



May 10, 2012

Santa Barbara County  
Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Re: Goleta Beach 2.0 – Awarding of Contract to Prepare Draft EIR**

Honorable Chair and Supervisors:

The Environmental Defense Center (“EDC”) submits this letter of support for Goleta Beach 2.0 on behalf of our client, the Santa Barbara Chapter of Surfrider Foundation. EDC protects and enhances the environment through education, advocacy and legal action. Surfrider’s mission is the protection and enjoyment of oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. Together, we have worked successfully for twelve years to protect and enhance Goleta Beach County Park. We support the proposed action of initiating the Goleta Beach 2.0 environmental review process.

Today is an important milestone in the decade-long effort to protect Goleta Beach Park. The project will have many benefits for the community, recreation and for the environment. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the County must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze and minimize any incidental environmental effects. Under the proposed action, the County would hire AMEC to prepare the EIR. AMEC is a very-well qualified firm with local staff which is familiar with Goleta Beach, the local environment, local land use policies and the California Coastal Act. EDC and Surfrider support the County’s selection of AMEC as the County’s EIR Consultant.

Goleta Beach 2.0 envisions a revitalized Goleta Beach County Park. The project carefully follows the direction provided by the Coastal Commission in its 9-1 denial of the expensive, controversial “Permeable Pile Groin” project in 2009. Unlike the groin project, Goleta Beach 2.0 is a long-term, science-based solution. It protects Goleta Beach Park without the use of armoring or groins, and therefore will not cause down-coast beach and bluff erosion and hence will not be subject to expensive monitoring and mitigation measures. Goleta Beach 2.0 costs approximately \$10 million less than the rejected groin proposal, while enhancing rather than degrading the coastal environment.

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Goleta Beach 2.0 adds an acre of sandy beach to the Park. This is land that will be used by many thousands of visitors each year for recreation such as bird-watching, beach parties, sun-tanning and sand-castle building. Access to the Park will also be improved, including a new bus route, a stable, safe new bridge, relocation of bike lanes to avoid auto traffic, new bicycle parking, and overflow parking which might be needed a couple times per year. Goleta Beach 2.0 retains recreational and visitor-serving amenities such as the pier, restrooms, playground, lawn, and Beachside Bar-Café, retains rock revetment in front of the Beachside and provides new protection to the Goleta Sanitary District's outfall line infrastructure.

In addition, utility lines which currently run underneath the Park will be moved away from the coastline to prevent possible future sewage spills on the beach. Goleta Beach 2.0 is a win-win project for the community, the beach and the environment. Therefore we urge you to retain the EIR consultant, launch the CEQA process, and move forward with Goleta Beach 2.0.

Sincerely,



Brian Trautwein

Environmental Analyst / Watershed Program Coordinator