

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 3/21/03
Department Name: Parks
Department No.: 052
Agenda Date: 4/15/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: YES
If Yes, date from: February 25, 2003

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Terri Maus-Nisich
Director of Parks

STAFF Coleen Lund
CONTACT: Project Manager, x2470

SUBJECT: Goleta Beach County Park Long Term Visioning Process,
Second Supervisorial District

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive staff report on a visioning process for developing community consensus on a comprehensive, ecologically sound, long term solution for Goleta Beach County Park.
- B. Affirm funding plan for use of Proposition 12 / Prop 40 per capita funds in the amount of \$500,000 to be used as matching funds towards environmental review and implementation of long term solutions at the park.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 4. A Community that is Economically Vital and Sustainable and with Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Background

Goleta Beach Park has been damaged by erosion over the last several storm seasons. While the wide sandy beach, which existed for many years, has slowly eroded throughout many storm seasons and via other natural and coastal processes, the parkland specifically has now also been impacted. In March of 2000, as a result of prior and impending storm damage, protective revetment was placed along the frontage of Goleta Beach Park. This rock was removed in the spring of 2001 and a berm was later constructed with Flood Control material for the winter 2001-02 season. At that time, the Board of Supervisors provided funding for a long-term shoreline protection and erosion management plan. This plan, conducted by Moffatt and Nichol Engineers,

was to *address the long term objective of maintaining a recreational beach with parking and coastal access, managing and improving environmental conditions and minimizing costs by protecting assets*

The plan was also a condition of the Coastal Commission's permit for the 2000-2001 berm. This study was received by the Board of Supervisors in March 2002 at which time the Board directed staff to pursue beach nourishment, obtain permits for the repair of existing revetments and pursue a multi-year permit for the continued placement of a winter sand berm. Each of these items has been pursued. A three-year berm permit is in place, the revetments have been designed, and the beach nourishment program, while delayed, is anticipated to move forward for summer/fall 2003.

During the 2002/2003 storm season the protective berm was destroyed and in December 2002, emergency permits for the installation of 600 lineal feet of revetment at the west end of the park to protect critical facilities were obtained. The remaining portion of the park is protected via berming operations when required. On February 25, 2003, County Parks presented a multi-faceted plan to the Board to initially include the study of the placement of additional revetment along the remaining 1,000 lineal feet of shoreline. This recommendation was, however, denied. The Board of Supervisors then directed that a community process be initiated to devise a comprehensive plan and a long-term sustainable vision for a public recreation area and sandy beach at Goleta Beach Park. The Board also directed that staff return with a recommendation regarding the use of Proposition 12 / 40 per capita funds towards these long term efforts at Goleta Beach Park.

Visioning Process

As directed by the Board, County Parks in cooperation with the Second and Third Supervisorial Districts, has commenced implementation of a strategy for a community visioning process "for the protection of park resources and enhancement of the public beach" (Board Action Summary, February 25, 2003).

The goals of the visioning process are as follows:

1. Develop a community wide process, involving all interested stakeholders, that will yield a shared sustainable vision for Goleta Beach Park for the long term.
2. Establish a working group, as needed, to review and analyze likely scenarios/alternatives developed from the visioning process which will also include but not be limited to:
 - a. An assessment and understanding of the current conditions at Goleta Beach, which have caused aggressive erosion.
 - b. A consensus on the impacts of various on and offshore structures and their potential for impact at Goleta Beach Park and down coast.
 - c. An assessment of overall recreational needs of the South Coast region in regards to potential for gain/loss of passive recreation scenarios developed through the community process.
 - d. An assessment of the overall impacts/enhancements to natural resources at Goleta Beach Park from the scenarios developed.

3. Identify potential sources of funding and detail the implementation plan for the community's shared vision and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for complete study and future plan implementation.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a qualified facilitator has been prepared and released. RFQ's from interested consultants and/or consulting firms are due for review on April 22, 2003. The facilitator will be expected to guide the community through a process, which will ultimately determine a long-term attainable and sustainable vision for Goleta Beach County Park. The consultant will facilitate community educational workshops to inform the public on the various components and issues related to Goleta Beach. In addition, the facilitator will guide the community wide visioning process slated for a half day Saturday event. At the conclusion of the community visioning process, a smaller working group will be formed to further analyze and develop the selected and alternative scenarios identified through the community process. The final project scenarios will then be brought to your Board for consideration and approval to begin the environmental review process necessary under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The CEQA review will determine the preferred alternative based on numerous environmental effects including but not limited to biology, recreation, and coastal erosion and protection.

The suggested schedule for the community process is as follows:

Mid April 2003	Presentation to Board of Supervisors
Late April 2003	Selection of facilitator
Late April 2003	Distribution of informational/educational materials
Mid May 2003	One evening and one day informational meeting to provide background on issues
Late May 2003	Half-day Saturday community wide visioning session
Early June 2003	Kick off of working groups
Late August 2003	Presentation to Board of Supervisors on recommended course of action

Funding and Proposition 12

Visioning Process

The funding required for facilitation of the public workshop process and production of a product that would include alternatives of the vision for Goleta Beach is estimated at \$40,000. Park staff, in cooperation with Second District staff, is working with the Coastal Conservancy as well as other appropriate agencies to seek a planning grant to fund this process. Additional funds will also be requested from the Coastal Conservancy to provide technical assistance during the working group process, estimated at \$35,000.

Environmental Review

In accordance with CEQA guidelines, an environmental analysis will be completed to analyze the alternatives developed from the visioning process. Several technical studies will be required in coordination with this report, including but not limited to local coastal erosion processes, slough and creek hydrology,

analysis of effects of hard and soft solutions, regional recreational use and economic feasibility. The environmental review and associated studies are estimated to cost \$200,000.

Proposition 12 / Proposition 40

On November 25, 2003, your Board authorized the use of \$500,000 of County Parks Proposition 12/40 per capita allocation **as matching funds to seek other funding sources** towards implementation of long-term restoration efforts at Goleta Beach. This, at that time, included the repairs to the east and west end revetments, beach nourishment efforts and/or implementation of an offshore sand retention structure as outlined in the March 2002 Goleta Beach Long-Term Beach Restoration and Shoreline Erosion Management Plan.

Proposition 12/40 guidelines for the use of per capita funds require that only 10% of any grant amount, \$50,000 in this case, can be used towards final design and environmental review of the grant "project". An Initial Study under CEQA, however, must be complete prior to submittal of application for the per capita project grant funds. The Proposition 12/40 per capita funds cannot be used for the visioning process itself.

County Parks recommends that the \$500,000 per capita allocation remain available as matching funds for other grant sources towards completion of the environmental review for the long term vision of the park and implementation of project phases as may be developed and that can be completed within the Proposition 12/40 grant expenditure deadlines (2008 for Proposition 12 and 2010 for Proposition 40).

BEACON – California Coastal ACOE Wave Study

The Army Corp of Engineers is currently conducting a study, which will provide baseline data for the sediment budget, historical shoreline positions, nearshore beach profiles, and wave climate at a grid of positions along the California coastline. This data can be used for long-term planning purposes on a regional basis as well as site-specific projects and is intended to be a study recognized and followed by the permitting and regulatory agencies. The study is incrementally being completed up the coast of California and is ongoing and/or has been completed for San Diego and Orange Counties. For the region, which includes Santa Barbara County, it is anticipated that the total project costs will be approximately \$2.5 million. Both a state and local match will be required. The local match will be approximately \$250,000. BEACON will be looking to participate in the program and will be actively searching for available grant funding. When completed, this study will be an important tool when analyzing project alternatives that would require the data collected and examined in this study.

Mandates and Service Levels: No mandate or impact to service level with this action.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Costs, as described, for the visioning process may potentially be funded from a grant from the Coastal Conservancy. Future funding for the environmental review may be eligible for funds from the Coastal Resources Enhancement Fund (CREF), Proposition 12/40 and/or Coastal Conservancy and will be brought to your Board for consideration at the conclusion of the visioning process.

Subject: Goleta Beach Long Term Shoreline and Park Preservation Process
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Special Instructions: Clerk of the Board to provide one copy of the minute order to County Parks; attn. Coleen Lund.