


MEMORANDUM



Date: September 7, 2011

To: Honorable Joni Gray, Chair, and
Members of the Board of Supervisors

From: Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer 

Subject: Parks Commission Report

cc: Terri Maus-Nisich, Asst. CEO
Brian Roney, Interim Parks Director

On August 24, 2011 the Santa Barbara County Parks Commission received a staff report regarding the potential planting of date palm trees (a non-native species) at Goleta Beach County Park. The discussion of planting these trees was previously brought before the Commission on June 23, 2011 by individuals wishing to donate the trees for placement along the shoreline as an erosion prevention measure.

County staff's report to the Commission indicated that on October 6, 2009 the Board of Supervisors approved the Goleta Beach 2.0 Conceptual Plan and directed staff to initiate preliminary design work. This plan did not include the planting of trees of any type along the shoreline. Further it was noted that the Planning and Development Department and County Counsel have determined that the California Coastal Commission would likely assert that a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) would be required if the trees were to be planted within the Coastal Development Zone. Additionally, the coastal erosion consultant working on the Goleta Beach 2.0 project has indicated that there is insufficient science-based evidence on the successful use of palm trees in an ocean environment for erosion management.

The Goleta Beach 2.0 process has had significant stakeholder outreach meetings throughout the community over the course of the last year. A decision to include the proposed trees, or any other features, not included in the currently approved Plan would necessitate returning to the Board for amended approval and direction and reopening discussions with stakeholders. This process would delay initiation of environmental review scheduled to be considered by the Board on September 20, 2011.

After receiving County staff's report the Commission approved the following motion:

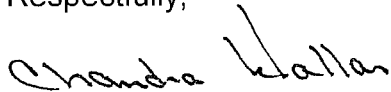
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Commissioner Dale moved, seconded by Commissioner Perkins and carried by a vote of 5-0 to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the use of date palms as an erosion control measure be evaluated in the Goleta Beach 2.0 Environmental Impact Report

For the reasons noted above, I do not recommend amending the current Board approved Goleta Beach 2.0 conceptual plan and inclusion of the palm trees in the soon to be initiated environmental review. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chandra Wallar". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Respectfully,".

Chandra L. Wallar