

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 3

#3

From: Kathryn Washburn <kathwash1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 3:47 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: #3 of Planning and Dev, page 16 of Agenda for Sept 1, 2020. STOP wildlife/car crashes on Gaviota Coast!

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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.

Please accept the Appeal of GCC and CRC re Caltrans Gaviota Culvert and direct the Office of Planning and Development to reject the approval of: 1) the Development Plan, 2) the Coastal Development Permit and 3) the Conditional Use Permit:

This is a corridor where wildlife-vehicle conflicts are significant, see the studies of Dr. Lisa Stratton at UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration. Caltrans' own guidance calls for these conflicts to be reduced with larger culverts and wildlife-friendly design accommodations. Santa Barbara should not allow Caltrans to ignore the science of these conflicts with such an undocumented statement as "Since wildlife corridors are not present, they are not further discussed..." The wildlife are present and are jeopardizing their own life and our drivers on 101 when the deer, bobcats and other creatures are forced onto the highway because the replacement culvert is not large enough and does not have design features welcoming to wildlife.

Please insist that the County Planners go back and get a better design of the culvert so that wildlife can cross Highway 101 through a larger culvert and not cross on the highway.

Kathryn Washburn
34 Seaview Drive
Santa Barbara CA 93108

Ramirez, Angelica

From: David and Nancy Hill <dnhill@sbceo.org>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 4:02 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Gaviota Coast Conservancy and Coastal Ranches Conservancy Appeal
Attachments: Coastal Ranches Conservancy Appeal Aug 31 2020.docx

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Clerk of the Board
Santa Barbara County Supervisors

Please include the attached letter re: 20-00615 (appeal of Caltrans culvert permit) for tomorrows BOS meeting.
Thanks, Dave Hill 805 565-3573

David and Nancy Hill
212 Asegra Road
PO Box 1353
Summerland, CA 93067
dnhill@sbceo.org
805 565-3573H, 805 698-5421Cell

Monday August 31, 2020

Re: Coastal Ranches Conservancy and Gaviota Coast Conservancy appeal of Caltrans culvert permit

Dear Supervisors:

Please uphold this appeal and ask Caltrans to do a better job with this project for the many reasons stated in the appeals.

Freeways are a major cause of habitat fragmentation, which in turn contributes to the ongoing and accelerating species declines in Santa Barbara County and beyond.

If one of the largest state agencies, Caltrans, can't do a better job of following established guidelines when the opportunity arises--such as with this relatively small project-- then what hope is there for finding ways to correct past mistakes?

Thank you for your consideration,

David Hill (Board Member, Coastal Ranches Conservancy)

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Jim Deacon <jdeaconsb@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 5:30 PM
To: sbcob
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.

Dear Supervisors,

Having looked at the plans for the proposed culvert renovation at Gaviota and assuming I am reading the plans right, it is beyond me how a 6-foot diameter pipe in excess of 500 feet long could possibly comply with the recommendations in CalTrans' Wildlife Crossings Guidance Manual, in particular the recommended "openness ratios". That document states in Section 4.2 that

- "The openness ratio is critical to use by the intended species, as a too-low underpass may be perceived as a tunnel, especially by deer. A large, open underpass with an openness ratio > 0.75 is preferred "

and that

- " Most mammals prefer to see through to habitat on the opposite side of the culvert – the culvert should not appear as a cave or burrow; the culvert openness ratio is important"

The openness ratio (ratio of area to length) of the proposed tunnel is an order of magnitude lower at 0.06, and will indeed be perceived as a dark tunnel.

Approval for the project should be withheld until the needs of wildlife are addressed, and the transfer of State Park land to Caltrans has been properly vetted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Deacon

Goleta resident