



Montecito Trails Foundation

POST OFFICE BOX 5481 • SANTA BARBARA, CA 93150

March 28, 2014

Supervisor Salud Carbajal
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Appeal of the Planning Commission's Approval of the Beach Club Lot Split, Gabion Wall and Grading, and New Single Family Residence Project

Montecito Trails Foundation firmly supports the Summerland Citizens' Association (SCA) appeal of the Beach Club Project. The proposed Lower Toro Canyon Creek trail would provide access to the beach and allow the public a safe year round route to an exceptional shoreline which is increasingly difficult and dangerous to access.

The standing 1987 "Offer To Dedicate" a trail through 3443 Padaro Lane has not been accepted by the County and has languished on the books ever since. Although the public has a right to access the beach, limited parking and intense opposition by Padaro Lane residents has doomed several generations of beach goers seeking to access Serena cove to use the intimidating flood control tunnel at Garrapata Creek. Conversely, the Toro Canyon Creek trail would provide safe access to the beach when medium to high tides render the existing Loon Point Trail unusable. County staff's position that the never-adopted 3443 Padaro Lane access point somehow makes the proposed Toro Creek Trail redundant is regrettably incorrect.

The trail was envisioned by the Summerland Community, Montecito Trails Foundation, Carpinteria Valley Association and Santa Barbara County over two decades ago to preserve and improve the recreational amenities of the community. It was incorporated into Summerland's Community Plan. The thorough planning effort and resulting configuration of trails within the Plan cannot be overstated.

With regard to County concerns with ESHA issues along the creek, it should be pointed out that ESHA issues have not surfaced in the "enchanted forest" portion of the trail further up the creek and any damage to archaeological resources in the vicinity has been done by property owners, not the public. Local residents' obsession with privacy will undoubtedly also serve to protect any restoration efforts.

We urge you to sustain the SCA appeal and to promote the unique network of urban and rural trails that Montecito Trails Foundation and you have worked so long to preserve and protect.

Sincerely,


Kevin Snow, vice president