

Public Comment - Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance

Brianda Negrete

From: mckennapj46@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 5:44 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comment Supervisors Meeting 12-6-22, Item 3,d
Attachments: GCTA HRCAP County distribution of \$1m 12-2-22.docx

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Dear Sir or Madame,

Attached is a one page comment letter from the Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance on agenda Item 3, d for the 12-6-22 Supervisors meeting.

Phil McKenna
Chairperson Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance

Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance



December 2, 2022

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Via Email; sbcob@countyofsb.org

Re: Item 3, d – CRMF funding for Hollister Ranch public access

Chair Hartmann and Fellow Supervisors,

The Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance was formed to intervene in a settlement heard in Superior Court between the Hollister Ranch Owner's Association and four State agencies regarding the long-standing issue of public access to the coastline of Hollister Ranch. Our intervention was the catalyst for the creation of the Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Plan (HRCAP). The HRCAP was created by State legislative action to develop a plan providing public access to the coastline of the Ranch. The Alliance has actively participated in the HRCAP process and will continue our efforts to realize responsible public access to this portion of the California coastline.

We are pleased to understand that CRMF funding for the County's Hollister Ranch Access Program, in the amount of \$1,000,000, will finally be completed early in 2023. We understand that this funding will provide financial support for the initial costs of the development of a public access program for Hollister Ranch.

The Alliance asks that there be a public process for the dispersal of this money so that the interests of the HRCAP participants and the public can be carefully considered in a transparent manner.

When contemplating the flawed settlement between the State agencies and Hollister Ranch in 2018, Judge Sterne determined there were important issues in the settlement that the public had a right to understand. Her determination opened the issues to public inspection and ultimately led to a repudiation of the settlement. Engagement and transparency generally lead to good outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil McKenna', with a stylized, cursive script.

Phil McKenna, Chair, Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance

The Alliance is an ad hoc, unincorporated association committed to secure environmentally responsible and non-discriminatory public access to beaches along the Gaviota Coast including the establishment of the California Coastal Trail within the sight and sound of the ocean.

Members include the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, California Coastal Protection Network, Santa Barbara County Trails Council and Coastwalk/California Coastal Trail Association.