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Cristina Sandoval
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Joseph Centeno, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, Ca 93101

March 13, 2009

**Re: 2009-2010 Annual Work Program and Mid-Year Report For Land Use
Planning Projects and Policy Initiatives**

Dear Chairman Centeno and Board Members,

I manage the UCSB Coal Oil Point Reserve, adjacent to the Gaviota Coast. Although in this capacity I am interested in the preservation of the Gaviota Coast, I am writing as an individual because the time needed for UCSB officials to review this letter was too short.

In a letter to the SB Planning Commission of January 26 2009, I made a few suggestions for a planning process to protect the Gaviota Coast, including stressing the need for a conservation plan. Therefore, I am very excited to hear about the promising initiative from the Planning Commission for a new **Gaviota Rural Regional Plan and Climate Action Strategy**.

This process will be complex and important and will require dedicated funding and staff time. I write to express my support for making the Gaviota Rural Regional Plan and Climate Action Strategy the highest priority for the county planning actions. These two environmental problems should be a central issue in future planning because Santa Barbara's trademarks are its natural beauty and coastlines.

To support these planning efforts, the County should seek grants and allocate staff time right away so that a Gaviota Plan can be initiated in FY 2009-2010. A re-evaluation of present staff priority and department organization may be necessary to provide some of this funding. It is not too early to start public input and involve stakeholders, the sooner the better considering the present high risk confronting the Gaviota Coast.

Lastly, UCSB may be a good resource for expertise in Climate Change and environmental issues and a potential collaborator in this process.

Sincerely,

Cris Sandoval