



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
Trails Council

October 15, 2018

Mr. Das Williams, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Gaviota Coast Plan Approval

Dear Chair Williams and Board Members:

Santa Barbara County Trails Council is largely pleased with the Gaviota Plan and the changes proposed by the Coastal Commission. We support the consideration the plan has given to future recreational needs of our citizens. We would like to especially commend the Working Group, the Planning Commission, County Staff, staff of the Coastal Commission, and especially all of the engaged community members who volunteered countless hours of participation in planning meetings.

The planning process must be dynamic and flexible to accommodate new and unforeseen things, and we think it would be a misconception to assume that the wellbeing of the Gaviota Coast has been taken care of for the next 20+ years, until the next regional planning group is convened. We are especially concerned about developments to the transportation corridor that are just over the horizon and that will soon present large and unavoidable impact to the way the public has historically had access and use of the shoreline. We are specifically looking at the dramatic effects of cliff erosion on the railroad and at the dramatic increase in traffic on Highway 101.

We trust that **Policy REC-14: Transportation Improvements and Public Access** that calls for "*all improvements to the U.S. Highway 101, County roads, and the Union Pacific Railroad or its successor agency shall be designed to protect and expand public access to and along the coast*" and companion policies for working "*...with Caltrans, the Union Pacific Railroad and interested organizations to complete a Transportation Corridor Plan to address public access issues and ensures that all future improvements to these facilities accommodate and foster public coastal access*" will be strong enough to protect traditional recreational use of the Gaviota coast.

As soon as the Gaviota Coast Plan is approved, we support an expedited process to complete a *Transportation Corridor Plan* and we urge that serious engagement with the Union Pacific Railroad and Caltrans be integral to the planning process. Let us work together and try to not let the future get ahead of us.

Sincerely,

Otis Calef, President

cc. Joan Hartmann, 3rd District Supervisor  
Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development Department  
Steve Hudson, California Coastal Commission