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# Gaviota Coast Planning Advisory Committee

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## ***DRAFT MEETING MINUTES MEETING No. 27***

***Wednesday February 9, 2011  
Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium***

**Meeting No. 27 Called to Order:** By Chair Kimbell at 6:34 p.m.

### **1. Roll Call**

**GavPAC Members Present:** Baer, Boise-Cossart, Feeney, Kimbell, Lloyd, McKenna, McNabb, Tautrim, Van Leer

**GavPAC Members Absent:** Bowman, McGinnis

#### **County Staff Present:**

Brian A. Tetley, Long Range Planning Division Senior Planner

Katie Haldeman, Long Range Planning Division Assistant Planner

### **2. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda:**

**Boise-Cossart:** An art show fundraiser for Vista de Las Cruces School will be held on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### **3. Administrative Briefings**

**Deliberations:** Staff has no administrative briefings. Chair Kimbell relayed the status of the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) certification process. The Board of Supervisors voted 4-1, with Wolf dissenting, to reject the Coastal Commission's recommended modifications to the LUDC at their last hearing. Therefore, Article II zoning will remain in the Coastal Zone, and the inland areas will continue to use LUDC zoning.

### **4. Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2011**

**Deliberations:** Baer requested that page 5 of the minutes be edited to reflect that he wants to ensure policies maintain transportation safety. Tautrim's statement on page 2 was amended to clarify that no large species have routine migratory patterns on his property. Item 4 from the minutes was edited to reflect Boise-Cossart's comments regarding Vista de Las Cruces School. Kimbell asked that the word "watershed" be replaced with the word "riparian corridor" in the paragraph on wildlife corridors on page 2 of the minutes.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Chris Shaeffer representing Caltrans:** Shaeffer conveyed edits of his comments to Staff via email and he reiterated those edits to the GavPAC.

**ACTION:** Boise-Cossart moved, seconded by Tautrim and carried by a vote of 7-0, with Lloyd and McNabb abstaining, to approve the minutes with modifications.



#### 5. Guest Speaker, Mr. Ed Yates, Updated Brown Act Training

Yates, Legal Counsel for the County, explained that the courts tend to strictly construe interpretations of the Brown Act. Amendments to the Act in 2009 make it illegal to discuss business of a Committee (i.e., the GavPAC), outside of a publicly noticed meeting. Although discussion amongst 2 or 3 Committee members, outside of a meeting, may not be illegal, it does not look good nor does it give an air of transparency to the public process. The Isla Vista Parks District dealt with a lawsuit resulting from staff discussing business of the District at an informal BBQ gathering.

**Public Comment:** None

#### 6. Guest Speaker, Mr. Mike Summers, Los Padres ForestWatch Wilderness Proposal

The Los Padres Wild Heritage Campaign has been working with the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to expand wilderness areas of the National Forest, including the proposed "Condor Point" wilderness area within the Gaviota Plan Area. The Wilderness Proposal has been an ongoing effort for the past decade, and the extent of proposed wilderness expansion has scaled back after consultation with various stakeholders. The expansion would take place under a Congressional Act and designations would stand in perpetuity, as only a Congressional Act could remove the designation.

Condor Point area would stretch roughly from the Winchester Canyon Gun Club to Refugio Road. Wilderness areas generally do not allow for mechanized or motorized equipment, except in relation to some instances of trail construction, weed abatement, and fire emergencies. No additional prohibitions would be placed on private landholdings, and all roads and telecommunication infrastructure (antennas) would be omitted from the wilderness designation.

The Los Padres ForestWatch has been conducting outreach to numerous stakeholders. Summers offered additional outreach to anyone the GavPAC might know who has concerns about the proposal, including McNabb who lives on Refugio Road.

**Deliberations:** The Committee asked whether Refugio Road properties would be in the proposed wilderness area. Summers responded that the extent of the proposed wilderness area is limited to existing forest service land. The boundary would begin east of Refugio Road and therefore does not include Refugio Road properties. Tautrim asked if Summers was looking for specific support from the GavPAC. Summers responded that he just wants to inform the GavPAC and make himself available as a resource, but is not looking for formal support.

**Public Comment:** None

#### 7. Guest Speaker, Mr. Carlyle Johnston, Tajiguas Landfill Conversion Technology Project

The County manages and owns Tajiguas Landfill and adjoining land to the east, Baron Ranch. The "waste-shed" from which Tajiguas receives material includes the Cuyama and Santa Ynez Valleys and the South Coast area west of Carpinteria.

Conversion Technology (CT) breaks down waste to produce electrical energy in a controlled environment through either a thermal or an anaerobic digestion process. The Tajiguas landfill methane capture system currently generates 3 megawatts (mW) of electricity; the use of CT could boost that energy generation up to 15mW or even higher, depending upon the type of CT used.

The County has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a 20 year CT operation that would reduce at least 60 percent of the waste being buried at the landfill. The CT project is still in the conceptual design phase. After the 20 year lifespan of the project the



County would have the option to buy back the CT facility. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of the project is expected to commence with a Notice of Preparation (NOP) in June 2011.

#### **8-10. Consideration of Transportation, Energy, and Infrastructure Preferences for the Gaviota Coast**

**Deliberations:** The Committee asked Johnston if the County has considered siting the CT facility somewhere other than Tajiguas. Johnston replied that the CEQA document will review Environmental Justice issues associated with air pollutant emissions if the facility is sited in a more urban setting (i.e., such as the County transfer station on Calle Real). The GavPAC enquired about how much space a CT facility would require. Johnston replied that siting the CT facility at a location other than Tajiguas on property which the County does not own would incur greater costs due to landfill closure costs and leasing of additional space. Johnston also explained that currently no CT facilities are currently operational in the U.S., however numerous facilities are operating in Japan and Europe.

Lloyd stated that a fundamental question in the community is what the lifespan of Tajiguas should be. McKenna does not consider a 20 year project timeline as planning for the long-term.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Mark Chaconas:** What is the overall timeline for the CT project? Who is going to own the facility after the 20 year lifespan of the project?

**Mike Lunsford representing the Gaviota Coast Conservancy (GCC):** The CT project would extend the life of the landfill, however the GCC believes the landfill should be closed as soon as reasonably possible. The GavPAC should think more protectively of this site and of the site's carbon footprint. In addition, the new Santa Maria landfill has been programmed to take capacity from Tajiguas in 2022.

**ACTION:** McKenna moved, seconded by Lloyd and carried by a vote of 9-0 to ask Staff to develop policy to:

- 1) Make CT and waste disposal at Tajiguas done in such a way so as to reduce impacts to the community as a whole (e.g., de-packing/consolidating loads into larger trucks so as to reduce truck trips to Tajiguas).
- 2) Have Tajiguas only accept waster materials from within the County.
- 3) Make any change to operations at Tajiguas done only with a complementary reduction in impacts to the Gaviota Region.

#### **11. Discussion of Long Term Meeting Schedule**

**Deliberation:** The GavPAC preferred to continue their deliberations on transportation and energy during the next Meeting (No. 28), which may be extended until approximately 9:30 p.m in an effort to keep deliberations on schedule.

Tautrim will bring aerial photos to the next meeting to facilitate discussion on alternative energy developments for the Gaviota Coast in light of the new solar energy facility behind Venidito Canyon.

**Public Comment:** None

**Meeting Adjournment** – 9:05 p.m.

