



Surfrider Foundation®

Santa Barbara Chapter

(805)899-BLUE(2583)

Janet Wolf, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

July 1, 2010

Dear Chair Wolf,

As chair of the Santa Barbara chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, I urge your and the entire Board of Supervisors' endorsement of Goleta Beach 2.0 as the best solution to preserving Goleta Beach County Park and protecting Goleta Beach.

Surfrider's mission of protecting the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people first led us to become a stakeholder in the Goleta Beach Working Group ten years ago. Since then, the Santa Barbara chapter has continually supported a natural, environmentally friendly alternative to hard structure armoring of Goleta Beach. The Surfrider Foundation, a national and international environmental organization with more than 50,000 members, has long opposed coastal armoring on both scientific and practical grounds.

We support Goleta Beach 2.0's plan to remove the rock revetment as required by the California Coastal Commission, which will enhance access between the lawn and park areas and the sandy beach while allowing littoral processes to restore the beach naturally. We also support Goleta Beach 2.0's recommendation to relocate utility and sewer lines outside the erosion zone. We favor relocating utility/sewer lines into Caltrans' Highway 217 right-of-way, which will both remove the potential for sewage spills on Goleta Beach and eliminate the need for future rock revetments.

Goleta Beach 2.0's sound science plan for park reconfiguration is backed by the County Parks Commission, by Dr. Edward Keller, chair of UCSB's Geology Department, and by other coastal protection advocates including the Environmental Defense Center (who represents our chapter on Goleta Beach 2.0), Heal the Ocean, the More Mesa Preservation Coalition, and the Urban Creeks Council. And the Coastal Commission resoundingly signaled its support for such a plan in August 2009.

The Santa Barbara chapter of Surfrider therefore urges the Board of Supervisors to adopt Goleta Beach 2.0 as the environmentally preferred solution to park preservation and beach protection at Goleta Beach. With your support, we look forward to working with County staff toward a plan for Goleta Beach Park which will ensure its healthy future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Sandy Lejeune
Chair