

# **ATTACHMENT 2**

July 25, 2012

Jessica Rauch, Secretary  
Santa Barbara Co. Parks Commission  
205 East Anapamu St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
jrauch@sbparks.org

Re: Beach Fee Parking Meeting

Dear Park Commission Members,

Beach parking fees are a very bad idea for Summerland's Look Out Park. I am opposed to them, and I fully concur with the position of the Summerland Citizens Association.

Clearly, such fees will significantly impact the Summerland community, as beachgoers try to avoid the fees by parking in our little town. Look Out Park already overflows with cars parked along the road outside the crowded park many days during the summer months. Parking fees will cause our other two Summerland beaches, "middle beach" and Loon Point, to become even more pressed with visitors and cars.

The impact on beachgoers who do not have the income to support such fees is also a big concern, particularly in these tight economic times.

This is simply not a good idea.

Sincerely,

Carole Iverson

July 25, 2012

Jessica Rauch, Secretary  
Santa Barbara Co. Parks Commission  
205 East Anapamu St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

[jrauch@sbparks.org](mailto:jrauch@sbparks.org)

RE: Beach Fee Parking Meeting

Dear Park Commission Members,

I am opposed to beach parking fees at Look Out Park. I completely concur with the position of the Summerland Citizens Association. The impact to our crowded little town will be significant. The lower, central Summerland community as well as our Middle Beach, the beach access point between Lookout Park and Loon Point, will become further packed as people park there to avoid the fees. Typically, these areas are already filled up and have not enough room for existing uses.

Sincerely,

Reeve Woolpert

Please no parking fees at beaches.

1. The homeless and psychologically disabled need someplace affordable to go to maintain some peace in their lives.
2. This county is already a very expensive place to live. Every little bit of extra cost hurts.

Malinda Putnam

Santa Barbara

**From:** Gilbert Loustalot  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Subject:** BEACH PARKING FEES

Dear Mr.Parker, regarding the resurgent beach parking fee proposal, I strongly urge you abandon planning for that course of action. As you will probably see in Thursday's park commission workshop, there is a groundswell of public opposition to this troubling proposal . Thank you for your time, Gil Loustalot 4th generation S.B. County resident and taxpayer.

**From:** Craig Penner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2012 6:28 PM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** Beach Parking Fees

I strongly recommend against the proposed beach parking fees. One of the wonderful things about living in Santa Barbara is free access to the beach. It would be a shame to lose that. I also think the local neighborhoods would suffer as people would park all over the place to avoid the fee lots.

I'd much rather see my taxes go up someplace else if we need more money.

Thanks,  
Craig Penner

**From:** Patricia Hiles  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2012 7:52 PM  
**To:** Parker, Herman; Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** No parking fess at Arroyo Burro and Goleta beaches!!

Please, do NOT put parking fees at Arroyo Burro and Goleta beaches. These belong to the people and people should NOT be charged!

Patricia Hiles  
Homeowner in East Goleta valley

**From:** Michal Lynch  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2012 10:59 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Janet; Parker, Herman  
**Subject:** Beach Parking Fees proposal

PLEASE do NOT impose parking fees at our beaches!! I've lived in SB for nearly 30 years, and I treasure the times I can stop at the beach, on my way to somewhere else, just to see it for a few minutes. Since fees have been imposed at City beaches, I no longer stop there, or I don't leave my car. It is very sad to be limited in this way, with the beauty so close but not readily available to us!

We have fought hard to have free access to beaches for everyone, yet now you want to limit that. Many of us barely earn enough money to pay our bills, and need to be mindful of how we spend another \$2. We spend it on our kids, not ourselves.

----- Begin forwarded message -----

Subject: EDC Messenger: Naomi Schwartz Tribute, Shipping Lanes, Measure G, Beach Parking Fees & More  
Date: 7/24/12 4:32:02 PM

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**In This Issue** Public Tribute for Naomi Schwartz  
EDC Endorses Goleta's Measure G  
Santa Barbara County Contemplates Beach Parking Fees  
Come Hike Ormond Beach & the Santa Clara River  
IMO Approves Proposal to Move Shipping Lanes  
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**Public Tribute for Naomi Schwartz**

There will be a public tribute for Naomi Schwartz, former California Coastal Commissioner and Santa Barbara County Supervisor, on



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

From: Heidi Schulz

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 8:05 AM

To: Parker, Herman

Cc: Wolf, Janet

Subject: beach parking fees

This is a bad idea. Easy, free beach use is one of the pillars supporting our community life style and a draw for the legions of tourists descending upon us.

Take Hendry's (Arroyo Burro beach). The Boathouse restaurant was oozing patrons all this past week. That already fills the beach parking lots and the rest spills over into adjacent residential streets. Enacting fees would create even more usage of those and more distant neighborhood streets.

Our beaches are the very essence of physical, emotional and spiritual health. Please leave access to them free and available to everyone.

Heidi N. Schulz

**From:** Deane Plaister  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 9:03 AM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** Beach parking fees

Dear Mr. Parker,

I cannot attend Thursday's hearing so I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal for parking fees to be imposed on County Beaches. The beach has always provided one of the healthiest, most fun and affordable family days out and never moreso than in these difficult economic times. Beach parking fees will deter low-income families from this traditionally free activity. For those who go to the beach as a daily habit, the fees will really mount up. At some beaches where there is available nearby non-fee parking, there will be cars parked all over the place. I understand that the county is strapped and searching for revenue streams, but the amount of money collected (minus the infrastructure needed for collecting, patrolling, accounting, etc.) will not offset the ill will of taking away one of the last free outlets for family outdoor entertainment and nature appreciation. Please find other things to slap a fee on, and let the beach be free.

Thank you,

Deane Plaister

SUMMERLAND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 508  
SUMMERLAND, CA 93067

July 24, 2012

Jessica Rauch, Secretary  
Santa Barbara Co. Parks Commission  
205 East Anapamu St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Beach Fee Parking Meeting

Dear Park Commission Members,

Since the issue of beach parking fees at county parks was first raised in late 2010, the Summerland Citizens Association (SCA) has taken a proactive approach in reviewing the implications for Summerland. An SCA sub-committee was formed, and meetings have been held. Letters and proposals were sent to the County Parks Commission and to Supervisor Carbajal. A request for a formal meeting to address Lookout Park revenue options has been on the table with Parks since August, 2011. Based on the findings of its sub-committee, the Summerland Citizens Association Board does not support charging for beach parking at Lookout Park.

We believe that Summerland presents a unique situation in terms of the proposed parking fee charges and does not fall into a "one size fits all" construct for collecting beach access fees. Lookout Park, unlike any other county park, is intimately located within a community of homes and businesses. Summerland proper - where Lookout Park is situated - is characterized by closely packed business and homes on small lots, with little off-street parking. Crowded, very narrow streets already pose access problems for motorists, fire and emergency response. Currently, on summer week-ends beach overflow parking spills onto Wallace Avenue, Evans and into the post office parking lot. Parking problems will reach critical mass with completion, this summer, of the Parking and Circulation Project which among other improvements adds a bike lane along Lillie Avenue. Most recently, the Board of Supervisors approved adding additional handicap spaces along Lillie Avenue. The business community now has fewer parking spaces than they had prior to this project's implementation. Charging for parking at Lookout Park will only exacerbate the community's increasingly serious parking problems as more beach goers, hoping to avoid the fees, park for extended periods of time on Summerland's business and residential streets.

Summerland merchants stand to be heavily impacted by the imposition of such fees. Our commercial district, and the taxes it generates for the state and county, stands to lose additional revenue should parking become any more difficult than it is today. In our letter to Parks in November 2011, we suggested that a business model be developed and analyzed to determine if enough revenue could be generated from Lookout Park's 77

parking spaces in the three-month summer period to offset the initial outlay for equipment and ongoing monitoring of the parking area for compliance.

The Summerland Citizens Association request the opportunity to review the County Parks business case that outlines the costs and revenue projections associated with implementing and administering a beach parking fee program in Summerland. The SCA would also suggest that, if the business case does not already contain a 'loss of revenue factor' for Summerland business, one be applied to offset the sales tax revenues lost when customers are unable to find a place to park as a result of beach goers parking for extended periods of time in front of local businesses.

We understand County Parks need to generate revenues and the SCA Board, representing the community, is supportive of other efforts in this regard. In our November letter, we proposed several alternative revenue-generating opportunities seemingly more appropriate to the situation in Summerland. Again we will recap those suggestions:

In addition to the already-existing dog wash concession and soft drink machine, there is the possibility for:

- ❖ Concession stands for rentals or purchase of beach related items and kayaks.
- ❖ Licensed food trucks - popular fast-food options today - and easy to move in at peak times.
- ❖ Licensed surf camps, yoga and exercise or junior lifeguard classes in the park or beach.
- ❖ Promotion of the park as a fee-paid venue for weddings, reunions and parties during park hours.
- ❖ Use of the abandoned park ranger area, which offers dramatic ocean views, for fee-paid special events and/or staging area for commercial uses, including film locations and catalog shots.

The residents of Summerland have a special relationship with Lookout Park. It is heavily used for Summerland School gatherings, community potlucks, birthday parties and picnics. With limited open space available in town, Lookout Park is our de facto town park. Imposing parking fees, places an additional tax upon Summerland residents who are Lookout Park's most regular year-round users. Summerland residents and visitors should not have to pay for coastal access.

We recognize that the County must find revenue sources to keep parks available for public use. We also know that each county park has a direct impact on its surrounding neighborhood. The SCA Board suggests that beach fee parking is not the best solution for Lookout Park. The Board through its sub-committee has made it clear that we are willing to work with County Parks to determine an alternative revenue generating solution for Lookout Park that will meet the needs of both the County and the community. We request the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors – Summerland Citizens Association

County Hearing on Beach Parking  
9:30 AM  
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Hearing Room  
105 E. Anapamu St. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Name

Address

Arroyo Burro Beach Parking

- 1) Alan Road is the overflow parking for the beach
- 2) It is the only entrance and exit for 122 Homes
- 3) It is the ONLY alternative to beach parking
- 4) During Beach Days Alan Road has cars parked on both sides of the Street for blocks
  - a. We have a truce with the those who park on Alan road with a few exceptions
- 5) My concern is that Alan road will see a big increase in beach parking
- 6) Parking on Alan Road usually ends about 7-8 pm
- 7) If paid parking is put into place it will extend later and create additional noise and disturbance for the neighborhood
- 8) There is already a problem getting emergency vehicles into the neighborhood and residents out
- 9) Would like the County to work with the City, not to eliminate parking on Alan Road but to restrict the hours to before 7 pm
- 10) Some on Alan Road are asking the City for permit parking only, this would leave the beach goers with no alternative parking when the lots are full.
- 11) Instead it makes sense to limit the parking on Alan road and perhaps offer free parking in the overflow lot at the beach after 7 pm

Thank you

Andy Seybold

**From:** Karen Feeney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 8:17 PM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** beach fees

Hello Mr. Parker and Supervisor Wolf –

I understand that the County of Santa Barbara is challenged to find funding to provide necessary services and balance the budget, but I am asking that you not impose parking fees at local beaches. Our local beaches are places where families and friends can gather, everyone can enjoy the out of doors and/or exercise, and others can fish or clam. Charging a parking fee will hurt many segments of our community that cannot afford it. It will also negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods by increasing parking by people wishing to avoid the parking fee.

Please consider other measures for generating revenue that will 1) provide you with more money to balance the budget and 2) not negatively impact our lower and middle class families. Please reconsider putting a measure on the ballot to raise the county's bed tax from 10 percent to 12 percent as well as a measure to create an oil severance tax. I think that county voters will gladly vote in favor of these measures if they are clearly outlined in voter pamphlets. Sure the oil companies will fight the measure, but our county voters can see through that and make the right decisions.

I hope you will agree.

Thank you,

Karen Feeney

**From:** Elise O'Dea  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 7:24 PM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** SB County Beach Parking Fees

Dear Mr. Parker,

I am writing in regards to the proposed beach parking fees that the county will be considering tomorrow evening. Although I am in full support of the County raising money, I believe it would be unwise to place a beach parking fee at the County's beaches, particularly Goleta Beach.

As a recent UCSB grad, I know the joy students find in being able to enjoy Goleta Beach free of charge. The placement of a parking fee at Goleta Beach would not only make it more difficult for students to access this relaxing environment, but may add stress to students who wish to take their visiting families to Goleta Beach rather than to an Isla Vista beach.

Moreover, parking fees at the County's beaches may cause locals/visitors to frequent inappropriate beaches near sensitive habitat and thus cause damage to Santa Barbara's valuable natural resources.

Finally, the County should consider whether it would be appropriate to place fees on *some* of the beaches but not all of them. In the case of a compromise such as this, both the county and the people could benefit.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Elise O'Dea

**From:** Sheryl Schroeder  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2012 8:59 AM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Subject:** Important! Please read.

Dear Mr. Parker,

As a native Californian and a 26 year Santa Barbara resident I implore you to NOT impose beach fees, especially not at Hendry's Beach.

Going to the beach is one of the last free and beautiful things that I can do here in a city that I already cannot afford to own a home in.

I understand the county's need for revenue, but this is just a horrible idea. We already have the forest adventure pass... I cannot imagine having to pay to go to my favorite beaches. I will drive elsewhere.

I was born and raised on the beach and I pick up other people's trash when I leave, I leave it better than when I came. I respect the ocean and I love it.

Please, please don't let them do this. I stand firmly against beach fees and so do all of my family and friends. Going to the ocean is a born right.

We should not have to pay for it. This is a local thing, and we locals need the beach. Please, no beach fees!

I could not feel any stronger about this.

Sheryl L Schroeder  
Santa Barbara, CA



**From:** Craig Jaffurs  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Subject:** I oppose new county park beach parking fee

I oppose the imposition of new beach parking fees. I already pay for maintenance and administration of these parks via my taxes. I use these beaches (Rincon, Jalama, Arroyo Burro, Goleta) frequently and the fees will be a significant expense for me.

Craig Jaffurs  
Owner/winemaker

Jaffurs Wine Cellars

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

From: Marc Brody

Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 9:32 AM

To: Parker, Herman

Cc: Wolf, Janet

Subject: Re: Against Proposed Fee at County Beaches

Hello,

As a native of Santa Barbara, I am writing to urge that Fees are NOT charged to part or utilize Santa Barbara County Beaches. The beaches are part of a shared, cultural and environmental domain and should not be taxed or restricted.

Please oppose any beach parking fees.

Thank you,  
Marc Brody

**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** Keep Beachpark access FREE

Dear Sir,

I was not able to make the commission meeting this morning regarding Beach Parking Fees so I decided to send in an email to voice my strong opposition to these fees. I urge you and ask you to NOT enact any fees to these great public beaches!!

I am a SB native, born and raised here, and have been enjoying these parks/beaches since I was a child. Throughout those years I can honestly say that I would NOT have been able to enjoy these beautiful places if there were parking fees. Most notably when I was a young child and teen, the beach was always a place that we could go and enjoy ourselves for free. That is a really big deal to young people that don't have the funds that some adults have. I spent practically everyday at Goleta Beach during some summers growing up!

Please keep these places free of charge to help promote the healthy lifestyle that the beaches and parks promote for ALL economic classes.

Respectfully,  
Christopher Montigny

**Rauch, Jessica**

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**From:** Stephen Sorich,  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2012 5:00 PM  
**To:** Rauch, Jessica; SupervisorCarbajal; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve; Parker, Herman  
**Subject:** Proposed Parking Fees  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Purple

Hello County Supervisors and Staff, etc,

I'd like to voice my opposition to the idea of parking fees for Goleta, Arroyo Burro, Rincon etc. My family and I (as well as thousands of other locals) use these beaches and should not be charged extra taxes (aka fees) to enjoy our coast.

Thanks  
Steve Sorich

**Rauch, Jessica**

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**From:** Barbara Meijer RN  
**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** Rauch, Jessica  
**Subject:** RE: survey for public meeting on beach parking.  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Purple

Good Morning Jessica,

Due to my working schedule I am unable to attend the next public meeting in which the issue on adding parking fees to the beaches that are presently free parking. On the EdHat site a <http://> site was given where surveys could be completed for up coming public hearings.

I would very much like to fill this out. Being a RN and my husband who is severally restricted with mobility frequently go to Hendry's and Butterfly beach, and as you know off site parking is slim to none. I feel this issue is not a good decision and I know that in my house hold if this came to a public vote would mark NO to parking fees. At Hendry's there are a lot of elderly/handicap people who enjoy the beach, use of pick nick tables, etc. Parking on Cliff drive is not an option, and very dangerous.

If you could have some one email this survey to [buzzmeijer@aol.com](mailto:buzzmeijer@aol.com) I would be very apperceive.

Sincerely,

Barbara Meijer, RN

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**Rauch, Jessica**

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**From:** Robin Reese  
**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2012 10:32 AM  
**To:** Rauch, Jessica  
**Subject:** Beach Parking Fees  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Purple

Dear Park Commissioners:

I have lived in San Diego. I have lived in Los Angeles. In Santa Barbara we're fond of claiming that we don't want to follow some of the paths that our sister cities to the south have taken from the standpoint of development. For the most part parking fees are present at many of the beaches down south.

If I understand it correctly, California beaches do not belong to the property owners who are fortunate to have homes and/or businesses at the beach. They may own the buildings, but do not own the beach. Consequently, why would our county/city charge fees for citizens to park at OUR beaches? We already pay taxes that cover many issues for the beaches.

Please keep the beaches free from parking fees. Millions of citizens will thank you.

Best regards,  
Robin Reese

**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2012 3:17 PM

**To:** Parker, Herman; Wolf, Janet

**Subject:** beach fees

Hello,

I am writing as a citizen of Santa Barbara. I strongly oppose the beach fees. Not only will the means of collection detract from our beautiful beaches in terms of aesthetics, but it will completely change the atmosphere of our beaches. As someone who regularly frequents and loves Hendry's beach, the Boathouse has done enough damage. It is impossible for regular beach goers to park.

There has to be another way to collect money if the city so badly needs it. There seems to be confusion about what the collected fees will go towards. Our beaches are already wonderful. They do not need improvement, only upkeep. We live in a beautiful town and I am not ignorant to the fact that it takes money to keep it looking the way it does. I would much rather see the 75 minutes of free downtown parking taken away than beach fees imposed. I assume this would generate more money than beach fees, but would be strongly opposed by businesses. Please consider alternate sources of funding.

Thank you,  
Ty Saxby



July 27, 2012

Mr. Herman Parker  
Community Services Director  
123 E. Anapamu Street  
**RE: Proposed Beach Parking Fees**

Dear Mr. Parker

Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA) hereby strongly states our opposition to the establishment of any beach fees along the Santa Barbara coastline. Therefore, we urge you to consider Surfing, Stand Up Paddling, Wind Surfing, Kite Boarding, Kayaking and any other beach users that need unfettered access. SEA strongly believes that beach fees in these areas will create obstacles and diminish use of our beaches and ocean.

**As a preliminary matter, Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA) is committed to the preservation and protection of the environmental and cultural elements that are inherent to the sport of surfing. Our goals are achieved through grassroots activism, community involvement, education and humanitarian efforts. We engage in projects that strive to conserve the quality of our marine environment, preserve or enhance surf breaks, protect beach access rights, and safeguard the coastal surf zone from unnecessary development.**

SEA strongly urges all decision-makers to recognize and honor the public right to access our marvelous coastline without undue obstacles. Creating beach fees in these areas is not in the public interest. Please, do not attach fees to parking at our public beaches in the county.

If we may be of assistance in this matter, please contact us.

For the sea and surf,

Andrew Mencinsky, West Coast Director  
Surfers' Environmental Alliance



**From:** Sean Bronston-Wilson  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 28, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** Beach Parking Fees

Hello,

As a resident of the Mesa (93109) I wanted to voice my displeasure for the proposed parking fees at our local beaches (specifically Arroyo Burro). Given the proposed reduction of parking spots and lack of accountability for usage of collected fees (general fund contribution) I do believe this to be ill advised, dishonest and poorly planned appropriation of what will essentially be a tax levied against local residents from which we will see no direct benefits.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sean Bronston-Wilson  
Sundance eCommerce

**Rauch, Jessica**

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**From:** Donna Waggoner  
**Sent:** Monday, July 30, 2012 12:08 PM  
**To:** Rauch, Jessica  
**Subject:** FW: NO on Beach Parking Fees  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Purple

To: hparker@sbcusa.org  
CC: jwolf@co.santa-barbara.ca.us  
Subject: NO on Beach Parking Fees  
Date: Mon, 30 Jul 2012 11:26:28 -0700

Dear Mr. Parker:  
Please note that I am against charging a parking fee for County beaches. I frequent the Goleta Beach and the Beachside Cafe at the beach often as well as Hendry's. These beaches are mostly used by locals, and they are visited throughout the year. It would be a hardship to start charging to park at these beaches especially for those of us who live in Santa Barbara.

Best,  
Donna Waggoner

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Meg Gurley  
**Sent:** Monday, July 30, 2012 11:09 PM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** wolf@co.santa-barbara.ca.us  
**Subject:** Parking fees at local beaches

While I do understand the difficult position the City finds itself, as revenue streams dwindle and expenses continue to rise, I feel very strongly that imposing a parking fee at local beaches is the wrong approach. It seems that some of the other options considered but voted down by the Supervisors was short-sighted, not only the possibility an increased 'bed' tax, but more appropriately, a minor tax on each barrel of oil drawn from the Santa Barbara reserves. (Even Texas—TEXAS!--takes a 4.6% tax for every barrel extracted; Alaska imposes a fee of 50.2% and North Dakota 14.3%--see <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/budget/state-energy-revenues-update.aspx>.) Imposing a fee on oil and gas extraction seems like the most reasonable approach, and one I strongly urge you to reconsider.

But even if the City opts to bypass this obvious revenue stream, imposing a fee on residents to enjoy our local beaches should be a measure of absolute last resort. The Santa Barbara community is, overall, a healthy community, thanks to wonderful walking, hiking and biking trails, as well as free beach access where many of our residents go to walk, run, or exercise with our dogs. If fees are imposed on residents, this will be felt by lower-income residents more intensely, and will ultimately lead to a less healthy population, which, in turn, will drive up health costs. This move is ill-considered at best, and has the potential of significantly negatively impacting the overall health—both physical and mental--of our community.

When I first moved to Santa Barbara in 2004, the first place I 'discovered' was Hendry's Beach. I knew no one when I arrived, but within a few short days I met several wonderful people while walking along the beautiful coastline at Hendry's, many of whom I continue to count as dear and wonderful friends. And thanks to those connections I met the man who is now my husband. But if there had been a parking fee at that time, given my finances, I doubt that I would've gone to Hendry's more than a few times. Hendry's remains my favorite beach, and I chose to remain in Santa Barbara because of the white-washing that such a place affords. It doesn't matter if you're down to your last dime, or a multimillionaire: a beautiful beach that is accessible to all is a great equalizer, and is one of the many facets of Santa Barbara that makes this place so special.

Thanks to my husband, paying a fee to park at the beach would no longer be a 'make-or-break' scenario for me, but for many others it could mean an end to their primary outlet for working off stress, staying fit, and meeting folks from all walks of life. If the Supervisors cannot see fit to impose a minor tax on oil production, then I suggest that they float an increased tax on properties whose value exceeds \$1 million (and yes, that would affect me). Let those of us who can best afford it bear the brunt; not those of us who whose struggles to cope with the high costs of living in the area have only been exacerbated by our floundering economy. A Santa Barbara comprised of only the wealthy is not a Santa Barbara I wish to be part of.

In summary, I truly believe that is imperative that Santa Barbara continue to offer free parking for beach access, as doing otherwise will both negatively impact the health of our community, and will draw a line between those of us who can afford such fees, and those of us who cannot. We all know and understand the challenges the City faces but imposing a beach parking fee is the dead-wrong approach. Please reconsider and remove this option from your list of considerations.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Meg Gurley

**From:** The Koeds  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 31, 2012 7:51 AM  
**To:** Parker, Herman  
**Cc:** Wolf, Janet  
**Subject:** Beach Fees

Dear Mr. Parker,

As a Mesa resident since 1972 my family and I have been using the Hendry's Beach with FREE PARKING since that time. I urge you to keep beach access FREE! I am also aware of how many people, including myself, use Goleta Beach and Rincon. Please KEEP IT FREE!

Sincerely,  
Janet Koed

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

From: Steve Shelp

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 6:31 PM

To: Parker, Herman

Subject: Beach use fees

Please use some good judgement and stop thinking of charging people to use the beach.

Keep the beaches free. In our constantly taxed and regulated world the beach is one of the last

places we can go to get away from it all. Steve Shelp

**Rauch, Jessica**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2012 8:19 AM  
**To:** Rauch, Jessica  
**Subject:** Beach Parking Fees

To: Santa Barbara Parks Commission  
Re: Beach Parking Fees

Please read into the record.

Esteemed Commissioners,

As the former Director of the County Parks Department, I am intimately aware of the fiscal challenges that have plagued the organization for over 5 years. In my tenure with the County, we were proactive and creative in addressing reduced budgets while increasing and developing popular programs and absorbing cuts without having to lay off staff. During that time, beach parking fees were initially discussed.

At that time, fees were discussed in the context of generating revenue to offset the cost of the beach preservation plan for Goleta Beach. Now, with Goleta Beach 2.0 as the official plan for the beach, I am not aware of any plan that exists that will address the cost of implementing this plan, which I believe is in excess of \$8 million. Initial fee discussions focused on Goleta and Hendry's Beach only with revenues generated by these fees used to implement this plan and assist in operational costs for the Parks Department. From what I now understand, parking fees are being discussed for all County beaches with the revenues going into the General Fund.

My questions and comments relate to the impacts this will have for many communities. Summerland for example. Fees will only push traffic into already congested streets that are in close proximity to the beach. Surf Beach access is also an Amtrak stop. How can the County charge for parking for those taking the train? Is the loss of parking at Goleta Beach due to GB 2.0 taken into account in the revenue projections? How about loss of revenue for the beach concessions at Hendry's and GB? Butterfly Beach will be significantly impacted with traffic and crowds since there is no way to charge for parking there and those that can't afford parking and wanting to drink on the beach will have this as their only option. With the County Beaches being the only ones that allow alcohol, you will see an increase in alcohol related activities there. Finally, the County budget challenges is structural in nature with the next fiscal year projected at \$16-19 million deficit. Fees will not come anywhere near close to solving this problem.

I would humbly suggest that fees be limited to Hendry's and Goleta Beach with accommodations for those going to the restaurants. Fees be designated to a special fund to be used to pay for the implementation of 2.0 with remaining funds placed into a capital account for needed park improvements such as the access road to Toro Canyon Park, road to Guadalupe Dunes, etc. These two improvements alone were projected to cost in excess of \$650,000 in 2010. Lastly, include a sunset clause of 8-10 years with any extension requiring a ballot measure of the County residents to extend. Such a recommendation by the Commission to the Board of Supervisors would be a good compromise and show independence and leadership by Commissioners. Short of that, I would respectfully ask the Commission to not recommend increases.

Daniel C. Hernandez MPA

**From:** Julian Dean  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 08, 2012 2:41 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Janet; SupervisorCarbajal  
**Subject:** Parks Commission hearing Wednesday 8-8-12

Dear Janet and Salud,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara for many decades. Please know that I **strongly object to the proposal to charge parking fees at any of the beaches in Santa Barbara.** Please take my objection to the meeting tonight at 5:30. I will be working and cannot be there in person.

Please let me know if there is anything else I need to do to have my vote counted.

Thank you,

Julian Dean

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

From: Ann Brode

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 8:18 AM

To: sbcob

Subject: parking fees

to the Boad of Supervisors and the Parks Commission:

one of the very lovely things about living in and visiting Santa Barbara is the access to our beaches. Arroyo Burro Beach , in particular, is one o f the true beach gems in the world. To put any parking fee collection mechanism in place on these beaches is a travesty and, I believe , unnecessary. Tax something else...like gasoline or carbon useage to get the money...or maybe have a voluntary donation method where people can contribute to the maintenance and beauty of our beaches. NO PARKING METERS...PLEASE!

sincerely,

Ann Brode



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

From: Elizabeth Ann Robinson

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 8:21 AM

To: sbcob

Subject: please vote "no" on Santa Barbara Beach parking fees

To The Board of Supervisors

Regarding proposed parking fees for beaches in Santa Barbara

Please keep parking for the beaches free so we may continue to enjoy our hometown beaches off the clock.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Robinson, RN, PhD

Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2012 9:39 AM  
To: sbcob  
Subject: PARKING FEES AT THE BEACHES

Hello-

I would like to voice my objection to the imposition of parking fees at the beaches in Santa Barbara. I realize that the city would like to raise money due to deficits but this is a punishing way to levy such a "tax" on local residents who enjoy these public areas.

Please do not institute fees at the beaches!  
sincerely,  
Barbara Green  
SB city resident

**Sent:** Thursday, August 09, 2012 1:03 PM

**To:** sbcob

**Subject:** Parking Meters

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to let you know that I am against the installation of parking meters in Santa Barbara. I am a long time resident (moved from Los Angeles in 1980) and I have witnessed many changes in our city. I hope parking meters won't be included in the changes.

I spend time in Los Angeles and there has recently been an increased installation of parking meters. First of all, they are ugly. Secondly, they make going anywhere, doing anything quite difficult.

I encourage a "NO" to parking meters in Santa Barbara!

Thank you,  
Georganne Alex

Dear Salud, Janet, Doreen, Joni, and Steve,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara for most of my life and want you to know that I **strongly object to the proposal to charge parking fees at any of the beaches in Santa Barbara**. Please take my objection to the meetings on August 16th and 23rd. It is bad enough to have any kind of parking Pass but at least a pass gives you a right to park and relax but if you are thinking of putting parking meters in well you better really think about your job security as a permit to park is bad enough but meters so we can only worry about getting a parking ticket while trying to relax is absurd!!!

I will vote against any member that votes for a meter over a pass and a pass is pretty offensive.

Robert Postel  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

To; Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

RE; Parking Fees at Beaches

Date; July 25, 2012

Adding parking fees to any public beach as a way to balance the county checkbook is wrong. Families need free beach access now more than ever! Local hard working families can least afford a new fee!

- **Local families desperately need free beaches for recreation!**  
**This fee is nothing more than a tax on hard working families!**
- **Any decisions on fees at Beaches should be made by taxpayers in a voting booth, not Parks staff looking for additional money!**
- **Hard working families that pay County property taxes pay their fair share of taxes for the right to have access to their beach. This is a double tax on families who live here year round and pay property taxes!**
- **If you advance parking fees ... Issue free beach parking passes to residents who live year round and pay property tax!**

The County needs to stop spending money you don't have!

I use Goleta beach 1-2 times a week to watch a sunset or walk the pier. I am a native and have used Goleta Beach for 57 years! Justify why you need more money to walk on same beach!

If the County cannot make the beach books balance, hand Goleta Beach Park in its entirety (including the Beachside) to the City of Goleta and let them do it! It's Goleta's Beach, "Our free family beach place in Goleta".

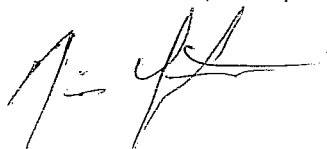
It's an insult that the County, not City of Goleta... gets tax revenue money from the Beachside Restaurant!

Now the County wants fees for Goleta's residents to use our own beach?

I oppose this fee proposal and think Santa Barbara County Supervisors will be held accountable for any fees to access Goleta Beach Park, or any County managed public beach parks!

Sincerely,

Tim Lawton



I've heard that the supervisors are considering placing parking meters on Cabrillo and as a long-time Santa Barbara citizen, I must object. Over the years, I've enjoyed many relaxing hours at the beach and 'soccer field' section of Cabrillo. Having parking meters in this area only reflects the recent desperate and avaricious character of our town. Having meters in a business district makes more sense but placing them in a leisure zone is especially oppressive to locals who only wish to enjoy their hometown in peace. This also discourages lower-income citizens from the use of these lands. If you need to raise more funds, please target tourism such as hotel bed taxes or restaurant taxes.

Thank You,  
Steve Fields

Dear Salud, Janet, Doreen, Joni and Steve,

I have owned a home on the Mesa since 1980 and have recently moved to Mission Canyon while still keeping that Mesa house. I enjoy walking on the beach and meeting friends for leisurely strolls off the clock at Hendry's beach. I do not want to have to watch the clock and be subjected to fees and fines to enjoy this privilege. I hope you will count my strong objection to the proposal to charge for parking at the Aug. 16th and 23rd meetings. If you must charge perhaps you can consider an exemption for homeowners who already pay taxes.

Sincerely,

Janet Lengsfelder

Dear Salud, Janet, Doreen, Joni, and Steve,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara for many years and want you to know that I strongly object to the proposal to charge parking fees at any of the beaches in Santa Barbara. Please take my objection to the meetings on August 16th and 23rd. I will be working at those times and cannot be there in person.

Please let me know if there is anything else I need to do to have my vote counted.

Thank you,

*Jesse Somers*



8-12-12

Dear Doreen, Janet, Joni, Salud and Steve,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara for over 7 years. I very much enjoy walking on the local beaches for regular exercise as do many, many Santa Barbara residents. I understand the city needs money, however, I disagree with this proposal to charge parking fees at the local beaches.

There must be other revenue-raising ideas that will not cause such an unhappy impact for those of us who look forward to enjoying the seashore without having to pay a parking fee.

thank you,  
Kathy King

To the Board of Supervisors

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara for over 30 years and in the course of all these years have enjoyed access to all the public beaches without having to pay a parking fee. Please note my strong objection to implement parking fees at these public beaches which would most likely cause hardship to a large number of residents/families. I would appreciate your taking my objections to the Board meetings on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Marian von Metzger

Supervisors,

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opposition to the implementation of parking fees at Santa Barbara County Beaches. Our beaches and oceans are an invaluable public resource that should be accessible to all. Parking fees, in any amount, will prohibit a portion of the population from traveling to, and enjoying many beaches.

I urge you to consider the importance of public access and I hope you choose to keep parking at Santa Barbara County free to all. Thank you for your consideration.

Kristen Hislop  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Hello,

Just a note to tell you how strongly I feel about keeping beaches FREE.

They belong to the public already - if there is upkeep - which should be minimized, that is covered by taxes. If someone has mismanaged funds (again) we should not look to citizens who want to enjoy nature to pick up the brunt. No one has the right to charge money for going to the beach...especially the government!

This is an abomination, and I would ask you to not even consider such a scandalous thought.

It is so sad we have to fight to prevent this - when there is so much other work to be done.

Thank you,

Dawn OBrien

I am writing to oppose the new potential parking fees for County Parks. A year ago I gave up my job so that I could stay at home with my new baby. This makes it very hard for our family to afford to live in Santa Barbara county! I'm hoping to continue taking my baby to the beaches so I can teach him an appreciation for the coastal environment. If parking fees were imposed this would prevent me from being able to take him there. It would also prevent our playgroups from meeting at such locations because most of us have no surplus funds for parking. Rent & gas are already a burden.

Please find other ways to fund the county parks rather than imposing parking fees. I think that this really inhibits coastal access to Santa Barbara County residents who already pay enough fees.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Amy Musante Goerke

**Open letter to all SB county supervisors:**

**Please do not impose parking or day use fees at our beaches. Less bureaucracy is needed, not more. It is getting more difficult to provide a living & support my family as it is. Don't make it harder!**

**How much county funding is spent on the vagrants who cost the county untold sums of money due to loss of tourism & sales tax dollars? I know this for a fact because I own a business on State St in SB & hear it from the tourists (who go home & tell everybody!) as well as the locals who've decided they don't like coming downtown anymore.**

**Thank you!**

--

Joe Schweke

Hello,

I will be out of town at a conference and cannot come to the meeting on Thursday. Please, do not begin charging for parking at the beach. Santa Barbara is so expensive to live in as is. Many of us live in tiny apartments and spending time outside at the beach is a priority. It is a joy for me to stop at Goleta beach while I'm driving home from work, or to pile in the car with family to enjoy a day at Hendry's. I have taken the bus to the beach before, and I often take the bus to work. I understand using MTD is also an alternative to parking, but most of the time it is just not convenient, and at \$1.75 a ride is not that cheap either. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Alison Crossley

--

Alison D. Crossley

I will be unable to attend the planning commission meeting where this proposal will be discussed, so I would like to register my sentiments regarding the parking fee via this email. As a regular user of the Guadalupe Dunes park I am not in favor of an entrance fee. I use the park on average 4 or 5 times per month, and more often in the summer and fall. As the closest and only accessible beach in the Santa Maria/ Guadalupe area, I feel such fees would only serve to deprive many north county residents of the many recreational opportunities that the park provides. Personally I could justify an annual fee such as the one charged at Jalama Beach park, but I also know that many users of Guadalupe Dunes are not in the financial position to afford that. By pricing people out of their county parks, we are limiting educational opportunities for people who have no other way of experiencing the local dune/beach/riparian habitat. What a loss for families with children. I urge the commission to explore other options that will keep our county parks accessible to all.

Sincerely,  
Mark Campbell



Jessica Rauch  
Santa Barbara County Parks

Jessica Rauch,

I am writing to express my families strong objection to placing fees on parking at the county beaches. It is our belief that the fees would drive beach access to other locations such as downtown Summerland, Isla Vista, Santa Claus lane, Miramar, Butterfly, Biltmore, Mesa Lane , Shoreline Park neighborhood. While not clarified in your report the city of santa barbara has many free access points including the ledbetter lot for much of the year.

We would quit frequenting the restaurants at AB and Goleta. We would not attend environmental educational programs and events at Arroyo Burro. We would no longer show up for beach cleanups which we have done for over 15 years.

We believe that the estimates in the staff report of a net gain of \$700,000 are VERY optimistic and not attainable. The County Parks tried charging fees at Goleta Beach in the late 1970's after Prop. 13 was put into effect and it was quickly shut down as the costs far exceeded the projections. Furthermore, who would enforce these parking programs. The Park Rangers have been reduced and would 2 FTE contract workers be able to cover Guadalupe Dunes to Rincon 365 days a year and have legal authority to issue citations?

It would seem that there are better ways to close the gap in revenues. We would very much support raising the bed tax to 12%, as residents of the city of santa barbara we have seen the growth in occupancy tax revenues. Increase the oil excise tax. Look for more cuts in operating costs.

We hope you reconsider these fees.

Thank you the Housh Family

John Housh  
Tish Pritchard

J. Rauch  
Executive Secretary

August 14, 2012

I would like to express my opposition to the beach fee proposal. I would also like answers for the following questions:

1. To avoid the fee, many persons will attempt to park in the adjacent neighborhoods. This will result in attempts to restrict parking there by requesting special permits. Permit enforcement may require additional staff to process permits and will surely require more visits from parking enforcement staff. Has this been considered in the cost of the operations?
2. Will there be a charge for bicycles? Construction of bicycle posts will be an added expense. Has this been factored into the costs?
3. A fee would probably discourage volunteer activity. Work being done by volunteers would have to be replaced by paid staff. How many staff hours will be required to replace this free labor?
4. If parking meters are to be used, have they been tested in a beach environment with consideration of the effects of salt air corrosion? Has vandalism in similar beach communities been considered? Has the County Parks department factored in future maintenance costs for equipment to be installed?
5. For the Arroyo Burro Beach, has the commission considered the option of allowing parking on Los Positas or Cliff Drive for persons who do not wish to pay for parking?
6. Has the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition been involved in the planning process?
7. Are any funds collected through beach fees directed to improving the quality of the beach experience either directly or through such entities that seek to improve water quality such as water flows from creeks? If not, why not?
8. Is there any funding to increase public transportation to these beaches beyond that which is currently scheduled?
9. Should there be an environmental impact report on this project? Is the cost of even preparing a negative declaration being factored in the initial capital costs?

I think the Parks Commission should be prepared to answer these questions before proceeding on this project. At the very minimum, if this project is approved, fees collected should go directly to beach maintenance and improvement and not put into a general county fund or the even the general Parks Commission budget.

As an aside, it was not clear where the various Park Commisioners districts are. I would like to know who represents the district for my address. Please advise me of this or indicate where I can find that information on your website

Lowell J. Miller

Please this is my only life pleasure with walking my dogs. Its my favorite thing about Santa Barbara. Please please do not tax us for our little pleasures. Find another way to get the money or cut back on the excessive government waste. No to parking fees. No to becoming like LOS Angeles. The middle class is being squeezed to death. We have no more blood to give!!!!

Karen Lockett

To the Parks Commission, Jessica Rauch, and every member,

I am a native Californian, a 30 year Santa Barbara resident and an avid beach user. I am writing you to let you know just how much I oppose the beach fees that the county is considering.

I am not affiliated with any group, I am an individual citizen who uses the beach every day.

The beaches here are among some of the last precious free beaches in the state. Santa Barbara should not change this. I walk my dog at Hendry's daily and if the beach fees are imposed I will have to go elsewhere. I doubt that the fees will actually improve the beach, they will just get sucked into the black hole of the county budget, never to be seen or appreciated by the residents who actually USE the beach!

If the fees are imposed:

Will there be regular beach clean up?

Will they get the ugly seaweed off the beach like they do in other cities like San Diego?

Will we get cement fire pits supplied by the city so we can have legal beach campfires like in other cities?

Will we see more lifeguards, police presence? Will there be NO PARKING or time limit parking signs along the outer laying streets to prevent people

like me from trying to find a free place to park so we are forced to use the fee lots?

I doubt we will see ANY of the above improvements, we will only be taxed a fee to use the beach that should be free.

*I cannot emphasize it strongly enough to let you know how utterly against this I am and all the beach users I know are. I implore the parks commission to leave the beach free!*

The city makes plenty of money from parking, hotel bed, taxes and other fees, a family friend just got a ticket at our house for parking overtime in the street cleaning zone and the street cleaners *never even came that day!* The last thing we need is to have to pay to use what God gave us naturally, the ocean.

I cannot attend the meeting on Thursday because I have to work that night, but please know that there are hundreds of others like me out here who OPPOSE these considered fees *vehemently!* Please listen to the people, the locals! --- The ones who actually use the beaches. NO FEES!

Sheryl L Schroeder

Dear Parking Commission,

My name is Seth de Roulet and I have been a Summerland resident for the last 10 year. Parking around town is almost all street parking and I fear that if you were to start charging for parking at loon point and other beaches the weekend beach goers would park up in town and on the hill to avoid paying the parking fees. This directly impact the community in a negative way and I think for the small amount of revenue you would generate it would not be worth it. I also fear for the local businesses like the Bikini Factory who depend on beach traffic to sustain their business. With parking fees a lot of beach goers are going to choose a free beach over having to pay which is going to decrease the amount to tourist and local traffic.

The second reason I think that these parking fees should no be imposed is that I am a professional surf photographer and I use the parking lots and Guadalupe Dunes, Arroyo Burro, Loon Point, and Rincon on a regular basis since they are some of the premier waves along our coastline. These surf spots are cultural gathering places for all of California. On a good swell day I see people gather from San Diego to San Francisco in these parking lots and share the tribal aspect of Surf culture. If the public had to pay I feel that these gatherings would affected in a negative way. I also feel that it might detract these same people from making a "trip" to Rincon which in turn takes valuable tourist dollar away from the local economy. Please think of the bigger picture leave parking and beach access free to the public.

Thank you,  
Seth de Roulet

Hello,

I am a third generation Santa Barbaran, raised and have lived in Summerland for most of my life. I strongly oppose the proposed beach parking fees and urge and beg you not to approve this. The level of service most require at the beach, is unrelated to the concept of what Parks is selling. Leave the asset alone. Leave access unfettered. It is an investment in the health of a Community, in a time of great repression and loss. We have to pay for everything else....let us enjoy the freedom of the ocean without having it cost us more money. Please do not degrade the civil welfare of a Community by leveling a tax, which affects those who can least afford to pay it. In doing that, you would degrade the value which exists, which allows for the service class to have some recreation and ultimately happiness in a very fiscally challenging town to live in. It sets a bad tone, it is a violation of your obligation to manage the vital civic assets which make Santa Barbara County the crown jewel that it has been for generations. It should be kept this way for future generations. The community deserves unfettered access to the asset, as stake holders. To deny access that was vetted and paid for prior via use and property taxes constitutes a theft of sorts.

I greatly thank you for your time and consideration on this topic. It is of the utmost import to the local beach users.

Sincerely,

Richard Cenen Aparicio

Dear Commission,

I apologize for not being able to make it to the meeting as this was certainly a high priority for me, however today is my girlfriend's birthday.

I surf, am 30 years old and a 12 year resident of Santa Barbara County having moved from Goleta to Santa Barbara and back.

There is a feeling when one travels to the beach of being free from the constraints of close community living and is important for the health and well-being of many community members. Adding layers of bureaucracy, enforcement and expense severely degrades this experience for everybody, especially those who have to worry about additional expenses in their personal budgets. The beaches in this county are and should be our most treasured and special possession and as such they should all be accessible to everyone in some form and within reason.

I am highly opposed to having any more beach parking fees or increasing the fees at current county beaches such as Jalama, which I assume may all come under the fold of a county annual pass which would no doubt increase in price with more locations being added. This, after almost doubling in the last few years (at least for Triple 'A' members).

I think it is already a travesty that there is no way to access Jalama beach without first paying an exorbitant amount in parking and I would hate to see that spread to even more local county beaches. I mean, Jalama is literally surrounded by completely empty land, and nobody is asking for free beach-front parking. I am simply talking about access. A dirt lot and a trail. When the economy gets better maybe we can pave it. I believe we also lost public parking at Refugio beach due to a decision by county supervisors last year. I really don't understand this and I'd like to see it go in the other direction for a change. Please instead consider simple, inexpensive solutions for increasing access at county beaches in the future.

Sincerely,

Dan Perrine



Dear Park Commission Members,

I strongly oppose the proposed parking fees at our local beaches. As a resident of Summerland, I concur with the Summerland Citizens Association's position that charging fees at Look Out Park and Loon Point will have a negative impact on our town. Currently, there is already a lack of public parking for the businesses on Lillie Avenue and the narrow residential streets can hardly handle the overflow. While advocating for a neighbor with a disability who required a specific parking space nearest his home I have witnessed and been involved in several confrontations due to overflow parking from local restaurants on our residential streets. The impact of adding more overflow parking from beach-goers who will want to avoid the parking fees but stay at the beach all day will be very detrimental.

I provide behavior therapy for children with autism and respite for their families. I barely make enough money to cover my costs and travel expenses as it is, but I am dedicated to the families I work with and believe that community based instruction is vital to the development of these children. Therefore, I am always looking for free opportunities for my clients to interact with their peers. I often take the children and teens I work with to Rincon beach to "hang out" with the surfers and have time to relax and enjoy the waves & sand without a structured focus on therapy. I have found that the beach is one of nature's most soothing and effective tools to use with these individuals. If the proposed parking fees go into effect I will no longer be able to afford to give them this experience. Please keep our beaches free!

Sincerely,

Kelly Linhart de Roulet

Hello

I hope the City of Santa Barbara will not repeat this financial fiasco.....

## San Pedro, Wilmington (California) welcome removal of parking meters

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0814-parking-meters-20120814,0,1752219.story>

best regards,  
Kathy King

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## San Pedro, Wilmington welcome removal of parking meters

Business owners in both neighborhoods lobbied City Hall, arguing that the meters and parking rate hikes have cut into their sales and cost jobs. Some of the meters will be used elsewhere in L.A.

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Diane Odom of the L.A. Department of Transportation carries a parking meter removed on Pacific Avenue in San Pedro. Hundreds of meters will be removed at the request of business owners. (Don Bartletti, Los Angeles Times / August 13, 2012)

By David Zahniser, Los Angeles Times  
August 14, 2012 | 2:09 a.m.

City Hall has been squeezing every penny out of Los Angeles motorists in recent years, approving hundreds of new parking meters and repeatedly jacking up parking fines.

But one corner of Los Angeles has managed to buck the tide, convincing the City Council not just to remove hundreds of meters but to reduce rates by up to half on the machines that remain.

On Monday, San Pedro civic leaders conducted a ceremonial parking meter beheading to celebrate an extraordinary victory: the removal of 645 parking meters in their

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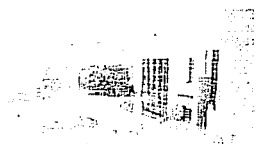
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be doubled, from one hour to two.

The Harbor area retreat on parking meters and fees comes just weeks after council members voted to hike parking fines for the sixth time in seven years. And though San Pedro and Wilmington will be losing meters, other neighborhoods will be getting more.

Additional meters are planned for Westchester and Palms, where business owners have complained that motorists tie up parking spots all day.

Buscaino said his colleagues have already approached him about installing the surplus meters in their districts.

<http://www.latimes.com>

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community and nearby Wilmington.

The campaign to remove the meters was launched in 2009, after Los Angeles officials — urgently looking for cash — quadrupled the cost of parking in downtown San Pedro, from 25 cents to a dollar an hour. The backlash from merchants and neighborhood leaders was strong and swift. The change was driving away customers in the middle of a recession, they argued.

"The city gets quite a lot of money from writing tickets and philosophically, it doesn't want to lose that," said Andrew Silver, owner of the Whale & Ale in San Pedro. "I understand that it brings money into the city. But it's disastrous in terms of generating more retail sales, more sales tax revenue and more employment."

The protests quickly reached then-Harbor area Councilwoman Janice Haba, who has since been elected to Congress. Parking meters became an issue in the election this year to replace her, with the top candidates pledging to address merchant complaints.

The area's new councilman, Joe Buscaino, has worked to eliminate hundreds of less frequently used meters on the outskirts of the San Pedro and Wilmington business districts. The city would lose only \$45,000 per year by dumping the meters, once reduced maintenance costs are considered, he argued.

Buscaino said his district was competing with other communities — Torrance, Long Beach and Rancho Palos Verdes, among others — where parking is offered free at shopping malls and elsewhere. "We're surrounded by business-friendly cities, and one of the reasons people weren't spending money were the parking meter rates," he said.

Buscaino's initiative also cut the rates of the remaining meters in downtown San Pedro from one dollar to 75 cents an hour in some places and 50 cents in others. Parking also will be free in two city-owned lots, and the amount of time shoppers and others can leave vehicles at metered spaces will

the color purple



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**SENATOR RAND PAUL**

"SIGN THE RIGHT TO WORK PETITION OBAMA FEARS"

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RDC90254 at 1:47 PM August 14, 2012

As borgcube1 points out in an earlier post, I always thought the primary purpose of parking meters was to keep people from hogging spaces all day so that others could park and shop. I'm glad to see the meters go -- they're a real PITA here in the south bay as I never seem to have enough quarters. But what will be done to assure that jerks don't park their cars all day in our shopping districts? When I have an appointment for a haircut, to get my dog groomed, to see my dentist, or a reservation at my favorite restaurant, I'd like to think I have some chance of finding a place to park without arriving an hour early. Perhaps meter maids (meter-less maids?) can simply mark tires and come by every hour or two, ticketing those cars that haven't been moved.

roytorgers at 12:51 PM August 14, 2012

I want to go out at night a cut the heads off myself, when there is no one around through all the business area of the valley. If one person, would do this a day. We could be stopped being robbed by the people in office and the traffic control people who don't do squat anyway!

Helpful One at 12:16 PM August 14, 2012

Taxes raise revenue for public good.  
Fees solely support the service used by payees.  
Fines are to discourage poor behavior.  
Any fee or fine with the purpose of raising revenue is proof of public corruption. Such fees and fines are an intentionally unfair tax. This corruption has become rampant.  
Governments have a long life so they have the ability to save tax revenue each year building reserves. Needed infrastructure and core services could be paid for with reserves avoiding foolish interest expense. Interest rates will rise dramatically at some future point causing more financial failure. This will lower the standard of living of everyone.  
This lowering of our standard of living is a direct result of corrupt and incompetent politicians.

*Comments are filtered for language and registration is required. The Times makes no guarantee of comments' factual accuracy. Readers may report inappropriate comments by clicking the Report Abuse link next to a comment. Here are the full legal terms you agree to by using this comment form.*

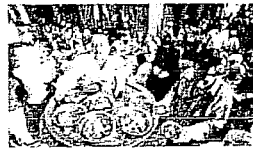
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Hi,

I would like to voice my opposition to the implementation of beach parking fees.

Hendry's and Goleta beach are two very easy to access beaches, used by many who simply are unable to walk up and down the 241 steps at mesa lane or pay for parking at campus point. These two beaches also happen to be at either end of a 6 mile stretch of coastline that is not accessible to the public except at these two points. If parking fees are levied on beach users, many who frequent the free access to the beach and ocean will be unable to continue to do so. The irony is that there will still be free beach parking for residents of the exclusive More Mesa Shores and Hope Ranch communities who can no doubt afford these fees.

The beach is one of the things most treasured by Santa Barbara and Goleta residents, please don't limit our access to it.

Thank you for your time,

Waiman Meinhold

Dear Ms. Rauch,

As a long time citizen of Santa Barbara, I am writing to oppose the effort to raise or levy any fees for using our county beaches.

I understand that economic times are difficult but the beaches are too important of a public domain and for use by those of use who are hardest hit by the economic downtown.

Please oppose any measures to increase taxes, fees or use charges for our county beaches.

Thank you,  
Marc Brody  
Santa Barbara, CA

PLEASE NO FEES!

Sent from my iPhone



PLEASE NO FEES!

Jason Lesh

No fees for beaches!

Shepherd Farms

Hello,

I just wanted to say that I am REALLY against proposed parking fees at our beaches. I am a Summerland native and love our beaches and having parking fees, signs, kiosks, charges etc. will not go over with the residents who pay large property taxes and rent and then have to drive down the street and pay again to go to their own beach. Rincon, Hendry's.....Loons.....are you kidding me? There is NO WAY we are going to let you put a barrier between us and the beach. Period. Sorry you have to hear this as it's not your fault but you are in the firing line so here goes.

This is a beach town. People of all economic levels need access to the beach. What if they only have six dollars at the end of the month are you going to deny them going to the beach? I think we pay enough in property taxes, high food costs, high rent costs etc. that you could spare us your hand sticking out for money when we arrive at the beach.

What about visitors from out of town? Are you going to make it so they don't want to come here? Great support for a town that relies heavily on tourism. What a quick, knee jerk reaction to not balancing your own books. Take a look at San Luis Obispo and see how they handled the recession. They made the needed changes and reductions without charging it's citizens more fees in a crisis and we all know what that means. Don't make us go to town on this.

Our backs are against the wall. We aren't going anywhere. This is our town, our home and our beaches. We will defend free access to our beaches passionately.

Tony de Groot

Dear Supervisors and others,

I cannot attend tomorrow's meeting but I **IMPLORE** you **NOT** to let Santa Barbara County turn into LA County by charging for parking at our parks and beaches ! **NATURE WAS MEANT TO BE FREE!**

I know you need money, so do !! But please, there are so few things in life that are free now and our beautiful beaches, parks and forests **SHOULD NOT** cost us money!!! People will just park in neighborhoods and congest the area than pay the fees!

If this becomes law I will give up on the leadership of this County and the direction you take us! Please don't do it!

Respectfully,

Sue Sadler-Pare'  
SB County resident since 1982

Hi Jessica,

I emailed this to the five supervisors:

Dear Supervisor --,

The proposed new parking fees at County beaches are inappropriate in that they disproportionately impact the least affluent members of our community. Children in particular are suffering from Nature Disorder, a failure to experience, understand and connect with nature. Beaches are one of the best places for people of all classes to recreate. (As in Re Create) In an economy of vanished vacation budgets this becomes a particularly cruel tax.

I would further point out how quickly The Board gave away millions to hotels in forgone bed taxes, a fiscally nasty precedent that other hotel projects will undoubtedly be entitled to. Bailing out Montecito developers at County beach goes expense is both abusive and elitist.

Our beaches are cleaned regularly, some daily (Hendry's) by disjointed, anonymous people such as myself as well as organized volunteers and court ordered public service. The vast majority is volunteer and costs the County trash bags and dumpster fees at most. I personally remove 1/4-1/2 ton of debris from Hendry's beach annually. If I have to pay for parking the trash tongs and hauling lines go in the closet. Other people can pay to visit a trashed beach or the County can pay to clean it.

Sincerely,

Joshua C. Vaughan

Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Hope we prevail,

Josh

Hi,

My name is Ben Mottau and I am a SB resident and a surfer, and I wanted to voice my opinion about the proposed beach fees in SB County.

1. I oppose their implementation
2. I think SB public beaches are an invaluable public good
3. I think charging \$8 is unfair and will just push people to park in unsafe places and cause undo traffic congestion and other issues

I think \$8 is quite steep for the day use of SB beaches, it's what State Parks charge and I think it ends up as more of an impediment than anything else. I recognize there is a cost of maintaining beaches and those who use them should not necessarily be able to ride on the funding of everyone else, but in our county, I would argue, most use the beach or benefit in some way.

I would love to avoid having to pay any fee at all, period, but understand pressures to get revenue any way possible. Taking the free access away from those who are strapped financially is unfair, and the beach is one of the last "free" options for people to enjoy. At Rincon in particular, you could even see people starting to park on the street and then walking in, making those cars prime for vandalism and theft that the lots help prevent.

I think the following are the potential alternatives, and list them in my order of preference:

1. No fees
2. Any fee scenario needs to include the option for an annual pass at a reasonable rate of at most \$100/year
3. Any daily charge should be capped at \$2/day like at C Street - must have that annual pass

An annual pass has the added benefit of the County essentially getting an upfront loan and makes budgeting easier to gauge, as well as provide the opportunity for you to make money on the float if properly invested.

Many thanks,  
Ben

To whom it may concern,

I am Carpinteria girl and have been going to this beaches since I can remember. Please DON'T charge us the Fee of \$8.00. I think we all do our part in paying our taxes so we keep our beautiful ocean free of charge because this is not OC. There are many many families who cant afford the \$8.00 fee Please dont do this to them and their children. How would you feel if one of the families were yours?

Alma Billgren

Jessica Rauch,

I strongly urge you to abandon your consideration of imposing parking fees on the proposed beaches.

As a resident of Summerland we use the beaches practically on a daily basis and would find fees financially prohibitive.

The beach has always represented a place of freedom and sanctuary and imposing fees would greatly inhibit our freedom and access to open space. As a resident already paying property taxes for the maintenance of public facilities I consider the fee to be double taxation.

I would suggest finding other resources like increased bed taxes on hotels for your shortfall in funds.

One other thought might be to issue a resident pass that would allow free use of the beach to card holders while imposing a modest fee to non-residents.

Sincerely,

Richard Aber



THE BEACHES ARE FOR EVERYONE, RICH OR POOR. NO FEES TO USE OUR BEACHES.

WE DON'T NEED A BUNCH OF FANCY IMPROVEMENTS. WE ALREADY PAY ENOUGH TAXES AND FEES.

Dear Ms. Rauch and County Supervisors,

I oppose instituting fees on county residents for use of county parks. Please find another way to cover your costs by reducing your expenditures or attracting revenue. Have you really explored all creative avenues to avoid assessing the residents? Ex: Volunteers? Adopt a park? Corporate sponsorship? Advertising on the trash cans or information kiosks? A county park "club" membership fee? I can afford to pay a fee dollars to use the parks but many others cannot, and that's not the main point. I hope you can figure out how to take care of your services without adding another financial burden on the residents.

Because it is said so well I will conclude with quoting part of the Santa Maria Times: [if you must collect fees} " ... the system should include an efficient way to identify county residents, who would be admitted either free or at a significantly reduced rate. Charge a higher rate to the Los Angelenos and other out-of-towners who don't pay taxes here. That's only fair.... The county needs to break out and publicize its costs, revenue available, and all the details of how much will be charged, how it will be collected — and at what cost — and how it will be spent."

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sally Saenger

Resident, born and raised in Santa Barbara

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask that you refrain from charging parking fees at the local beaches. For many of us that live here, the cost would really be a hardship especially being a frequent user of the beaches for walking and relaxing. The cost of living in the beautiful place is high enough without the added pressure of daily parking fees.

**PLEASE DO NOT CHARGE PARKING FEES AT THE LOCAL BEACHES AND PARKS!!**

Thank you,

Barbara Boros

Dear clerk please forward my comments to the supervisors. Thanks!

As the economy continues to not recover fast enough, people need fun things to do on their limited budgets. Please don't charge for parking at the beach.  
My 4 year old thanks you.

M Duran

Hello,

I am a Santa Barbara native I want to express my opposition to parking fees at any county beaches. Free access to our beaches should be the priority. Please do not impose these fees as they would deter beach use.

-Maggie McDermut

August 16, 2012

Dear Commissioners,

I understand you are considering parking fees for beach parking at several locations.

PLEASE reconsider this! we live near Hendry's beach , and our neighborhood has been at battle over parking for years. Our street is narrow and winding, and during the summer – or any other nice day, our streets become dangerously busy as it is. Charging for parking will only increase the parking chaos that already exists.

As a neighborhood community, we have already been trying to deal with problems in the evenings, when the parking lots are closed. Students roll up around 10 or 11 pm, unload their firewood and cases of beer, and head for the water. So often we are awoken at 1 or 2 in the morning from their return. You can hear them blocks away "I'm so F'in Drunk! F this and F that." our kids get scared, I get mad, I ask them to politely keep it down, and they tell me to F off. Urinate and defecate in our bushes, lay on their horns and burn-out as they leave. The police are too often busy to respond.

My point is we already have enough issues with beach parking. Please don't add to it by taxing the people you are trying to help.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Agnoli

2600 FOOTHILL RD.  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105  
AUGUST 16, 2012

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
PARKS COMMISSIONERS  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPT.  
105 E. ANAPAMU, 4TH FLOOR  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

RE: PROPOSED COUNTY PUBLIC BEACH FEE PARKING

DEAR PARKS COMMISSIONERS:

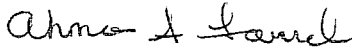
I AM A FIXED LOW INCOME SENIOR. I HAVE LIVED IN GOLETA/SANTA BARBARA FOR 41 YEARS. I AM DEEPLY HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PARK, WATCH AND PLAY AT THE OCEAN FOR FREE AT ALL COUNTY BEACHES, ESPECIALLY GOLETA BEACH SINCE THERE IS NO OTHER FREE PARKING CLOSE BY.

GOD GAVE THE OCEAN TO ALL OF US AND I BELIEVE IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF INCOME AND THOSE OUT OF WORK IN THESE ECONOMIC HARD TIMES, HAVE A PLACE TO TAKE OUR FAMILIES AND OURSELVES TO REST AND PLAY AND BE INSPIRED BY THE OCEAN'S AWESOME BEAUTY - A SPLENDID ALTERNATIVE TO STREET GANG VIOLENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN.

I UNDERSTAND OTHER COUNTIES ARE RESORTING TO BEACH PARKING FEES, BUT CAN'T WE TAKE THE LEAD IN DOING SOMETHING CREATIVE AND HEALTHY FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND ALL WHO VISIT US? I BELIEVE IT IS A JFK QUOTE THAT GOES "FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN A LOT, A LOT IS EXPECTED" AND FOR SURE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HAS BEEN GIVEN ONE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF BEAUTY.

WITH ALL THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS AT UCSB, CAN'T WE COME UP WITH A BETTER SOLUTION THAN CHARGING TO PARK AT OUR PUBLIC BEACHES? I AM HOPING AND PRAYING WE WILL!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR CONSIDERING MY HOPES.

SINCERELY,  
  
ATHENA S. LAUREL

I am not able to attend tonight's meeting. If I was, I would be just another voice of opposition to the proposed fee for county beach parking.

Sincerely Concerned,

Colin McCrindle & McCrindle Family.

--

Colin A. McCrindle



Good Afternoon ~~

As I will be unable to attend the 5:30 meeting today, I would just like to ask you via this email: **please, please, please do not start charging us to park at the beach.** Everything costs so much in Santa Barbara -- housing, gasoline, food, clothing, etc. The possibility of having to pay a fee for one of the simpler pleasures of life - a stroll on the beach with our dog - is depressing. It seems to me the costs of building the kiosks and paying people to sit in them to take our hard-earned cash would take a bite out of the revenue the County is hoping to collect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Amy Frease  
Santa Barbara

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors and Parks Commission,

My husband and I are both Goleta natives. We both grew up spending our days at Goleta Beach. We regularly go to the beach with our two young children to surf, build sandcastles, paddle board, and collect shells. My husband is employed as a SB County Park Ranger at Hendry's Beach. Simply put, the beach is and always has been a huge part of our life.

My family is a prime example of one who will not be able to visit the beach nearly as often if the parking fees are implemented. We are a family who currently cannot afford to belong to a health club, but get our exercise from beach visits where we run, swim, surf, and play together. *Please* do not make the decision to charge those of us who are already working so hard to live in this town. *Please* do not make me have to add beach fees to my monthly budget. When my kids ask me if we can go to the beach, *please* do not put me in a position where my answer has to be, "sorry guys, not today-we don't have the money to visit the beach."

Yes, our county needs revenue. As the wife of a County Parks Ranger, my family is personally affected by the fact that the county is strapped for cash. It is stated in Mr. Parker's staff report that "park facilities have been in decline due to limited resources for repairs, capital and deferred maintenance." and that "implementing parking fees" will "create new revenue streams to support operations and maintenance." However, I question how the revenue will enhance our beaches when the money is going straight to the County's General Fund rather than the Parks/Community Services Department.

How can you support these fees when the family of your own Ranger won't be able to afford to visit the very beaches he upkeeps? I ask you to not allow our beautiful beaches to become a privilege only people with enough money can enjoy. Keep our beaches free!

Sincerely,

Ashley Switzer

To Santa Barbara Park Commission Members:

My name is Peter Laraway and my wife Julia and I have lived in Santa Barbara for nearly 30 years. I have worked in Carpinteria for 21 years. We have 3 kids and we all love the beaches of Santa Barbara – we go to Arroyo Burro and Goleta beaches all the time. I'm sure you're heard from many others their strong opposition to the beach parking fees and I share their feelings. This plan has been floated in the past and it's been good that it never happened. However, working in Carpinteria just a couple minutes away I've used the Rincon lot for many years and I have some concerns should fees be established.

1. Fees should not slow things down. I would be willing to buy a pass but expect be able to park without waiting in a line of cars. I, as well as many of my colleagues here at work, go to Rincon during the lunch hour to swim, walk, exercise or surf. With limited time available it is critical to me that the fees don't mean wasted time.
2. An annual pass should be available to all the parks.
3. County residents should have preferential prices for passes since they pay the bulk of Park budget.
4. Traffic at Rincon can go from nobody to everybody with a good swell. This kind of variability is unique to Rincon and must be addressed without causing delays (see #1 above.)

By the way, the caretaker at Rincon was a great idea! The car thefts stopped. Thanks for that.

Regards,  
Peter Laraway

Honorable Representatives,

I would like to voice my concerns about PAY parking at our local beaches.

I STRONGLY favor keeping beach access FREE to residents. As a Santa Barbara resident living on the Mesa for 40 years, I have participated in beach clean-ups, beach hikes, swimming and paddling at Hendrys more times than I can count. As a young single parent, I would not have been able to take my daughter to the beach down the street if it had required payment. Currently I schedule volunteer meetings for the Naples Coalition at the Watershed Resource building. Their schedule fills up! We will no longer meet there if fees are imposed because volunteers would not come. Neither would I.

Please keep the county beach FREE to Santa Barbara residents.

Sincerely,

Janet Koed

34%  
12 yr old car

I am here today to voice my opposition to the proposed parking fees at Santa Barbara County Beaches. It's vitally important to maintain free access. I would suggest that alternative methods to raise revenue be considered before going down this path.

Some alternatives for your consideration:

Increase existing fees to county restaurants that operate on county property

Consider increasing the access to other types of businesses.

- Paddle boards
- surf boards
- boogie boards
- tee shirts

I know that I speak for others who cannot be here because they are working but depend on the beach for its therapeutic benefits.

Times are hard right now and I know that a fee to access the beach would be a hardship on most of the people who walk on the beach and most importantly having to pay a fee would take all the pleasure out of our beach walks.

I know that you will find an alternative to these proposed fees. I have faith that your collective minds can come up with an alternative solution. Thank you.

To: Jessica Bauch

8/16/12

SUMMERLAND CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE  
PARKS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
BEACH FEE PARKING @ LOOKOUT PARK  
7/24/2012

**BACKGROUND:**

Since the possibility of beach fee parking at ocean front county parks was first suggested in late 2010 the SCA has taken a pro-active approach in reviewing the implications on Summerland and developing alternative ideas for Lookout Park. An SCA committee was formed, meetings have been held with frequently changing representatives from County Parks, letters and proposals have been developed and sent to the county parks department and Supervisor Carbajal, and a request for a formal meeting to address Lookout Park revenue options has been on the table with County parks since August 2011.

**SUMMERLAND SITUATION ANALYSIS:**

Lookout Park, unlike any other county park, is located in a small community of homes and small businesses. There are residents immediately adjacent to the park on both the eastern and western end. The park is bordered by the 101 and the ocean to the north and south. Parking is limited on the county park property and often on summer week-ends the residents along Wallace and Evans as well as businesses and the US Post Office on Lillie and Ortega Hill Rd see overflow parking that spills over on to our small public streets. Streets that already have extremely limited parking.

Adding to this has been the impact of a county project that put in sidewalks along the Lillie Ave/Ortega Hill Rd corridor, created a bike lane and as part of the process, eliminated a large number of public parking spaces. In addition to overflow parking from Lookout Park we frequently witness cars of bicycle riders who utilize the limited parking to leave their car for the day prior to setting off for a day of bike riding. Public parking in Summerland, particularly in the summer months and on week-ends, is difficult at best.

In Summerland the commercial district, and the taxes it generates for the state and county, stand to lose even more revenue should parking become any more difficult than it is today. We suggested, in our letter of November 2011, that a business model be developed and analyzed to determine if enough revenue could be generated from Lookout Park's 77 parking spaces in the 3 month summer period to offset the infrastructure requirements necessary to install the equipment and monitor the lot for compliance. Especially if beach fee parking ends up resulting in a loss of tax revenue to the county from the local business community.

**PROPOSAL:**

For all of the reasons outlined above, the community feels strongly that imposing beach fee parking at Lookout Park would only result in encouraging beach visitors to park their cars along the commercial and residential streets that are already impacted by a limited number of spaces. We understand and support that our county parks need to create revenue and in fact proposed several alternative revenue raising opportunities for the park in our letter of November of 2011. All of these alternatives are much more appropriate to the situation in Summerland. Here is what was communicated to the County Parks department in November, 2011:

PROPOSAL Continued from page 1:

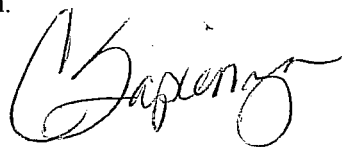
In addition to the already existing dog wash concession and soft drink machine there is the possibility for:

- Concession stands for rentals or purchase of beach related items and kayaks.
- Licensed food trucks, quite popular today and easier than permanent concession stands to move in and out of a location at peak times
- Licensed surf camps, yoga and exercise or junior lifeguard classes in the park or beach
- Promotion of the park as a fee paid venue for weddings, reunions and parties during park hours
- Use of the abandoned park ranger area and the western end of the park for fee paid special events and/or staging areas for commercial uses during park hours including film locations or catalog shots.
- The wide open western area of the park is underutilized and due to it's proximity to existing restrooms is a very viable area to develop for special event rentals.

CONCLUSION:

We recognize that the County must find revenue sources to keep our parks available for public use. Each county park has a direct impact on the surrounding neighborhood in which is it located. It is our belief that the right answer for each park is not a cookie cutter, one size fits all solution. By working with the local community we feel certain that the most appropriate options can be found to meet the needs of both the county and the community in each situation.

SUBMITTED BY SCA COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cindy Sapienza, Chair, Rondi Campbell, Fran Davis, Bob Mecay, Jeff Melnik, and Renee Smith.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Sapienza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

AUG. 16, 2012

Dear Santa Barbara County  
Park Commission:

I am opposed to  
Beach Parking Fees. We  
grew up surfing and  
swimming here. For many  
working people, this is our  
only recreation. Please do  
not close them. I was  
born here and have been  
an advocate of free and  
open beaches, all my life.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Helman



What will become of our beaches? Will only the rich and tourists get to enjoy them, since the rest of us cannot and will not pay for our usual walk of 20 to 30 minutes once or twice a day? at a cost of \$2 or 3 a pop. What will become of our happy and socialized dogs? Will they become confined to small yard and begin to bite other dogs and people? What will become of our teenagers and surfers---will they just spend their life in front of video games and TV's because they cant afford parking fees? Think about the legacy you will leave behind. And who knows where the money will really go?

Read the article below about San Pedro where they beheaded 645 of their beach parking meters because 1) they were only netting 70 cents a year on each one, and, 2) people were going elsewhere to spend time instead of paying the parking meters. Is that what you want? I will park on the side streets and walk to the beach no matter how far I have to walk. I will not be billed for my God given beach enjoyment. Most, or all of Santa Barbara feels the same way.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/aug/14/local/la-me-0814-parking-meters-20120814>

**Please do the right thing and  
keep our quality of life and  
beach use here in Santa Barbara  
free and accessible for all ages  
and all social economic groups  
WITHOUT PARKING FEES OR  
METERS.**

**Please do the right thing.**

Karen Lockett

Dear Supervisors and Park Commission personnel,

I am a Santa Barbara Native and 3 generations before me have lived here. I do not support fees of any kind for parking at the county beaches of Goleta Beach, Arroyo Burro, Lookout Point, Loons Point, or Rincon Point. If you implement any sort of parking fee, you will be changing the small town beach community feel that is so attractive to all who live and visit here.

Many people can not afford any parking fees; you will be discriminating against those who struggle to live in Santa Barbara, the young, the elderly on fixed incomes, single parents, and everyone in between. Teachers will not be able to take students to the beach. Teenagers will stay home and play video games instead of getting the benefits of exercise and communing with nature as they don't have the money to pay for parking. Your staff states that you may clear \$500,000 per year and exclude 25% of your "customers." That's right they use the term "customers" not residents or visitors.

If 25% of the Santa Barbara County population does not get their regular stress relief and connection with nature by going to the beach, what will levels of anxiety and stress will translate into a poorer quality of life? It's already too stressful with too many people. It's not as safe as it used to be in Santa Barbara. I believe the stress level will get worse as a result of excluding people from access to the beach.

If you implement fees at county beaches in Santa Barbara, other beach access points in other neighborhoods will be impacted with more trash, traffic, parking congestion, etc. In addition neighborhoods around county beaches will feel the same strain and the quality of life in those neighborhoods will diminish.

The Coastal Commission will, as before, not allow the permits you need to move forward with this ill conceived fund raising plan. The Surfrider Foundation and others will lobby them again to deny the permits required. How much money was wasted on the research behind such a bad idea? One that was defeated about 10 years ago in Isla Vista!

Beach parking fees should not be a source of money for the general fund. Get your house in fiscal order as we the citizens have to do. Reduce new and existing pensions to match a current market interest rate index. If the county earns less on their investments, they should pay less in pensions. It is a fact of life that we have to deal with. Cut positions created after the real estate boom when property tax revenues were the same as they are now, add to the bed tax.

We already pay enough taxes to support free beach access.

Sincerely,

John Warner  
Santa Barbara Native  
Goleta, Ca. 93117

Please vote no to charge fees to go to beach!!!!  
I could not afford to surf rincon anymore!!! My children need public beaches to be free  
for their future.  
Beach should always be free...not much is!  
Please

Sent from Bunni's iPad

**Please**, this blog on beach access posted today by David Pu'u is a must read for you!

<http://oceanloverscollective.com/thoughts/maintaining-beach-access/>

Thank you so much,

Cenen Aparicio

---

Hello,

I am a third generation Santa Barbaran, raised and have lived in Summerland for most of my life. I strongly oppose the proposed beach parking fees and urge and beg you not to approve this. The level of service most require at the beach, is unrelated to the concept of what Parks is selling. Leave the asset alone. Leave access unfettered. It is an investment in the health of a Community, in a time of great repression and loss. We have to pay for everything else....let us enjoy the freedom of the ocean without having it cost us more money. Please do not degrade the civil welfare of a Community by leveling a tax, which affects those who can least afford to pay it. In doing that, you would degrade the value which exists, which allows for the service class to have some recreation and ultimately happiness in a very fiscally challenging town to live in. It sets a bad tone, it is a violation of your obligation to manage the vital civic assets which make Santa Barbara County the crown jewel that it has been for generations. It should be kept this way for future generations. The community deserves unfettered access to the asset, as stake holders. To deny access that was vetted and paid for prior via use and property taxes constitutes a theft of sorts.

I greatly thank you for your time and consideration on this topic. It is of the utmost import to the local beach users.

Sincerely,

Richard Cenen Aparicio

# oceanlover

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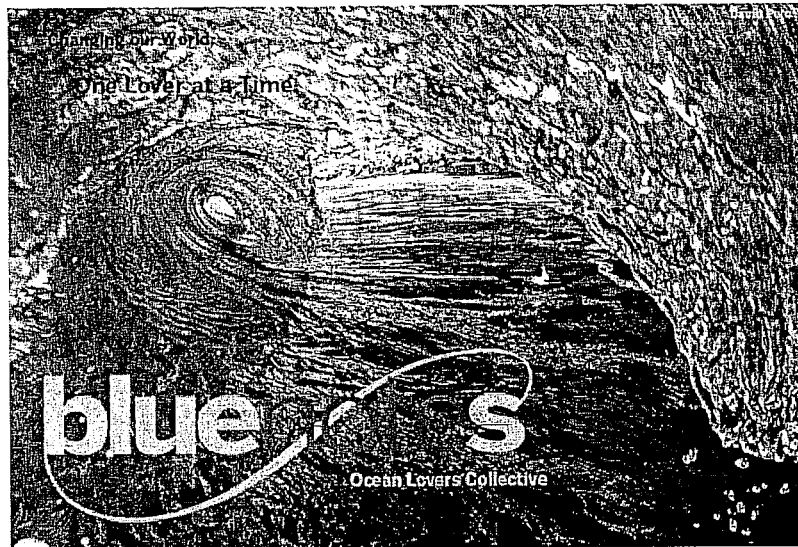
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## Maintaining Beach Access

Posted by David Pu'u on 17 August 2012 | 1 Comments

Tags: [Beach Access](#), [Corporate Responsibility](#), [Ethics](#)



In recent weeks it has been learned that Santa Barbara County, in California is considering a move to begin charging for parking at it's County Beach Parks.

Times are tough, right? And one must preserve the bottom line of the City and County Corporations right?

Well, yes, but let's take a short look at beach access. What beach access is for many users, is a historically vetted and well known means of approaching the Ocean and that part of widely held, common and public property which exists from the mean high tide line on out to Sea. That is why it is generally known as The Commons. It is commonly held.

Traditionally access corridors were developed by State, County and City entities in order to better service the needs of residents, taxpayers, and to provide a pleasant environment in which human needs could be adequately serviced without placing undue stress on the environment surrounding the commonly held asset of the Beach and Sea. For the most part, these services were paid for via various forms of taxation at all three levels.

That has been changing in recent years, as the access has been getting locked down and greater and more numerous fees for usages are being applied. This is also known as a secondary tax. Yes, you get to pay twice when this is implemented. Once it goes in, the fee seldom, (if ever) is revoked. You have altered access permanently.

Best to consider the longer term affects before acquiescing to this sort of repressive rule.

If Santa Barbara County wants a healthy economic flow, it must create an aura of generosity with unfettered access. Tourism will be under much pressure from competing interests in this horrible economy. Counties tend to forget that. Plus, it is a walling off of the coast. That is illegal when one gets down to it if that access corridor has a history of public use dating back, I believe, 7 years or more. On top of that, there is also the Public Trust Doctrine.

Once SB determines to race to the bottom with the counties to the South of us, there they will sit, at the bottom

If the County cannot afford to keep the parks open, close them, release the employees. Remove the no parking signs adjacent to the parks. Return the places to their natural states.

[Ocean Lovers Collective](#) [about](#) [Corporate Corruption, Greed and Humanity today](#)

Ocean Lovers need to be aware, that the malaise of our day resides in the short term cycle of Politics. Time to move the

bar outward, into the next generation.

The future is watching us.

Post your comment

Your name

Your website URL

Comments

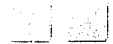
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### Comments

- Last night in Santa Barbara at the proposed parking fee meeting. Our citizens from the most poor to the wealthy to our servicemen gave such emotional, beautiful, to the point speeches about their love of the ocean and the pitfalls of this dubious plan. It was inspiring. Our local citizens made their point and the commission listened. We need to keep aware and to stand up and be heard. Our county works for us and it is our responsibility to guide them as much as we can. SB county parks needed help to shut this down. We gave them that help last night. We need to continue to make freedoms we have lost and to point out the obvious as it seems it's not always obvious to them how much this means to us.

Posted by Tony de Groot, 17/08/2012 8:15am (3 hours ago)

[RSS feed for comments on this page](#) | [RSS feed for all comments](#)



Dear Doreen, Janet Joni, Salud & Steve

FREE Access to our "Public Beaches".....is what we pay hundreds of thousands of Tax Dollars \$\$\$\$ for....I have owned over \$3Million dollars in property in Santa Barbara....paid my taxes....and I dont want my kids or grandkids to be screwed out of a few dollars everytime we want to walk our dogs or splash in the Pacific! We go nearly Every day///Year Round!!!

Click on SAN PEDRO, Ca.....Read and Learn how their brilliant idea to charge \$\$\$\$ for "Public Beach " Access was NOT Cost Effective....in the long term.....their meters Cost money to Install and Supervise....and the administrative costs made the idea INEFFECTIVE and cost Prohibitive.

PS: It costs over \$6.00 Each time we park in the Harbor lot and go kayaking for 2 hours!!!! The \$100/beach parking sticker is Restricted to particular parking areas as well!

Please Vote NO to this Idiot Idea!

E> G> Burton

Dear SBCOB,

One of the pleasures of Santa Barbara is the free beach parking. I urge you to maintain that tradition and not to become like LA. Pay parking at the beach would drastically deteriorate the quality of life and the town. Best Regards



Dear Ms. Rauch-I am a 30 plus resident of Sea Ranch Drive.Please do not charge for parking at Hendry`s Beach.It has always been a locals place where may people jog,walk their dogs and eat.It would definitely impact parking on Alan Road.I understand the financial pressures,but let`s preserve it for the locals.Thank you for your consideration.

Pam Lang

Sadly, we will not be able to make it to your meeting tonight but i just wanted to voice our concerns over this \$8.00 parking fee. I hope that you realize that it will push parking even further into our neighborhoods...which is a nightmare. Please reconsider this fee and DO NOT implement.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Conrow

**Letter in Opposition to proposed parking fees at:**

Arroyo Burro Beach

Goleta Beach Park

Guadalupe Dunes

Lookout Park

Loon Point

Ocean Beach

Rincon Beach Park

Greetings all,

I am writing, along with many, to plead with you to please keep parking FREE of cost at the above mentioned beaches. I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Santa Barbarian living in the 93110 zip code. I work in Goleta, so I go running at Goleta Beach 2 or 3 times a week. I own a small dog and I take him for walks regularly at the beautiful Hendry's Beach, which is the ONLY beach where dogs have an area to be off leash. I also love to go the Boathouse after work to enjoy the cool ocean air and enjoy the beautiful ocean scenery. These are some of my absolute FAVORITE things to do here! And when I do, my friends and I remind ourselves, "Yep, this is why we pay the big bucks to live here!". And it's true! We work hard, we pay our taxes, but at the end of the day, we need a place with NO HASSLE, where we can relax, take a look around, and be glad we live here. Please don't go blow it all on greed. Nature needs to be free and easily accessible to all, and we can't afford to have to pay to enjoy our natural surroundings.

Thank you for taking my words to heart and acting in accordance,

Sophia Davis

To whom it may concern:

I love living in Santa Barbara and part of the "beauty" of living here is not having to pay to go to the beach. **I strongly object to the proposed fees at any of our beaches &** hope that you will take my vote into consideration when making your decision. Please find another way to raise needed funds instead of charging residents & tourists to visit the gorgeous Santa Barbara beaches.

Sincerely,

Jillian Weber  
Santa Barbara Resident

Dear Supervisors-

I am writing in opposition of the proposed beach use parking fees for Goleta Beach, Arroyo Burro, Lookout Point, Loons Point, and Rincon Point.

It appears that the county is lacking funds, and is looking to generate income from public beach resources. I have heard that the projected income from beach parking fees would be around \$500K per year.

I understand the County's position. There is a budget to fulfill and no funds from the State. Perhaps there is another solution to this dilemma, a "win-win". I propose we cut expenses instead of instigating new fees. I am sure you have heard this "austerity" argument before. It may be time to act on it.

In particular, I would like to focus on lawns in County Parks. Lawns provide significant recreational value, though they are very resource intensive. Furthermore, many lawn areas sit unused for a large majority of the time, so the money spent to maintain them is in effect poured down the drain to the ocean. I propose we reduce the lawn area in the County by 10%, which would free up the \$500,000 in funds. Reducing lawns by 20% would be better, but let's start here perhaps. See below for my calculations, and please edit if inaccurate.

I was unable to find accurate information on the acreage of lawns in SB County, but I will estimate/assume there are around 1000 acres of turf in SB County (25% of the 8000 acres of parks). The average lawn costs around \$1000/acre/year to maintain (source: <http://www.lawntimes.com/showthread.php?t=6767>). This only includes labor and materials (fertilizer, herbicide, etc) to care for the lawn, not the water.

Lawns use around 500,000 to 1,500,000 gallons of water per acre per year (source: California Economic Policy Vol.2, No.2., <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/turf/publications/water.html>). So this means that 1000 acres of turf in SB County parks consume around 10 million gallons of water per year (average 1 million gallons per acre).

The rate that I could find for recreational water use was around \$3/HCF in SB County. At this rate, a 1 acre lawn consuming 1,000,000 gals per year (= 10,000 HCF) costs \$30,000/acre/year FOR WATER ONLY to a private party (?).

The COST to deliver state water is around \$1500/acre foot, or around \$.40/HCF X 10,000 = \$4000/acre COST (source: <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/Water/FAQ/FAQs.htm>). (I was unable to find data for non-state water cost.)

So we are looking at 1000 acres, at a cost of \$5,000/acre/year (\$1000/ac/yr maintenance + \$4000/ac/yr for water). Therefore by my calculations it costs the county roughly \$5 million per year to maintain the lawns in the parks. (Is there a budget item for this?)

If we cut out 10% of the lawn area county-wide, we would potentially SAVE \$500,000 dollars per year. (Is my data accurate?)

Is this enough to cover the income projected for the imposition of beach use fees, while promoting our wise use of water and resources in the County?

Sincerely-  
A Santa Barbara Native

Loren Lvyendyk

I know that you are meeting this week to determine an outcome on this issue. While I am very sensitive to the lack of funding for resources for these public facilities, *the solution is not to impose new fees or taxes on the public.* Yes, it is a very attractive idea to target only the users of these resources, however, it is the responsibility of government leaders to solve these issues without taking the "easy way out" of raising taxes or fees.

It would be an interesting situation if businesses could simply impose "revenue stimulation" on their customers at will the way our various government bodies can do. Would products and services improve? I think you will agree with me that it is very unlikely that they would!

Thank you for your consideration

Brent Christensen

Re: Proposed County Park Parking Fees

I am opposed to the County Parks Commission plan to impose parking fees at more county parks. Poor people need a place to go for recreation without having to pay exorbitant fees. If you really need to save money, perhaps Park Commissioners could serve Pro Bono.

Sincerely  
William Slager

William Slager

To Whom it May Concern:

I hope this is a simple question. I was a resident of SB County for 25 years and still have a lot of friends that live there. They have told me about the possibility of the county starting to charge parking fees at certain beaches and there have been and I believe there will be at least one more public meeting to discuss this (I think 8/23/12). I live in the Los Angeles area now but still have ties to Santa Barbara and again I am hoping this question is simple because none of the people I have spoken to seem to know the answer. If the fees are put into place, what will the funds be used for? Thank you for the time taken to read my email and for your response. I am hoping to return to Santa Barbara soon and Arroyo Burro was my beach of choice and I see that is one of the affected beaches. It would be very difficult for me to attend any of the public meetings not only because of the distance I live from Santa Barbara but because I am physically challenged as well so I am hoping you can give me some idea of how the funds will be used, even if it is a probability at this time. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Michaele Plotkin

"Until one has loved an animal, part of their soul remains unawakened."



To Whom it may concern:

I heard recently that there is a plan or decision to charge for parking at some county beach parks. I wanted to discuss the specific needs of birdwatchers, since these are different to those of most users. Most birders visiting somewhere like Goleta Beach typically just stop by for 15-20 minutes. This location is sufficiently good for birds to justify being there much longer. Depending on the fee model, charging for parking could basically eliminate birding at these sites for the following reasons:

1. Parks (e.g. state parks or county ones like Cachuma) tend to charge a high flat fee (like \$5-8) to get into the park. While this may be OK for a family visiting for several hours, it doesn't work for a lone birdwatcher who wants to check the area quickly. So unless the area justifies a 3-4 hour birding stop, the flat fee basically eliminates birders (I never go to Cachuma or Jalama for example).
2. Therefore we definitely need a fee structure that works for short visits. Something like \$1 for half an hour is a lot more palatable.
3. The other option that can help is a relatively low-cost annual pass in the \$30-45 range like the Forest Adventure Pass. I used to use this for the State parks like El Capitan and Refugio Beach until they jacked up the price to \$70 and \$100+. Now I don't visit these parks regularly and if I do, I just park outside and walk in.

Regards,

Nick Lethaby

I'm writing you to show my opposition to proposed parking fees at the following beaches:

Hendry's Arroyo Burro Beach

Goleta Beach Park

Guadalupe Dunes

Lookout Park

Loon Point

Ocean Beach

Rincon Beach Park

this parking fee would limit some people and families ability to visit the places.

thank you

Brandon Bartlette

Hi,

I'm just writing because I'm concerned about the proposed fees for the county parks. I am a birder who spends little time in the parks, often just a quick walk around and then I'm gone on to a new spot. So park fees are tough on me.

When I visit several parks in a day to see what is happening during migration or something, the fees are going to interfere. If you have a fee schedule, can it be by time. For instance, buy a pass and have it refunded if you are out of the park in under an hour. Just a suggestion. I understand why you may be considering fees, but some of the people who use the parks regularly are on fixed incomes and this will be just one more added burden. I hope the fees will be reasonable if adopted and time sensitive for birders. Thank you.

Sincerely,

-Michelle Townsley

UCSB grad

Ventura resident

Nature's great book is written in mathematics. Galileo

Hello:

I've tried locating the above on-line survey on your web site, but all I can locate is your General On-line Survey. How can I express my sentiments about the proposed beach parking fees? Thank you.

C. Julie Esch, Ph.D. (retired)

I am disabled. I cannot park in the neighboring residential areas and walk in like many people will do if they have to pay for parking. I go to the beach once/week for less than an hour to look at the ocean. It is the only beach recreation I can still enjoy.

Parking for cars with a handicap placard should be free whether in designated handicap spots or elsewhere in the lot.

My husband and son are surfers. They go to Rincon, park then spend 15-30 minutes watching the surf to see if there are waves before they decide to stay and surf. They would have to pay a fee just to see if they want to stay. Once they decide to go out they don't know how long they will surf for and don't want their experience ruined by running back up to feed the meter. My teenage son and his friends can't afford \$6-\$8 a pop to go surfing. Does the Parks Commission really want to discourage teenagers from using the beach?

Even for abled bodied people the parking fees are unacceptable.

1) We already pay taxes to fund parks. If more revenue is needed raise taxes or cut services.

2) Beach users should not be required to subsidize non-beach park users by paying extra fees

3) Once meters are in place fees will be increased for every budget shortfall.

Please distribute to all Parks Commissioners.  
Ann Wischart

My son and I are surfers. We go to Rincon, park then spend 15-30 minutes watching the surf to see if there are waves before we decide to stay and surf. We would have to pay a fee just to see if we want to stay. Once we decide to go out we don't know how long we will surf for and don't want our experience ruined by running back up to feed the meter. My teenage son and his friends can't afford \$6-\$8 a pop to go surfing. Does the Parks Commission really want to discourage teenagers (and poor people) from using the beach?

The parking fees are unacceptable.

1) We already pay plenty of taxes to fund parks. If more GENERAL revenue is needed then raise taxes on everyone. Beach users should not be penalized. The beach and beach access is owned by everyone and is a right, not a privilege. Beach access should always be free. This is a beachfront community and access should be guaranteed. This is a publicly owned resource and not a resource that the county can use to generate revenue.

2) Beach users should not be required to subsidize non-beach park users (i.e. inland parks) by paying extra fees. If the beach parks have to pay a fee then so should all the parks.

3) Once meters are in place fees will be increased for every budget shortfall.

4) This is also a coastal access issue. Has the Coastal Commission reviewed this proposal?

Please distribute to all Parks Commissioners.

Mike Glick

Dear Parks Commission,

I have lived in Santa Barbara County since I was eighteen year of age. I moved here to attend college, and I have never left because of its beauty and accessibility to nature. I heard of the proposal to charge for beach parking at some of the local beaches that I often frequent, and I am very disappointed. My heart sinks at the fact that I would be asked to pay money to enjoy the beach, on of nature's wonders. The beach is a place I go to enjoy and celebrate with friends, go on healing walks by myself and swim in our lovely ocean. I even bring my public school students to the beach every year on a field trip! We all have the right to enjoy our lovely environment.

Beach parking fees would take away from the experience of going to the beach in many ways. I would fee like I am going where someone else "owns" the beach.

My income is not very high, so I would need to ration out my beach time. The accessibility would be taken away from some of the lower income students that I work with.

I experience occasional stress and paying for beach parking would add to that stress. Going to the beach is a process of healing for me and having to pay for parking would take away from the carefree experience of pulling up to the beach. I love Santa Barbara and large factor in why I have chosen to make this place with a high cost of living my home, is the access to hiking, the beach and other FREE activities. Since I go to the beach every other day, charges at the beach would affect my experience in Santa Barbara greatly. I am against charging for parking and use of the beach.

Thank you for reading my letter and I hope you will consider supporting a NO! on beach parking fees.

Sincerely,

Angela Lang

I am a local surfer who frequents Rincon. I will park in the lot and walk down for 30 minutes to check the surf before I go out (as most people do). It is completely unjust to require me and fellow surfers to pay money just to check if we even want to use the beach. Furthermore, once I decide to go surf, I have no idea how long I will be surfing for. This forces me to grossly overpay for parking or constantly have to get out of the water and run to the parking lot (with my board in tow) to feed the meter. Also, I am a student and don't have a steady job. I cannot afford to spend 5 dollars a pop to use the Rincon parking lot as I go to Rincon very frequently. This tax on surfers to gain more revenue is ridiculous. If this money was needed to repave the RINCON parking lot or clean and pump the bathroom THERE I would understand but I dont want to pay to use a public beach so we can put more picnic table out at Chase Palm Park.

Thank you for reading,

Russ Glick



Dear Supervisors, Dear County Parks Department,

As a local resident who regularly frequents Hendry's Beach, I am dismayed by the proposed beach parking fees. It isn't so much the amount of money I would have to pay, though that does matter, it is more that going to the beach is about unwinding and getting off the clock, so having to keep an eye on one's watch or risking a ticket defeats the purpose, which is to relax. Besides, the fees would result in people parking on nearby streets, which in turn would irk residents, so soon special neighborhood permits would be needed, along with more enforcement, adding up to a bureaucratic nightmare and little net income.

Recognizing that our local government needs revenue, I have a proposal that I believe would result in significant net income AND make beach goers grateful: How about installing Tar-Off towelette dispensers at local beaches? With the amount of natural seepage that occurs, walking away from the beach without black tar spots on one's feet is almost impossible. Residents would happily pay \$1 for the opportunity to wipe off. A family of four coming to the beach in one car would only result in one parking fee, but in four pairs of feet needing cleanup, so the dollars could add up pretty quickly, especially if a sign made clear that income from the dispensers goes to beach maintenance.

No enforcement would be needed, just someone to service the dispensers and empty the trash.

As an added benefit, instead of a bunch of angry constituents, our local elected officials would have the voters' goodwill. Doesn't that sound like a win-win proposal?

Thank you for your service and best regards;

Laurence Hauben, Santa Barbara

August 20, 2012

To: Santa Barbara County Supervisors  
From : Michael Rattray  
CEO, United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County  
Chairman, Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce

Subject: Parking fees for County public beaches

In representing two organizations, we many times find ourselves supporting common positions, which is the case for opposing charging fees at our county beach parks. The Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the county now has ten sites with over 5000 youth members and their families attending yearly. The Chamber of Commerce has close to 400 member businesses and organizations with an estimate of 15,000 employees in southern Santa Barbara County.

The Boys & Girls Clubs provides field trips to our local county beaches throughout the year from Carpinteria to Lompoc as a free service to these youngsters. In some cases, this opportunity is the only time they will visit our California coastline and experience what comes natural to most of us. If the Boys and Girls Clubs would have to pay daily for our trips to enjoy Mother Nature, we would not have the financial needs to support. And passing on the fee to our members is not possible. Close to 60% of these member families are at or below the poverty line. If I could put this in real terms, we charge a nominal \$20 a year for membership. Some of these families can't afford these fees and work it off or pay monthly as it is a true hardship to their limited finances.

We also know that a lot of our families do try to enjoy their county beaches within their communities on both weekends and weekdays. As Santa Barbara City lots and State Beaches continue to charge fees, and are unaffordable to many, the beauty of having our County Parks is the legacy of great locations, family amenities, and free and ample parking. This common theme transcends all individuals and families, including our employee base represented by all the Chambers throughout our county. The feeling of a pride of ownership prevails for all who have enjoyed the benefits and have already paid for the privileges that we have entrusted to our government to manage these public assets.

To even consider asking those that can least afford it to scratch together money that they don't have; or ask our taxpaying citizens to pay again for services already baked into our societal cost is questionable. The citizens didn't produce this imbalanced budget, but do feel they entrusted elected representatives to balance all goods and services of county government with a sustainable revenue budget. Don't continue to raise the cost of living on the backs of all working citizens as the path of least resistance. Please go back to the drawing board and find common solutions that work for common folks.

Michael Rattray

cc: Santa Barbara County Parks Commission  
Chandra Waller, Santa Barbara County CEO  
Herman Parker, Santa Barbara County Community Services Director

Please do not start charging at the beaches. Look elsewhere to cut expenses.

All the little out of the way free beaches will get crowded.

Thanks  
Dave Greim

Santa Barbara County Parks Commission, Board of Supervisors, Mayor, City Council Members, and anyone else concerned.

August 21, 2012

I did attend last Thursday's meeting and while I did not speak, I do feel I helped facilitate the large turnout through my blog and social networking skills. If you want us to bring more people. Get a bigger room next time. lol.. If you heard even half the testimonies that were given then you already know exactly how I feel. So I wont repeat all of that. All money and financial crisis aside. This is about the health, well being, and unfettered access to our coastline. Access not just for people with money in their pockets, but for every person in your county, regardless race or economic status. Not to mention the throng of tourists that come for a taste of our beautiful coastline. Personally, I fail to see why you just didn't out and out cancel this final meeting. Surely any committee with common sense could see it is not in the best interest of the people. Your people.

There was a time when the government looked out for the best interest of the people. You work for us. It's not the other way around. We put you in office, and we can easily take you out. Your people have spoken, and we are just the tip of the iceberg. It's time to listen to the people. I would be very surprised if the people of Santa Barbara would pass such a tax/fee on our public beaches if put on the ballot. But at the very least you should consider that option first. At this point I feel as if you've intentionally gone behind the our backs. I know I wasn't aware of such a plan until two weeks ago. If you feel so strongly that this is what your people want. This is what is in their best interest, then get it on the ballot.

We are the dog walkers, joggers, surfers, swimmers, couples, beachcombers, single moms, and kids who play in the sand. We are the people of the beaches of Santa Barbara. But we are not your customers. Don't charge us to use our own beaches. We have already paid for them. We are your people. I implore you, I know this thing is in already in motion and may be hard to stop. Help us fight this, don't fight against us.

Thanks you,

Don Jayne  
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Please reconsider the idea to impose fees for parking for use of our SB County beaches. I am very opposed to the idea of charging a fee to use the beach, to surf, to watch a sunset. Please do not vote for this proposed fee. Some things should remain free and open to the public. Our county beaches fall into the category. Thank you.

Laurie Pfeiffer

to all -

really? pay to use our beaches? cause families and nonprofits to pay a fee that they cannot afford so they may enjoy something so naturally public? did you see the letter to the editor from the boys and girls club about the families that utilize their services that can't even afford the club fee of \$20?

([http://www.noozhawk.com/article/082012\\_letter\\_to\\_editor\\_beach\\_parking\\_fees/](http://www.noozhawk.com/article/082012_letter_to_editor_beach_parking_fees/))

how do you expect those same people to afford to pay a fee to enjoy something that should be free?

really? the county can do better then this. the county has a bunch of brains that can think of SOMETHING better to impose or some process to make more efficient or some type of savings to be found (the county de-lamping program that saved probation \$2550 this past year? come on, ALL departments having to implement that would save more than \$50,000 a year!).

please, do the humane thing and don't impose a fee to enjoy our earth. don't pass on the county's financial problem to people that already have enough of their own financial problem. come on, we can do better! we can serve our public better than this. don't do it. you know it is not the answer.

a county of santa barbara employee and the treasurer of the santa barbara chapter of surfrider, writing only on behalf of myself,

andrea labbe

I believe that implementing parking fees at our beaches is just an undercover way to use that money for other programs. I have to watch my budget, it's high time that the Government watches their's. We are taxed to the limit now, and now we will have to pay at our beaches and parks?

Gil

Dear Jessica,

I'm writing to you regarding the issue of beach parking fees.

As local small business owners in downtown Santa Barbara (20 employees), my wife and I are sensitive about the costs and quality of life in Santa Barbara from the perspective of our current employees and potential employees who we are trying to recruit.

Creating new fees is not a sustainable way to deal with the city budget issues!

Creating beach parking fees for local residents is a bad idea in so many ways!

- Many will park outside the lots, overflowing into residential areas!
- Residents on a budget (probably a majority these days) will have to reconsider the trip or go elsewhere!
- Paying a fee will result in residents feeling entitled to leave their trash, dog droppings, etc!
- Bitterness over having to pay this new fee will only create more ill will toward you and the county!
- Additional ill will be harbored by the neighbors of these beach lots who will see an increase in traffic and parking around their homes!

I'm hoping that you're against this new fee but, if you're not, please reconsider and vote no on new beach parking fees!

Thank you,  
Michael and Lexi Wilson



Dear Everyone voting on this.....

I would like to express my deep concern over charging folks to go to the beach. This has come up over the years....and always voted down. May you also see great reasons to vote against this again today! I go to the beach often for walks, just for relaxation.....and me and others need this outlet to 'let go'.....

Life is already regimented.....please keep the beach a refuge, a sanctuary where we can go for free.....

Please keep this our human right.....free beach access.....

Please support this need.....

Thank you,

Meganne Forbes

I want everyone to know that your ocean going public is getting more and more upset by this. Myself and all the locals that go to our beaches are in an uproar about these fees going in. This will completely change the look and feel of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria and Goleta. This will cause us to have to think if we can afford to go to the beach and destress and recharge from our financially difficult lives.

You can't follow blind devotion to your jobs on this. You can't just stand in line like neutral dummies. Our community that you serve is upset and pissed off and for good reason. This is unjust, unfair, polarizing and lacks no communal soul.

Can anyone respond to me about this and give me some good news or are you just going to slink back back behind your desks and let Santa Barbara go down the toilet? Like this town is nothing special?

Thank you,

Upset property owner  
Beach lover  
Tony de Groot  
Summerland Native

I am very distressed that further beach parking fees are being considered.

- a parking fee would require the county to hire a parking management company which generally requires a 3-7 %percentage of the generated net revenue, plus the hiring of a supervisor with benefits and two part-time rangers
- the written agenda states the purpose of these beach fees is to "create new revenue streams to support operations and generate maintenance" yet the use of this revenue is not required to be spent on beach expenses.
- Arroyo Burro Beach has 193 parking stalls, 34% of which would need to be eliminated to facilitate fee collection

Other Considerations:

- parking fees would be an additional resident tax
- impact on the only other option- parking in small residential neighborhood
- discourages customers to Boathouse restaurant and concession stand
- a decrease in number of parking places means parking exemptions needed for utility vehicles and restaurant delivery trucks which further decreases parking possibilities
- parking fee disenfranchises many in our community- residents in general, in particular our youth who have so few recreational options
- if actual beach maintenance cost is the issue, many in community organizations would volunteer for this need

I read today that purchase of a police dog is being considered to make crime victims feel better. Why manufacture this additional, short term, effect when an unstructured walk on the beach would accomplish the same end?

Carol DeCanio

As a regular user of the beach, my family is opposed to parking fees at county beaches. We often visit the beach for very short times (less than an hour) with our 2 year old. Free parking is an important factor in being able to enjoy the beach.

I am also concerned with possible use of the Goleta Beach parking lot by UCSB staff and students. If the county charges for beach parking, what is to prevent people from purchasing an annual pass and parking at Goleta Beach every day? Parking at UCSB costs in excess of \$300 per year. I think it will be harder to dissuade UCSB staff and students from parking at Goleta Beach if they have paid for parking.

--Ted

Dear Park Commission:

My wife and I would like to go on record as opposing the proposed parking fees for the county beach parks. Santa Barbara is already an expensive place of residence; we don't need to add fees of this nature. We are against these fees. We pay taxes for, among other things, services to be provided by the county, which means keeping the beaches and parking lots clean and in good condition.

Alfred V. and Peggy A. Morgan

Hi Jessica , I learned of the Commission decision , so no need to respond to my earlier email.

Could I ask you a favor , though , please? Could you please forward my comment of thanks to the Commissioners , that is posted on Noozhawk under their announcement of the commissions decision. Thanks , Gil

" Many thanks to the Santa Barbara County Parks Commissioners for their patience and poise during the recent hearings on beach parking fees. Special thanks to Chair Dale for her restraint when the attendees were stretching the boundaries of normal hearing decorum. Many who spoke at the hearings mistakenly directed their wrath at the commissioners , who are neither the originators or the ultimate deciders of this ill advised proposal.

Beach parking (access)fee proposals seem to emanate from Santa Barbara County bureaucrats every couple of years. Hopefully this latest round of heavy public opposition will enlighten our public servants in their future considerations of beach access issues." Sincerely , Gilbert Loustalot ( and thousands of other very grateful Santa Barbara County beachgoers)