



March 17, 2014

Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group
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All Members
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Statement of Position on Goleta Beach

The proposed Project is intended to balance protection of community valued recreation and public utilities with adaptation to coastal ecology in a manner consistent with goals and policies of the County's Local Coastal Program and State Coastal Act.

The Santa Barbara Group of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club would like to encourage the Planning Commission to deliberate that the overall result of any Project at Goleta Beach be in balance with the many various interest groups and community involved. It is understood that the proposed Project (s) are intended to protect both the beloved recreational facilities and beach and also allow natural ocean's coastal processes. Any project must also be consistent with goals and policies of the County's Local Coastal Program and State Coastal Act.

There have been several proposals put forward which all intend to mitigate beach and park destruction while preserving the recreational facilities for all in the community. We are not able to comment on one proposal over another but are very concerned that the final decision clearly promotes the four Project Objectives as stated in the latest Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

These being:

- (1) Infrastructure – Protect public infrastructure currently in place at the Park.
- (2) Recreation – Maintain and enhance active and passive recreational opportunities for all segments of the community.
- (3) Long-term Viability – Redevelop the Park to enable Park management that is consistent with ongoing natural coastal processes.
- (4) Access – Provide adequate vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the Park and beach for all current and future users.

Climate Change due to fossil fuel triggered Global Warming must be taken into account during your Project deliberations. Any and all construction must be weighed with its carbon footprint in mind. Furthermore it is equally important that any Project also potentially help lessen future fuel intensive remediation. Climate Change will not only result in sea level rise but also changes in weather patterns, which will have significant repercussions at Goleta Beach.

In addition, the Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group supports planning and budgeting for the County that takes a wide/long term view. We encourage the Planners to keep the costs of any Projects in mind, as there may be other more urgent community projects that could reduce our regional impact on climate change such as sustainable energy and public transportation projects. Please also investigate permits for the existing revetments vs. cost of removing them immediately.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Bernstein
Chair, Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group

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Vice-Chair
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