

LATE
DIST

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment - Group 2

From: Otis Calef <crahtac@explore-santa-barbara-county.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 4:29 PM
To: Villalobos, David
Cc: sbcob; Jeffrey Lindgren; Plowman, Lisa
Subject: CRAHTAC-Draft-Environmental-Justice-Element-Comments
Attachments: CRAHTAC-Draft-Environmental-Justice-Element-Comments-09-19-25.pdf

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.

Hello Mr. Villalobos,

The Santa Barbara County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC) is writing to the County Planning Commission regarding the proposed **Draft County Environmental Justice Element**. We aim to provide focused recommendations on ideas to improve this draft document, specifically concerning the importance of trails and outdoor recreation to environmental justice communities and the health and welfare of affected residents.

Please share the attached letter with the County Planning Commission members before the hearing scheduled in October.

Sincerely,



Otis Calef
Chair

CRAHTAC | County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee

805.708.5009 | [website](#)

The County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC) was established by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in an advisory capacity to review programs, policies, and procedures affecting county recreational riding and hiking and their use.



CRAHTAC

COUNTY RIDING AND HIKING TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



CHAIR
Otis Calef

VICE CHAIR
Faith Deeter

SECRETARY
Desiree Woodill

1st DISTRICT
Kim Fly
Kevin Snow

2nd DISTRICT
Otis Calef
Dan Gira

3rd DISTRICT
Faith Deeter
Linda Rubenstein
Desiree Woodill

4th DISTRICT
John Karamitsos

5th DISTRICT

STAFF
Jeffery Lindgren

September 19, 2025

Submitted via email

Mr. Roy Reed, Vice Chair
Santa Barbara County Planning Commission
123 E Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Draft Environmental Justice Element

Dear Vice Chair Reed and Commissioners,

The Santa Barbara County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC) is writing to you regarding the proposed **Draft County Environmental Justice Element**. We aim to provide focused recommendations on ideas to improve this draft document, specifically concerning the importance of trails and outdoor recreation to environmental justice communities and the health and welfare of affected residents.

As the Planning Commission is aware, CRAHTAC is a standing committee appointed by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to advise the County on projects and policies related to the County's trail system and trail users. We respectfully request that the Planning Commission require amendments to the draft Environmental Justice Element to address the following:

- 1) **Acknowledge the Importance of Trails and Outdoor Recreation to the Health and Welfare of Environmental Justice/Disadvantaged Communities:** These communities are known to suffer disproportionately from a range of adverse health conditions, including obesity and related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc. The revised Environmental Justice Element should describe and provide data on these health-related issues and the known importance and benefits of free or low-cost public trails, parks, and outdoor recreation to help alleviate such health concerns. The revised document should also clearly acknowledge that, as part of the 2024 Housing Element process, the County Board of Supervisors found that provision of public parks, trails, and recreation is essential to the public health and welfare, which also mirrors language in the County's adopted Park Development Impact Fee ordinance. The County's Draft Recreation Master Plan provides a discussion of these issues. As summarized below, the two documents should be thoroughly integrated and made consistent with each other as required under state law.
- 2) **Fully Integrate the Draft Environmental Justice Element and Draft County Recreation Master Plan:** The Draft Recreation Master Plan (RMP) provides substantial data on recreational use, activities, and demand, including that for disadvantaged or environmental justice communities, which should be reflected in the Draft Environmental Justice Element. This could include the

Environmental justice element, considering or highlighting if planning RMP recreational improvements are located proximate to serve existing known or potential future neighborhoods qualifying as environmental justice communities. Of particular importance is ensuring that the policies of the draft Environmental Justice Element are integrated into and are consistent with those that will be put forth as part of the Draft RMP. Policies that promote or require the provision of public trails and other outdoor recreation that are easily accessible to existing and new disadvantaged/environmental justice communities are key to helping address known health problems and increase equity. For example, the provision of readily accessible new public parks, recreation, and trails to serve new communities in the eastern Goleta Valley that may provide upwards of 1,000 new affordable housing units is key to improving the public health and welfare of these lower-income residents and often disadvantaged new residents. However, the full integration of these two documents will be challenging, as the RMP policies are apparently not expected to be released until two weeks after the Planning Commission's October 8, 2025, hearing on the Environmental Justice Element.

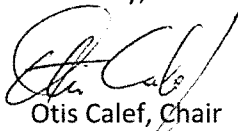
3) Include Policies Regarding Public Health and Trails/Outdoor Recreation in the Draft

Environmental Justice Element: CRAHTAC members broadly supported the limited policy amendments recommended by the Santa Barbara County Trails Council (letter dated 8/25/25) and hope that the Planning Commission will as well. We further recommend that the Environmental Justice Element include the following two new policy concepts:

- a) In order to maintain and improve public health and welfare, as part of all new developments containing substantial amounts of affordable housing, the County shall require the provision of onsite or nearby public parks, recreation, and trail opportunities to serve new residents and those of surrounding neighborhoods.
- b) In order to maintain and improve public health and welfare, the County shall work with disadvantaged and environmental justice communities, community organizations representing such communities, and community recreational organizations to strive to improve the provision of new trails, public parks, and outdoor recreation within or adjacent to such communities.

Thank you for considering this input and request. We are excited about the **Draft Environmental Justice Element** and its potential benefits in helping to improve public health and welfare for disadvantaged or environmental justice residents through the provision of new or improved public trails and outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,


Otis Calef, Chair
CRAHTAC

cc: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Jeff Lindgren, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Community Services, Parks Division
Lisa Plowman, Director, Santa Barbara County Planning and Development



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
Trails Council

August 25, 2025

Submitted via Email

Otis Calef
President

Dan Gira
Vice President

Paul Herning
Treasurer

Kevin Wallace
Secretary

Susan Keller

Bob Nagy

Kerry Kellogg

Kimberly Fly

Donald Adam

James Lutz

Chair Laura M. Bridley
Santa Barbara County Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: County of Santa Barbara Draft Environmental Justice Element

Dear Chair Bridley and Members of the Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Trails Council, I would like to express our strong support for the Draft Environmental Justice Element (EJE). We understand that the EJE focuses on the needs of disadvantaged communities and includes specific objectives aimed at improving the quality of life in the communities of Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa, Sisquoc, Garey, Casmalia, Los Alamos, and Isla Vista. Achieving environmental justice in outdoor recreation means ensuring that outdoor opportunities are fairly shared, that everyone is included in decision-making processes, and that natural spaces are welcoming and respectful to all. We are pleased to see that Santa Barbara County has outlined this vision in its Draft Environmental Justice Element, which highlights the importance of equitable access to nature and recreation for all communities.

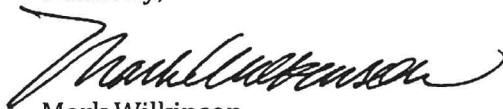
Our focus is on creating new trails for various types of outdoor recreation, protecting public trail access, building and maintaining safe and sustainable trails, and promoting public engagement in land stewardship. Since 2010, we have helped create more than 30 miles of new public trails across the county. These trails are free, open to everyone, and highlight the incredible diversity of our region's landscapes. In a time when many environmental justice issues face significant challenges, this is a success story. It shows that steady, collaborative work can deliver real progress.

We urge the County to amend two policies to underscore the **importance of trail infrastructure** for access to outdoor recreation – a popular and free means for promoting an active lifestyle.

- **Policy 1: Promote Public Facilities in EJs** – This should include trail infrastructure as a public facility for recreation.
- **Policy 3: Promote Physical Activity in EJs** – This should emphasize trail access as a proven, affordable way to facilitate access to nature and encourage an active lifestyle.

Trails are key to achieving environmental justice in recreation, as they ensure that recreational opportunities are available to everyone (distributional justice) and that recreational spaces are welcoming and respectful to all users (interactional justice). Expanding trail access closer to disadvantaged communities would provide affordable and equitable opportunities for exercise, community connection, and time spent in nature.

Sincerely,



Mark Wilkinson
Executive Director

Katherine Douglas

From: Robin Corcos <robin.corcos@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 12:17 PM
To: sbcob; Leslie Corcos
Subject: Failure to canvass local residents re The Cove

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.

I own a condo unit overlooking the North Campus Open Space. For the past 10 years I have rented the unit to visiting academics, professors and post docs. I recently rented it to a visiting professor who terminated her lease after a week due to unacceptable levels of noise emanating from The Cove.

My question is this: Given that planning approval was granted in 2020 for the construction of 32 'family' homes, probably housing no more than 4-6 people per unit, how has it come about that each unit now houses 10-12 'undergraduate students'. Both quantitatively and qualitatively this latter use is fundamentally different from that which was initially agreed. It is having a dire effect on the local residents and is significantly devaluing their properties. What is most distressing is that this development was allowed to happen without any consultation of the local residents whatsoever in what I can only characterize as a classic bait and switch scam. County Supervisors clearly dropped the ball on this one and owe us not merely an explanation but urgent remediation.

Thankyou.

Robin D Corcos

Owner of 538 Mills Way

Katherine Douglas

From: Thomas Becker <tbeckerpower@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:17 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Charlie Kirk National Day of Remembrance
Attachments: Charlie Kirk.pdf

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 find attached a letter to Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann.

9/22/25

To: Joan Hartmann

From: Tom Becker

Subject: Charlie Kirk National Day of Remembrance

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have both voted to make October 14, 2025 a national day of remembrance for Charlie Kirk, who was assassinated on September 10, 2025. On October 14, President Trump will present to Charlie's widow, Erika, a posthumous Medal of Freedom in the name of Charlie.

As my representative on the Board of Supervisors, I request you place on the agenda for Tuesday, October 14, an agenda item proclaiming October 14, 2025 as a day of remembrance countywide for Charlie Kirk, which coincides with the national day of remembrance.

Please respond ASAP to my request.

Thank you,

Tom Becker

Buellton

tbeckerpower@gmail.com