difference between the function of a "revetment" and a "sea wall" in order to provide public support for the Coastal Commission's program to avoid "armoring" of any coastal land in California. This Coastal Commission program is what has given birth to the new "managed retreat" design proposal to be established at Goleta Beach County Park. Adoption of this new and unproven design imperative will have a significant and negative effect on the recreational use of the park - forever.

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