

# Goleta Beach 2.0 Concept Planning Process



Board of Supervisors Hearing  
Tuesday, July 6, 2010



## Goleta Beach 2.0

Over the past 80 years, the size of Goleta Beach has fluctuated with recurring storm events and longer range determinants such as the Pacific Multi-decadal Oscillation.

In the 1970s the beach was hundreds of feet wider than it is today. Storms in the past 30 years have contributed to erosion. Some scientists hypothesize that we are at the beginning of a natural period of more sand deposit and a growing beach. Despite that as yet unproven thesis, Santa Barbara County has observed past erosion with concern and has examined potential programs to mitigate the loss of beach area.



**March 1975 view of very wide beach**



**January 1983 view of eroded beach**

(Photos courtesy of UCSB Emeritus Professor Arthur G. Sylvester)





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1929 aerial photo shows a narrow beach

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1964 aerial photo shows a much wider beach, documenting a period of increased sand deposit during the post-World War II decades.



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By 1989, after El Nino storms, the beach had shrunk drastically.

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Sand replenishment projects were completed this winter at Goleta Beach, depositing a total of over 50,000 cubic yards of sand. Sand replenishment can be one part of a multi-faceted approach to protecting Goleta Beach.



## County's Search for a Long Term Solution

- Goleta Beach Working Group met for several years to consider different approaches
- Two major strategies among several were identified:
  - Structural solution
  - Managed Retreat
- Environmental review was conducted, with the preferred solution as the structural option -- permeable pier addition -- and managed retreat as an alternative
- Coastal Commission review was conducted between January 2008 and June 2009 -- Coastal Commission staff recommended approval with conditions of the permeable pier addition and beach enhancement project

### Regulatory Context

- CA Coastal Commission voted 9-1 in July 2009 to turn down the county's long range plan for a permeable pier addition and beach enhancement
- County has withdrawn the previous permeable pier project
- Permits for emergency rock revetments installed in 2002 and 2005 have expired – Coastal Commission will require County to remove these after a long term plan is implemented.
- County Board of Supervisors established the Goleta Beach 2.0 Concept Planning Process on October 6, 2009
- County Parks has taken the lead with this project, using the past several months to map the park electronically, identify structures that are at risk, and examine modified park configurations
- County Parks has continued to keep the staff of the Coastal Commission informed of the progress of the Goleta Beach 2.0 process





## Goleta Beach 2.0 Concept Planning Process

The process the Board of Supervisors established in October 2009 under the rubric of “Goleta Beach 2.0” is designed to:

- Take a fresh look at Goleta Beach County Park -- to think outside the box and imagine an enhanced park for the next decades
- Examine modified park configurations for structures and facilities at risk from erosion
- Solicit public input and comment
- Present options to the Board of Supervisors in Spring 2010

Goleta Beach 2.0 *will not* result in an engineered plan or application. It *will* define a conceptual plan that can result in an engineered proposal, environmental review, and future application to the Coastal Commission.



## Goleta Beach 2.0



### Prime Erosion Zone

The area of the park that is most at risk from erosion is contained within the Prime Erosion Zone, located at the park's western end. This area is just to the east of the rock outcrop along the park's boundary, and includes parking lots and underground utilities.

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### Major Utility Lines

Underground utility lines for high-pressure gas, reclaimed water, and pressurized wastewater transit the park. These lines are particularly vulnerable in the prime erosion zone at the western end of the park.



## Modified Park Configuration Concept Plan

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Our concept for a future Goleta Beach is a measured response to the erosion conditions. It suggests several future actions that together will enhance Goleta Beach County Park:

1. Relocate western parking lots
2. Relocate key utility lines from erosion zone
3. Relocate Coastal Trail bike path
4. Goleta Slough landing for water taxi, kayaks
5. Goleta Slough interpretive access trail
6. New park vehicular access bridge
7. Convert bridge to bike/pedestrian access
8. Extend central area rock revetment
9. Utility backstop protection zone
10. Expanded recreational programs

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**Many stakeholders have viewed the concept plan and given us their comments and ideas:**

- **Goleta Water District**
- **Sempra Energy/The Gas Company**
- **Goleta Sanitary District**
- **CA Coastal Commission senior staff**
- **Surfrider Foundation**
- **Environmental Defense Center**
- **Santa Barbara Group of Sierra Club**
- **Beachside Bar-Café**
- **MTD Transit**
- **Goleta City Council**
- **James Hickling**
- **Ed de la Torre**
- **David Revell, Ph. D.**
- **Wilderness Youth Project**

***Thank you!***



### Relocate western parking lots (2)

The two western-most parking lots are located in the prime erosion zone. We suggest removing these asphalt areas (approximately 48,000 SF in area) and allowing the beach to reclaim this part of the park.

The two parking lots comprise about 150 spaces – 25% of the total of 604 in the park -- and we would like to relocate those spaces (and more in addition) to a satellite parking lot located just to the north of the park.

Visitors who park in the new lot could access the park by three methods:

1. Shuttle bus
2. Interpretive trail next to Slough
3. Water taxi on Goleta Slough





## Parking Available for Goleta Beach

- Western Lots (to be relocated) 150 spaces
- Central/Eastern Lots (to remain) 454 spaces
- Additional spaces (restriping) 20 spaces
  
- Proposed Satellite Parking 200 spaces  
674 spaces

With remaining on-site parking (474 spaces) and new satellite parking (200 spaces), over 670 spaces will be available for park visitors to Goleta Beach, a net increase of nearly 70 spaces.

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### Relocate western parking lots Reclaim beach area for recreation

By removing the 48,000 square feet of asphalt that comprise the parking lots we will have the opportunity to begin a process in which the beach and sand reclaim this previously developed area.

That represents *over an acre* of land that can be used for beach activities and coastal dependent recreation.

In addition to serving as an environmental buffer area in the prime erosion zone, this reclaimed beach area will be new land devoted to recreational use.





## Goleta Beach 2.0





## Goleta Beach 2.0



### Satellite Parking Lot

Removed parking spaces could be relocated off-site to a satellite parking facility located just north of Route 217. Vacant or underused land in this area would be suitable for such a parking area. Shuttle bus, pedestrian trail, and water taxi could be used for egress to Goleta Beach.

# Satellite Parking Connections

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### Shuttle Bus



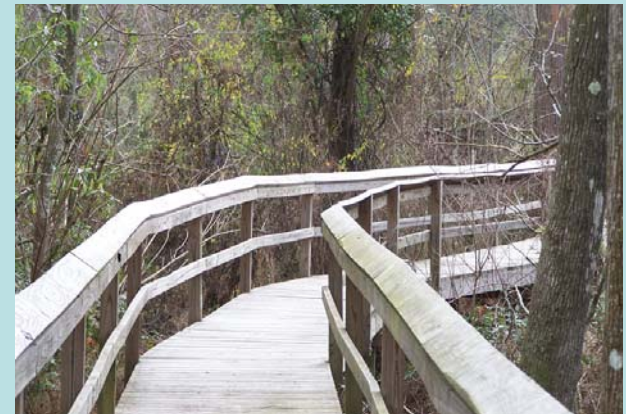
County Parks has begun discussion with MTD about providing shuttle bus service from the satellite parking lot. Shuttle buses might include features like bike racks, and ample room for beach supplies and surfboards. Shuttle buses currently are in use at many state and national parks where parking is at a premium.

We may be able to include a shuttle loop that includes Old Town Goleta, linking that area to the park.



Another mean of egress from parking to park would be an interpretive trail along Goleta Slough.

### Interpretive Trail





## Water Taxi

A water taxi shuttle from satellite parking along Goleta Slough would also be an unique interpretive experience.

During this 10-minute ride to the park on a shallow draft watercraft, park visitors could be given a brief overview of the natural and human history of Goleta Slough, and could view bird life and other natural features the water taxi passes.

Getting to the park could become a new element of the recreational experience.

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### Relocate key utilities (1)

We propose the relocation of major utilities in the erosion zone -- wastewater, reclaimed water, and high-pressure gas lines -- into a new utility corridor. At the suggestion of Coastal Commission staff we have begun discussions with CalTrans to locate these utilities within the Route 217 right-of-way, creating a combined transportation and utility corridor 60 to 100 feet farther from the ocean (and higher) than existing locations.



### Relocate Coastal Trail Bike Path (3)

We propose moving the Coastal Trail Bike Path away from the parking lots and out of the prime erosion zone.

This new alignment will actually offer superior views of the Pacific Ocean from a higher elevation.

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### Water Taxi Landing (4) Interpretive Access Trail (5)

An existing viewing platform (No. 4 on the concept plan) could be the location of a ramp and floating dock for the proposed water taxi. Across Tecolotito Creek is the proposed location of an interpretive trail (5) leading to the park from the satellite parking facility.

The water taxi landing dock would also be available for use by kayaks and other small craft for recreational use.



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**New auto access bridge (6)**

**Convert existing bridge to bicycle/pedestrian access (7)**

The existing park access bridge is structurally deficient and will need to be replaced. A new location to the west is being explored. We would also like to replace the old bridge with a new clear span bike/pedestrian bridge. This change would eliminate potential accidents between cars and bikes.

## Goleta Beach 2.0



### Remove un-permitted rock structures Establish protection zones (8,9)

Un-permitted emergency rock structures would be removed.

We propose recognizing a *protection zone* to protect the new transportation and utility corridor. If conditions warranted, eco-friendly, soft protection would be installed in the future (9). A similar protection zone would be established from the Beachside restaurant west to include the Goleta Sanitary District outfall vault (8).

## *Expanded Recreational, Cultural & Interpretive Programs*

While some structures are to be removed from Goleta Beach, County Parks also proposes to add more programs and attractions:

- New recreation programs
- Expanded activities on Goleta Pier
- New partnerships with cultural and arts groups
- Expanded connections with UCSB



## Goleta Beach 2.0



### Kayak concession Small sailboat beach storage

County Parks plans to seek bids for a portable kayak concession, in which a trailer with racks of boats would visit Goleta Beach on a definite schedule. We would also like to provide on-beach storage of small sailboats such as Hobie Cats.

These initiatives are similar to existing programs run by the City of Santa Barbara at Leadbetter and West beaches.



## Expand Goleta Pier Angler Center activities

## Goleta Beach 2.0



In September 2008 County Parks opened the Goleta Pier Angler Center, a partnership with United Pier & Shore Anglers of CA (UPSAC). Volunteers teach children and families ethical angling practices, act as “Pier Hosts,” and conduct other environmental education activities.

Beginning this year County Parks plans to expand the activities that will be offered at the Angler Center, and to encourage expansion of the volunteer staff for the Center, including students from UCSB.



## Goleta Beach 2.0

### Boat Excursions from Goleta Pier



County Parks will examine the technical and regulatory feasibility of retrofitting Goleta Pier to offer day trip boating excursions.

Many such activities are now offered at Santa Barbara Harbor, including whale watching, fishing trips, sailing excursions, and sightseeing.

Offering these excursions from Goleta Pier would open up a more western range of the South County coast to marine trips, from More Mesa to the Gaviota Coast.

We may also explore the feasibility of establishing a mooring field off Goleta Beach for use by pleasure craft. This would be a less costly alternative to expensive slips in Santa Barbara Harbor.





## Expanded Recreational Partnerships

### Goleta Beach 2.0



County Parks is meeting with private and non-profit groups to cultivate new partnerships for expanded recreational activities.

These could include day and summer camps for children and youth, more recreation events, sailing and diving classes, and adult fitness programs.

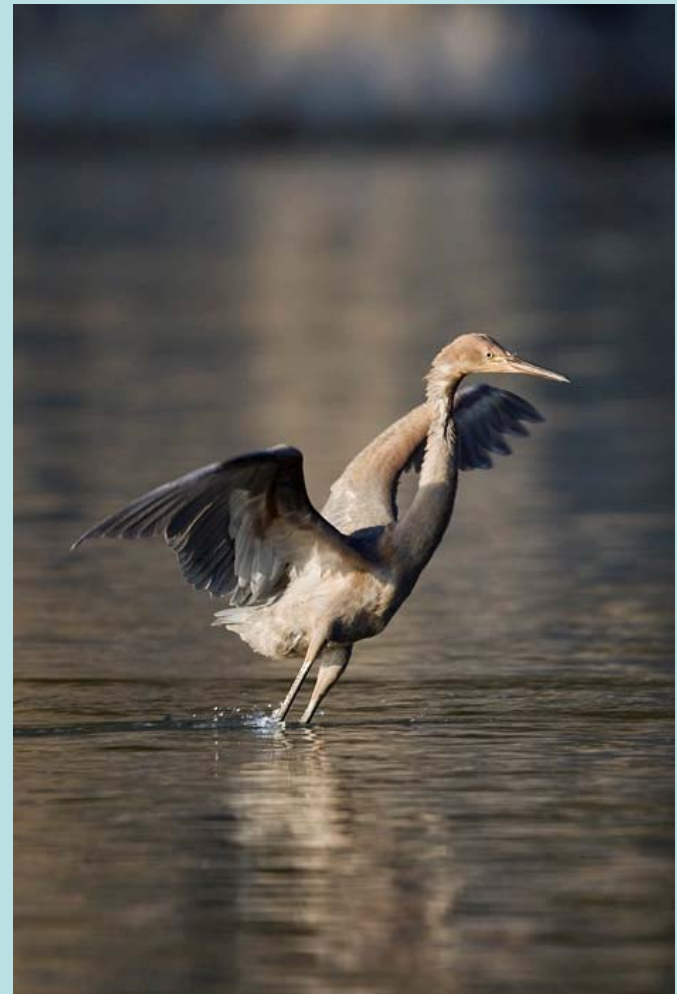
## Goleta Beach 2.0



### Arts and Cultural Destination

Goleta Beach is already a place where artists come to sketch and paint, and where birders come to observe abundant birdlife.

County Parks proposes to formalize existing relationships with arts, cultural and interpretive groups, expanding the park's role as a place for such activities.



Painting courtesy of Marcia Burt  
Photo of Reddish Egret courtesy of Bo Criss



## *Summary of Goleta Beach 2.0*

- Remove at-risk structures from Prime Erosion Zone
- Relocate essential utility lines
- Remove western parking lots; restore new beach recreation area
- Develop satellite parking facility nearby
- Move Coastal Trail bike path
- Improve auto access to park with new bridge and parking shuttle
- Offer transit connections to Goleta Beach
- Replace existing bridge with bicycle/pedestrian span
- Establish unique access methods – water taxi, interpretive trail
- Remove un-permitted rocks
- Establish new protective zone center of park to protect outfall vault
- Establish future backstop protective zone to protect utility lines, Rt. 217
- Expand recreational, cultural, and interpretive programming
- Expand park concessions to include recreational activities, boating services, and limited overnight accommodations.



## Capital and Operating Costs and Revenues

Goleta Beach 2.0 is a concept plan, hence *detailed costs are not available*. Detailed project costs will be part of the engineering and environmental review process to follow.

Conceptual level estimates suggest, however, that the capital costs to the County will be significantly lower than the previous plan, perhaps as much as *one-half the cost*.

Operating costs for Goleta Beach 2.0 would increase, but so would operating revenues from new concessions. We estimate that total operating revenue would exceed costs, making Goleta Beach 2.0 a net revenue producer for the County.

## **Public Outreach**

- **Public Information Meeting on February 16**
- **Park Commission Hearing on March 25**
- **Planning Commission Meeting on April 7**
- **Goleta City Council Meeting on April 20**
- **Citizens Planning Association Meeting on June 21**
- **Goleta Chamber of Commerce on June 23**

## ***Next Steps:***

Goleta Beach 2.0

- **Board of Supervisors Hearing (July 6)**
  - Concept plan approval
- **Engineering and environmental review process (July 2010-June 2011)**
  - Consultant team selection
  - Agreements with utilities & CalTrans for relocations
  - Translate concepts into engineering documents
  - Initiate environmental impact review (EIR)
  - Return to Board later to approve engineered plans & EIR
- **Finalize lease with State Lands Commission (2010)**
  - Approximately 4.5 acres of park is state land. New lease was approved by Board in 2009 and needs action by SLC.
- **New application to Coastal Commission: 2011**
  - Submit engineered plans and EIR to Coastal Commission in Fall 2011





## *Thanks to:*

- **Goleta Beach Ad Hoc Committee:**
  - Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf
  - Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr
- **Park Commissioners Chirman and Dale**
- **County Enterprise GIS Unit**
  - Zacharias Hunt and Jaclin Tran
- **Neighboring Utilities**
  - Goleta Water District
  - Goleta Sanitary District
  - Sempra Energy/So California Gas Company
- **County Counsel**
- **County Surveyor**
- **County Parks staff**

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or

Go to the Goleta Beach 2.0 Page at

[www.countyofsb.org/parks](http://www.countyofsb.org/parks)