
Santa Barbara Audubon Society
Of the National Audubon Society
Box 5508



Santa Barbara, CA 93150

www.santabarbaraaudubon.com

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

October 11, 2018

Re: Gaviota Coastal Plan LCP Amendment

Dear Supervisors,

This letter documents Santa Barbara Audubon Society's comments regarding the Gaviota Coast Plan Local Coastal Plan Amendment and CCC Certification with Modifications, which is before the Board on Tuesday October 16 2018.

Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS)'s mission is to help conserve and restore the earth's natural ecosystems and improve its biological diversity, principally in the Santa Barbara area, and to connect people with birds and nature through education, science-based projects and advocacy. SBAS has been a voice for the natural world in the Santa Barbara area for more than 50 years, and we are supported in this effort by more than 1100 local families.

SBAS applauds the County for protecting the nature and sensitive habitats of the Gaviota Coast. We are particularly supportive of the following strong protections: the protection of natural stream channels, protection for trees especially those serving as roosting and nesting habitat, and ESH setbacks and buffers. The riparian corridors along El Capitan, Refugio and Gaviota creeks are especially important to birders as they are publicly accessible, and many rare birds have been documented this year by our birding community.

We believe that the Gaviota Coast Plan will be a significant improvement over the outdated 1982 Local Coastal Program.

We ask that the BOS accept the Coastal Commission's Certification with all of the 13 modifications.

SBAS thanks you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Jessica Altstatt
Co-chair, Science and Conservation Committee

Cheri Topper,
Executive Director
Santa Barbara Audubon Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheri Topper', written over a horizontal line.

