

Draft Rural Character Description  
Visual Resources Subcommittee  
(Rev. 04-21-11)

*“The Gaviota Coast is a unique landscape with sweeping ocean, pastoral and mountain views comprising historic cattle ranches, orchards, cultivated croplands, pockets of industrial development, campgrounds, national forest, and rural residential housing.*

*For those who pass through, its treasured characteristics are a mosaic of rugged and inaccessible land, riparian canyons of unique biodiversity, with a relatively undeveloped coastline and a dark sky. Those who live along the Gaviota Coast, treasure the solitude and the close connection with the elements. The remote nature of the coast line provides a sense of freedom, demands resourcefulness, and breeds a unique form of community. There is an inherent tension between trying to preserve the visual aspects of the coast treasured by visitors and residents alike, and allowing the community the freedom to continue finding new and unique ways to thrive along the coast.*

*It provides a physical and psychological gateway of natural beauty.”*