



#4

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: John Evarts <cachuma@silcom.com>
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 5:29 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Gaviota Coast Plan comments

November 7, 2016

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Gaviota Coast Plan

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

The GavPAC and County Planning Staff are to be congratulated on their years of work to bring forth a Gaviota Coast Plan (GCP) that at last gives the Gaviota Coast a blueprint with policies that can enhance protection of the area's incomparable cultural and natural resources. However, there are several ways in which the GCP should be revised to strengthen preservation of sensitive biological resources. I want to address one of these.

The goal of encouraging the Gaviota Coast to remain a "working landscape" does not have to come at the expense of Environmentally Sensitive Habitats (ESH). As proposed, the GCP exempts unlimited removal of inland ESH from the permitting process when such removal is done for agricultural purposes. This exemption represents a departure from other Community Plans in the County, and this loophole has the potential to degrade the very biodiversity that helps make the Gaviota Coast so special. I support increasing mapping to identify additional ESH in the GCP area and the requirement of Land Use Permits for any agricultural clearing of ESH in excess of 5 acres.

Why is a go-slow approach to clearing ESH in the GCP so important? The simple answer is that ESH's have largely been obliterated from southern California's coastal areas south of Point Conception. The Gaviota Coast is unique in harboring so many entire watersheds that have not been excessively degraded or altered by development. Another reason is that we are still finding populations of sensitive plants and animals in and near the Gaviota Coast that deserve recognition and possible protection. Just last year, a group of botanists with the Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society explored an area north of Refugio Pass and found a new location for the rare Refugio manzanita (*Arctostaphylos refugioensis*) and a stand of blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), a species that had never before been reported from the western end of the Santa Ynez Mountains. There have also been recent additions to the known flora recorded at Arroyo Hondo Preserve.

It is very likely that there are biological treasures and still-undiscovered populations of rare or uncommon plants and animals within the boundaries of GCP that could be lost with unregulated clearing of ESH for agricultural expansion. We are entrusting the ranchers and farmers to be the stewards of much of the Gaviota Coast, and that is a good thing. But we should have a strict acreage limit on any ESH removal for agriculture without Land Use Permits. Without this safeguard, we risk losing some of the ecological richness that the GCP attempts to maintain for future generations.

Respectfully,

John Evarts
1875 Still Meadows Rd.
Ballard, CA 93463

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Diane Galvan <dgalroon@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 7:56 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Gaviota Coast Plan

To the Supervisors:

***PLEASE adopt a Strengthened Gaviota Coast Plan for the Ages!
WE NEED open spaces – precious little of it remains.***

*Thank you,
Diane Galvan
Resident, 93111 zip code*

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Cathy Rose <mizz.cathy@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 9:05 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Gaviota Coast Plan

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Unlike Marin County, which was able to unite to establish Point Reyes as a National Seashore, Santa Barbara County, due to a small group of vociferous, wealthy opponents, was rejected as a site by the National Park Service.

Can we please do it right this time? Please respect this beautiful coastline by passing a Gaviota Coast Plan that will restrain agriculture from expanding into areas with notable flora and fauna, protect the environment, promote trails and sensible recreational use, and exclude fracking and other damaging methods of oil and gas extraction.

After the oil spill of the 1960's, Santa Barbara led the country in supporting a strong environmental movement. I hope that you will pass, promptly, an enlightened plan, which will defend our superb coast from development and keep it a visual and recreational joy for generations to come.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Rose, a citizen of Santa Barbara

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Christiane Schlumberger <c.schlumberger@me.com>
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 10:02 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please support the Gaviota Coast Plan

To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I urge you to support the Gaviota Coast Plan.

- **The proposed GCP supports local farmers** by promoting flexible agricultural permitting and allowing new small-scale uses that are beneficial and inherently related to agriculture with reduced permit requirements, including “Farmstays”. To ensure that landowners are incentivized to pursue Farmstays that are compatible with agriculture, the GCP should be revised to specify that all other forms of transient lodging must secure a Conditional Use Permit.
- **Views from the heavily used railroad corridor are not protected** to the same extent as views from Highway 101 in the proposed GCP. GCP Policies VIS-12 and VIS-13 should be revised to protect the world-class views from the railroad.
- **The proposed GCP exempts unlimited removal of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat(ESH)** from permitting requirements if done for agricultural purposes. To improve the balance between agricultural land uses and sensitive habitats, the GCP should be revised to protect ESH from large-scale land clearing for new and expanded agricultural cultivation. We support an approach that preserves the ability of farmers to clear up to 5 acres of ESH with no permit, but would require a Land Use Permit for large scale clearing of ESH.
- **The proposed GCP keeps the door open to further industrialization of the Gaviota Coast.** To protect Gaviota from industrialization, GCP Policy TEI-12 should be revised to prohibit new oil and gas projects that use fracking, steam injection, and other unconventional enhanced oil and gas extraction technologies.
- **As proposed, the GCP builds on existing trail maps and includes important public access and recreation policies** to advance the creation of a world-class trail network along the Gaviota Coast; and up to, and along, the ridge-line of the Santa Ynez mountains. The GCP’s trail maps and policies should be adopted as proposed, to maximize future recreational opportunities on the Gaviota Coast.

Thank you!
Christiane Schlumberger
1146 Nirvana Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93101