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Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 1

**From:** Hattie and Michael Beresford <hattieberesford@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 6:36 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Gaviota Coast Conservancy, Doug Kern  
**Subject:** Gaviota Culvert



**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Please reconsider Caltrans' plan for replacing a culvert and acquiring 5 acres of State Park land in the process for non-recreational use. The latest "shaving of the hill" has already increased the scar on the environment, and a 5 acre equipment/construction site, or whatever use those acres will be put to, will add to the visual and recreational destruction of the area. At a time when Californians are utilizing their state parks more than ever, it's high time to improve them.

Also, if the study done by Caltrans does not include knowledge of a sensitive archeological site near the culvert, someone hasn't done his or her homework. I'm including two photos. One shows the house and farm once occupied by Miguel Burke who ran the Gaviota Landing and then supervised the 1875 construction of Colonel Hollister's pier. The photo shows a masted schooner at the landing. The second photo shows the archeological dig and the discovery of the foundations of the house sometime in the 1970s or '80s. All of this site is now covered by brush. I don't know if this area is included in the 5 acres mentioned in the plan, but it might be a consideration.

Please don't miss this opportunity to reduce wildlife/vehicle collisions by providing a wildlife corridor, thereby enhancing the park and the recreational opportunities for tens of thousands of Californians. Please also preserve California's history.

Regards,  
Hattie Beresford





**Ramirez, Angelica**

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**From:** Raymond Smith <ray@eri.ucsb.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 11:26 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Ray Smith; Domi Smith  
**Subject:** Gaviota Coast Conservancy appeal.

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please uphold the GCC appeal, insist on an updated environmental review, and project modifications to accommodate wildlife passage under Highway 101. Caltrans' own guidelines prescribe under highway culverts to accommodate wildlife passage and such a requirement should be required in this important location. Please insist, as outlined in GCC's appeal, that environmental impacts are properly addressed before approving Caltrans permits.

Thank you,

Ray & Domi Smith

Mission Canyon

## Ramirez, Angelica

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**From:** Joel Fithian <joelfithian@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 12:25 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Highway 101 culvert replacement in the Canada del Barro

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Members: I am concerned that Caltrans is not going to follow the safe crossing guidelines that are found in their Crossing Guidance Manuel. I urge you to make sure that all safety measures are in place before this culvert replacement project goes forward.

Thank You Very Sincerely, Joel Fithian

Joel Fithian  
316 East Los Olivos Street  
santa Barbara, CA 93105

## Ramirez, Angelica

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**From:** Steve Ferry <sjferry@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Hearing on Appeal of Caltrans Gaviota Culvert Project

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

As a long-time environmentalist in Santa Barbara County, I want to urge you to do whatever you can to preserve and enhance the environment on the Gaviota Coast.

Caltrans has requested County approval of a Development Plan, Coastal Development Permit, and Conditional Use Permit, to authorize the replacement of an existing culvert off Highway 101 in the Canada del Barro drainage on park land just east of Gaviota State Beach Park. The portion of Highway 101 where the Project is proposed has an extraordinary level of wildlife-vehicle conflicts, documented by studies done by Dr. Lisa Stratton and others of UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration (CCBER). Caltrans' own Wildlife Crossings Guidance Manual identifies culvert replacements as an "opportunity to enhance existing rates of crossing and decrease rates of vehicle-animal collisions if the new culverts are larger than the existing culverts and include wildlife ledges, fencing, and vegetation to enhance their use." However, for the Gaviota Culvert, Caltrans maintains (incorrectly) that there are no wildlife corridors to consider, and has declined to accommodate wildlife crossing in its project, even though they propose habitat restoration that could attract additional wildlife to the area.

Caltrans' Highway 101 facilities have severely impacted Gaviota Coast wildlife including bobcat and deer, which have been recently observed at the mouth of the culvert proposed for removal. The new expert studies mentioned above confirm the need to reevaluate the Project's impacts to wildlife, including whether the proposed habitat restoration activities will attract wildlife and increase wildlife-vehicle collisions.

The culvert must be redesigned to accommodate wildlife passage as described in Caltrans' own Wildlife Crossings Guidance Manual.

Land under the control of State Parks must not be transferred to Caltrans without offsetting mitigation such as provision of a California Coastal Trail (CCT) segment.

Unless and until State Parks has secured approval to transfer or encumber the Gaviota Village property, the transfer is not permissible and the Project cannot proceed as proposed.

The Project cannot be approved as proposed due to conflicts with the Gaviota Coast Plan including with recreation policies requiring that existing and proposed trails be preserved and provided for in discretionary development projects, and policies protecting sensitive wildlife and wildlife corridors.

The GCC and CRC appeals raise concerns about serious flaws in the Project design and environmental review, and should be granted.

Thank you for considering my views and for continuing to protect the Gaviota Coast.

Regards,

Stephen J. Ferry  
5557 Camino Galeana  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111