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Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
c/o Clerk of the Board
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Transmitted Via Email: sbcob@co.santa-barbar.ca.us

May 10, 2018

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

It is disheartening to read the California Coastal Commission staff's response to the Gaviota Plan that was forged over seven years of thoughtful, sometimes contentious, debate among the Gaviota region's stakeholders. Thousands of volunteer hours, as well as over one million dollars of the County's funds, were devoted to creating a Gaviota Plan that reflects the concerns of the various parties, attempts to honor the land and its history, and upholds the Coastal Act. While not perfect, the Gaviota Plan as submitted to the Coastal Commission was developed through a democratic process and upholds the concept of the local government developing a local Coastal Plan within the guidelines of the Coastal Act.

Unfortunately, the staff of the Coastal Commission has dismissed the local process and is disrespectful of the sincere and lengthy efforts of the GavPAC members. The staff disregards local knowledge of, concern for, and the historic good stewardship of the land. Clearly without the landowners commitment to this land the Gaviota Coast would not be "Southern California's largest continuous stretch of rural coastal land".

The process the Coastal Commission staff is pushing upon the County does not allow an informed response to the CCC's staff's recommended substantial and substantive modifications to the Gaviota Plan. The staff is reinterpreting the Coastal Act, extending the Act's reach beyond what the voters intended and perhaps beyond what the Coastal Commissioners understand. The Act states that there shall be a balance among environmental protection, agriculture, private property and public access. The staff's modifications put public access above all other concerns, recommending policies that will result in the devastation of environmentally sensitive areas, cultural resources, and contribute to the demise of agriculture, specifically cattle grazing which has provided the open space and vistas along the

Gaviota Coast which are so highly regarded by the public. What the staff has recommended is counter productive not only in undermining the public, democratic process, but in the desired results of protecting open space for the public to enjoy.

As our elected representatives, please do not accept the Coastal Commission staff's modifications or timeline. Please honor and respect the members of the GavPAC, our community, and the process you, as a Board, set up to develop policies to preserve and protect our beloved Gaviota coast. Please reject the CCC's staff's proposed modifications to the Gaviota Plan, request an extension of time for review, and give the community the opportunity to provide meaningful input on the proposed modifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly Boise-Cossart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beverly" and last name "Boise-Cossart" clearly distinguishable.

Beverly Boise-Cossart,
GavPAC Member
GavPAC Trails Subcommittee Member
Gaviota Design Guidelines Working Group Chair
Gaviota Trails Siting Guideline Working Group Member