

Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



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July 1, 2010

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Chair Janet Wolf
sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Dear Honorable County Supervisors:

Santa Barbara Audubon has followed the Goleta Beach protection issue for many years, and supports the “Goleta Beach 2.0” conceptual plan to protect and enhance Goleta Beach County Park.

In addition to being President of the local Audubon chapter, this writer was also a member of the Goleta Beach Working Group and am the Second District County Parks Commissioner. In this letter of support, I represent the views of the Board of Directors of Audubon, which has 1000 local members.

Moving the utility lines out of the “critical erosion zone”, as close to Highway 217 as can be negotiated with CalTrans, makes a lot of sense. This plan recognizes and works *with* the dynamic coastal processes.

The 1.2 million users of Goleta Beach County Park come to *the beach*, and that is the resource that must be protected. The plan provides amenities for beach users, and retains a wide expanse of turf/beach interface that is highly valued by beach visitors.

Audubon recognizes that there are many details to be worked out, such as a location for off-site parking to supplement the majority of parking spots to be retained in the park. We urge the Board to approve the conceptual plan, and request the County Parks Department to continue the dialog with the utilities, the Coastal Commission staff, and CalTrans to finalize a plan.

Sincerely,



Darlene Chirman
President, Santa Barbara Audubon