

March 15, 2009

#7

Clerk of the Board

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101



Dear Mr. Allen and Supervisors,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, I am writing to urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt measures that will restore sensible and competent long-range planning for the Gaviota Coast to the County's Planning and Development Department.

Specifically, we are asking the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Initiate a Gaviota-area Comprehensive Plan Element as the highest priority for the County's Comprehensive Planning Department. The Gaviota Coast's resources significantly contribute to Santa Barbara County's agriculture, and its unique recreational, wildlife and marine environments are vitally important and must be protected. Related to the Comprehensive Plan Element, we urge the County to fund development of a Climate Action Strategy as a high priority.
2. The County should immediately seek private and governmental grants to supplement General Funds to accelerate the Gaviota plan.
3. The Planning Department should reprioritize its existing workload to ensure immediate progress on the Gaviota Plan in FY 2009-2010, and restructure the Long Range Planning Department to free up funds for more planners. Planning, not management, must once again become the Department's priority.
4. The Planning Department should schedule a Planning Commission workshop on the Gaviota Plan process in June.

Please make copies of this letter available to the Supervisors for their review before the Tuesday, March

3/16/2009

#17 Board meeting.

Thank you very much,

Sandy Lejeune

Chair, Santa Barbara Chapter  
Surfrider Foundation