



Planning and Development Department
Long Range Planning Division
Transmittal Memorandum

DATE: June 2, 2011

TO: GavPAC Members

FROM: David Lackie, Supervising Planner
Brian Tetley, Planner

CC: Supervisor Doreen Farr, 3rd Supervisorial District

SUBJECT: GavPAC Meeting Nos. 35 & 36

The items listed below have been included as part of the meeting materials for GavPAC Meeting Nos. 35 & 36, to be held Tuesday June 7, 2011, and Wednesday June 15, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Vista de Las Cruces School auditorium:

1. **Meeting Agenda:** Meeting Nos. 35 & 36 agenda for recreation & trails deliberations (Attachment 1).
2. **Draft Meeting Minutes:** Staff has provided draft minutes for the GavPAC meeting of May 25, 2011 for review and approval (Attachment 2).
3. **Supplemental Coastal Access & Trails Policies:** Staff has attached a supplement to the compendium of policies related to recreation, trails, and coastal access containing additional policies specific to coastal access and trails (Attachment 3) as reference for deliberations on recreation and trails issues.
4. **CRAHTAC Letter Dated 01-10-11:** Staff has attached the CRAHTAC letter to the GavPAC chair providing recommendations for access and trails issues and CRAHTAC-adopted trails policy principles (Attachment 4).
5. **Mr. Mike Lunsford Submittal Dated April 2011:** Staff has attached the handout passed out at the last GavPAC meeting regarding coastal trail opportunities (Attachment 5).
6. **Long-Term Schedule:** The revised long term schedule is attached (Attachment 6).
7. **Updated To-Do List:** The To-Do List has not changed since Meeting No. 33 on May 11, 2011. Please refer to your packet for Meeting No. 34 for the most up-to-date To-Do List.

In addition to this packet, please bring the GavPAC documents binder with you to the meeting.

All GavPAC materials are also available for download from the following webpage:

<http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/gaviota/gaviota.php>

CRAHTAC Representative Presentation (Agenda Item No. 6)

A representative(s) from the County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC) will make a presentation regarding their recommendations for coastal access and trails policies for the Gaviota coast.

Planning Issues Deliberations (Agenda Item Nos. 6-8)

This meeting continues the deliberative phase of the land use planning process for the Gaviota Coast. The deliberative phase builds upon previous GavPAC work to identify core planning issues, and will provide an opportunity to discuss these issues in greater detail, and explore different planning options and approaches. Keep in mind that the goal in the deliberative stage is not to fully write or vet policy or ordinance language, but to develop consensus or at least refinement of GavPAC policy preferences which can be used by staff to craft draft policy statements and implementing tools. The review and revision to draft policy or ordinance language will occur later in the process after all of the deliberative meetings and a period of time for staff to develop the language.

This meeting continues deliberations on the final issue area group slated for discussion: Recreation & Trails. The GavPAC previously identified key planning issues to be deliberated in this issue area that are recorded on the recreation and trails worksheets and summary chart previously distributed. Deliberations for this and the next meeting will concern coastal access and trails issues. Staff will provide a brief overview of existing policy regarding coastal access and trails contained in the Coastal Act and locally adopted policy contained in the Coastal Land Use Plan. In general terms, issues related to coastal access and trails revolve around the relationship between publicly managed and private properties and the potential opportunities for linkages between coastal and inland areas to provide a true trails system. Therefore, consideration may be given to providing guidance on appropriate planning tools within the scope and reach of this long-term land use plan, such as: updating the PRT maps; updated trails siting guidelines; consideration of trails principles regarding public-private linkages, vertical beach access, and coastal-inland trails integration; and trail alignment analysis.

Attachments:

1. Meeting 35 & 36 Agenda
2. Meeting 34 Draft Minutes
3. Supplemental Coastal Access & Trails Policies
4. CRAHTAC Letter Dated 01-10-11
5. Mr. Mike Lunsford Submittal Dated April 2011
6. Long-Term Schedule



Notice of Public Meeting

Gaviota Coast Planning Advisory Committee (GavPAC) Meeting Nos. 35 & 36

Note: This agenda lists discussion topics for the GavPAC meetings on:

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 – 6:30 p.m. and,

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: GavPAC Members, County Staff, and Public Participants

Please review: Meeting Materials Packet for Meetings on 06/07/11 & 06/15/11

Please bring: Meeting Materials Packet for Meetings on 06/07/11 & 06/15/11

Location: Vista de Las Cruces School - Auditorium, 9467 San Julian Rd, Gaviota, CA 93117

Agenda Item	Discussion Topics
CALL TO ORDER	
1	Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call
2	Public Comment <i>The Public Comment period is set aside to allow public testimony on items not on today's agenda. The time allocated to each speaker will be set at the discretion of the Chair.</i>
3	Administrative Briefings <i>Staff updates regarding local or other legislative activities, local planning decisions, or other updates of interest to the Committee.</i>
4	Meeting Minutes Review and Approval
RECREATION & TRAILS PLANNING DELIBERATIONS:	
5	Discussion of Existing Recreation & Trails Policy
6	CRAHTAC Representative Presentation
7	Consideration of Recreation & Trails Preferences for the Gaviota Coast
8	Consideration of Recreation & Trails Planning Tools

Questions or comments about the Gaviota Coast Plan may be directed to Brian A. Tetley at 805-884-6848 or btetley@co.santa-barbara.ca.us and further information may be obtained on the following web site:
<http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/planareas/gaviota/gaviota.php>

Writings that are a public record under Government Code § 54957.5(a) and that relate to an agenda item of a regular meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee that are distributed to a majority of all of the members of the Planning Advisory Committee less than 72 hours prior to that meeting shall be available for public inspection at Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Department, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA, and also on the County's website at <http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/>

Attendance and participation by the public is invited and encouraged. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Hearing Support Staff (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable accommodations.

Adjourn

Gaviota Coast Planning Advisory Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES MEETING No. 34

***Wednesday May 25, 2011
Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium***

Meeting Called to Order: By Chair Kim Kimbell at 6:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call

GavPAC Members Present: Baer, Boise-Cossart, Bowman, Feeney, Kimbell, McGinnis(arrived after roll at 6:40 p.m.), McKenna, McNabb, Tautrim, Van Leer

GavPAC Members Absent: Lloyd

County Staff Present:

Jeff Hunt, Long Range Planning Division Director

David Lackie, Long Range Planning Division Supervising Planner

Brian A. Tetley, Long Range Planning Division Senior Planner

Katie Haldeman, Long Range Planning Division Associate Planner

2. Administrative Briefings

Chair Kimbell suggested the GavPAC could have a potluck BBQ. Once the GavPAC meeting schedule is finalized, they will set a date for the BBQ and determine logistics.

3. Public Comment:

Mike Lunsford: Distributed a handout to the GavPAC on the history of efforts to try and establish a California Coastal Trail. He believes this is a good time to focus on the Trail, given the current pending projects (Las Varas, Paradiso del Mare, etc.) on the Gaviota Coast.

Chair Kimbell responded that the Committee plans to start discussion on the issue of trails on the Gaviota Coast at the next GavPAC meeting.

4. Meeting Minutes from May 11th, 2011

Deliberation: None

Public Comment: None

ACTION: Bowman moved, seconded by Tautrim, and carried by a vote of 9-0 (McGinnis had not yet arrived) to approve the minutes without modifications.

5. Guest Speaker, Mr. Carlyle Johnston, Department of Public Works, Waste Conversion Technology Status Update

Mr. Johnston provided follow up to his February 9th, 2011 presentation to the GavPAC on "Tajiguas Landfill and Its Future Plans to Expand Resource Recovery". In light of discussion on February 9th, the GavPAC took formal action to direct County Staff to develop policy to 1) Reduce the impact of the Tajiguas Landfill on the Gaviota Coast 2) Not expand the landfill capacity 3) Only accept Santa Barbara County waste.



Many programs have been implemented in California to divert waste from landfills since the passage of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 - Assembly Bill (AB) 939, which created the Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and set up a new mandate for local jurisdictions to meet goals related to waste diversion from landfills. Jurisdictions served by the Tajiguas Landfill divert more than 70 percent of their waste from the landfill. The proposed implementation of Conversion Technology at the landfill is a way of managing waste that is still being buried in the landfill, but it is not a replacement for existing or planned recycling programs.

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has an Anaerobic Digestion Initiative to divert 50 percent of organics by 2020. A statewide programmatic EIR has been prepared for those facilities.

Three proposals for conversion technology were reviewed, and a preference for the Mustang Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), Anaerobic Digestion (AD), and Thermal Gasification Project was made because it could achieve the goals of the Conversion Technology Project. There are no plans to accept waste from out of the County and they are currently working with the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and other vendors to reduce the cost of the project and associated air pollutant emissions.

Elected officials from the County and Cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta met in May to discuss the different proposals for conversion technology. The County will continue to solicit community and jurisdictional feedback on potential projects. CEQA analysis for the project is anticipated to begin in Fall 2011, with permitting and financial support secured by 2014.

Deliberation: Tautrim asked Mr. Johnston to explain waste characterization and when the last time a waste characterization was done. Materials representing a number of different communities are taken from waste hauling trucks and sorted by-hand and weighed. Baer inquired about the amount of truck traffic this project would generate. McKenna was concerned about ratepayers having to assume additional costs for this new technology. Chair Kimbell expressed concern about locating a MRF at Tajiguas, and that it could potentially generate more truck trips if it handled more recyclables.

Public Comment:

Mike Lunsford: A minute order from the Board of Supervisors in July of 1999 called for the closure of Tajiguas in 2014. Although there may be advantages to this process, should an industrial facility of this magnitude be located on the Gaviota Coast? Does the GavPAC want to extend the lifespan of the landfill by implementing this technology? Typically a MRF is located closer to the waste origination and not transported out to a remote location. The ratepayers will have to subsidize some of the costs for this new, expensive technology.

6-8. Recreation & Trails Planning Deliberations

Staff Presentation: Staff gave an overview of the Coastal Act and County policy applicable to public and private recreation. With the exception of Jalama County Park, all the parks within the Gaviota Coast Planning Area are managed by the State. Staff is seeking input from the GavPAC regarding guidance on appropriate recreational uses and agency to agency relationships. Dan Falat and Rich Rozzelle representing the California State Parks were in attendance to explain the State Parks planning process.

Deliberation: McGinnis inquired about what State Parks is doing to remediate the non-native plants at El Capitan Canyon Cove. She inquired about whether more camping "loops" could be opened in the winter at El Capitan State Park to accommodate local residents, who have to complete for campsites with tourists in the other months of the



year. Bowman expressed the importance of creating the Interagency Council that could address recreation and public access issues.

McNabb reminded the GavPAC that the “La Sherpa” property on upper Refugio Road also serves private recreation needs. Staff explained that private recreation activities will further be discussed during the agricultural subcommittee meetings.

Bowman said that formalizing access for informal access points will need to provide adequate parking, restroom facilities, and safety considerations.

Public Comment:

Mike Lunsford: The County’s Agricultural Element was never adopted in the Coastal Zone.

Staff responded that they will further investigate Mr. Lunsford’s remarks, but that generally Agricultural Element policies apply County-wide.

Allyson Biskner: Existing policies should be modernized to be more appropriate for the way the land is used and could potentially be used.

Dan Falat: Members of the public who access the ocean from informal access points along the coast are trespassing across Union Pacific Railroad property.

Rich Rozzelle: It is a slippery slope if the GavPAC wants to formalize coastal access points which are currently informal.

Mike Lunsford: Tajiguas and San Onofre are the current major informal access points. Could coordination with State Parks allow additional parking at these locations?

Roger Himowitz: Historical usage at El Capitan Canyon Campground was twice as great as is allowed now under their current CUP.

Mike Lunsford: Private recreational opportunities raise issues about maintaining the rural character of the Gaviota Coast. Private recreation also raises issues with zoning and spot zoning. Suggests we wait until we hear back from the Agricultural Subcommittee before finalizing direction.

ACTION: Boise-Cossart moved, seconded by Bowman, and carried by a vote of 10-0, to direct Staff to modify existing policy language so that the County 1) takes a more advisory and consultative approach in relation to State Parks and 2) looks at the feasibility of implementing existing policies.

ACTION: Tautrim moved, seconded by McNabb, and carried by a vote of 8-2, with Baer and Van Leer dissenting, to direct Staff to develop policy that will 1) Acknowledge and recognize that informal access points provide important public access to the coast.

8. Long-Term GavPAC Meeting Schedule

The GavPAC will have back to back weeks of meetings on Tuesday, June 7th and Wednesday June 15th, to continue discussions on recreation and trails.

Adjournment – 8:50 p.m.



Supplement – Related Coastal Access and Trails Policies

California Coastal Act Policies

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

30210. In carrying out the requirement of Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution, maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people consistent with public safety needs and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse.

30211. Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea where acquired through use or legislative authorization, including, but not limited to, the use of dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation.

30212. (a) Public access from the nearest public roadway to the shoreline and along the coast shall be provided in new development projects except where (1) it is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or the protection of fragile coastal resources, (2) adequate access exists nearby, or (3) agriculture would be adversely affected. Dedicated accessway shall not be required to be opened to public use until a public agency or private association agrees to accept responsibility for maintenance and liability of the accessway.

Coastal Land Use Plan Policies

Policy 7-1: The County shall take all necessary steps to protect and defend the public's constitutionally guaranteed rights of access to and along the shoreline. At a minimum, County actions shall include:

- a. Initiating legal action to acquire easements to beaches and access corridors for which prescriptive rights exist consistent with the availability of staff and funds.
- b. Accepting offers of dedication which will increase opportunities for public access and recreation consistent with the County's ability to assume liability and maintenance costs.
- c. Actively seeking other public or private agencies to accept offers of dedications, having them assume liability and maintenance responsibilities, and allowing such agencies to initiate legal action to pursue beach access.

Policy 7-2: For all development⁷⁵ between the first public road and the ocean granting of an easement to allow vertical access to the mean high tide line⁷⁶ shall be mandatory unless:

- a. Another more suitable public access corridor is available or proposed by the land use plan within a reasonable distance of the site measured along the shoreline, or
- b. Access at the site would result in unmitigable adverse impacts on areas designated as "Habitat Areas" by the land use plan, or
- c. Findings are made, consistent with Section 30212 of the Act, that access is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or that agriculture would be adversely affected, or

d. The parcel is too narrow to allow for an adequate vertical access corridor without adversely affecting the privacy of the property owner. In no case, however, shall development interfere with the public's right of access to the sea where acquired through use unless an equivalent access to the same beach area is guaranteed.

The County may also require the applicant to improve the access corridor and provide bike racks, signs, parking, etc.

Policy 7-3: For all new development between the first public road and the ocean, granting of lateral easements to allow for public access along the shoreline shall be mandatory. In coastal areas, where the bluffs exceed five feet in height, all beach seaward of the base of the bluff shall be dedicated. In coastal areas where the bluffs are less than five feet, the area to be dedicated shall be determined by the County, based on findings reflecting historic use, existing and future public recreational needs, and coastal resource protection.

At a minimum, the dedicated easement shall be adequate to allow for lateral access during periods of high tide. In no case shall the dedicated easement be required to be closer than 10 feet to a residential structure. In addition, all fences, no trespassing signs, and other obstructions that may limit public lateral access shall be removed as a condition of development approval.

Policy 7-25: Easements for trails shall be required as a condition of project approval for that portion of the trail crossing the parcel upon which the project is proposed.

Policy 7-26: All proposed trails for the coastal zone shall be incorporated into the County's Master Plans⁷⁹ for hiking, biking, and equestrian trails.

⁷⁵ Policies 7-2 and 7-3 shall not apply to developments excluded from the public access requirements of the Coastal Act by PRC Section 30212 or to development incidental to an existing use on the site.

⁷⁶ The mean high tide line (ordinary high water mark) is an ambulatory line which may vary over time as a result of climatic and other influences. The line is the normal or average inland extent of tidal influence.

⁷⁹ These are the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Maps which are part of the Comprehensive Plan.

CRAHTAC

**County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee
610 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

January 10, 2011

Mr. Kim Kimball, Chair
Gaviota Planning Advisory Committee
112 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, Ca, 93101

Re: Gaviota Plan Update; Trails System and Coastal Access Expansion

Dear Chair Kimball:

The Santa Barbara County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC) is a standing committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise the County on matters related to the planning for and implementation of recreational trails. CRAHTAC is composed of four members from each supervisorial district, including Third District. CRAHTAC is extremely interested in ensuring that the Gaviota planning process currently underway results in plans for expansion of the County's trail and coastal access system provision of detailed recommendations for the location, acquisition and eventual development of a comprehensive trail and coastal access system for the Gaviota Coast.

CRAHTAC is aware that the County is currently in the early stages of creating a Gaviota Plan, which will guide growth, development and public infrastructure for the greater Gaviota Coast area. CRAHTAC is particularly interested in the area stretching roughly from the City of Goleta to west to the Gaviota Tunnel and Gaviota State Park and from the Pacific north to the crest of Santa Ynez Mountains. CRAHTAC is familiar with the planning trails and coastal access provisions from the County's 1980 Comprehensive Plan and 1982 Local Coastal Plan and the status of major trail proposals in the planning area.

On March 3rd, 2010, CRAHTAC members briefed the Gaviota Area Planning Advisory Committee (GAVPAC) on our initial concerns for trails planning in the area and provided a set of 10 initial principles to guide such planning (attached) endorsed by CRAHTAC for Gaviota. This letter is a follow up to that initial briefing. In summary, the CRAHTAC strongly recommends that GAVPAC pursue both planning for a long-term trail and coastal access system and ensure that pending development projects closely adhere to the same principles which should be applied to long range planning as set forth below.

CRAHTAC respectfully request that GAVPAC and staff from County Parks Department and Long Range Planning provide for detailed planning and environmental review of the location for existing planner and new trails and coastal access provisions throughout the study area, with a focus on areas from Gaviota state Park east, and also include measures to expedite implementation of existing trails as a priority of the new Gaviota Area Plan. Acquiring easements and developing trails will require creativity and persistence from County staff. In particular, we believe that GAVPAC and County staff should pursue the following:

- 1. Interagency Cooperation:** The County should work cooperatively with the State Parks Department and the US Forest Service to expand the foothill trails and coastal access system in areas where jurisdictions overlap. The agencies coordinate and cooperate with each other in planning and development and to seek funding for the preparation, as may be required, of CEQA and NEPA documents as well as any other permit requirements. For the State Parks Department, this could involve lands within Gaviota and El Capitan State Parks in particular linking with Forest Service lands. For the Forest Service, this could include exploring linkages to trails in the State Park System such as those connecting Gaviota Peak to Squat Camp or the County's new Baron Ranch Trail system. Of particular importance would be coordination between the County and State parks, and possibly the City of Goleta on detailed design and implementation of the segment of the planned California Coastal Trail, and associated coastal access points, extending from rough the Ellwood Mesa in the City of Goleta to El Capitan State Park. We understand that the Santa Barbara Trails Council is currently coordinating trail improvement options with State Parks in this area.
- 2. Cooperation with Property Owners:** CRAHTAC believes that implementation of major new foothill trails and coastal access points will require the active cooperation of foothill ranchers and property owners. In some instances, this may require the County exploring new options to actual acquire and build trails. This may require GAVPAC balancing development options and their relationship to obtaining easements for new trails. CRAHTAC supports the County considering limited new development in exchange for provision of trails and that GAVPAC explore zoning and general plan tools to obtain trails as part of the Plan update, consistent with protection of important resources. In either case, the CRAHTAC urges that the GAVPAC to actively reach out to property owners along currently proposed or potential future trail easements to assess property owner goals and interest in providing new trails and tools that may be required to obtain such trails. Only with such active outreach will it be possible to obtain easements to support new trails.
- 3. Coordination with CRAHTAC and Trails Groups:** CRAHTAC believes that effective planning for and implementation of new trails and coastal access points will require active participation by CRAHTAC and groups such as the Santa Barbara Trails Council, Sierra Club and both equestrian and mountain bike volunteer organizations. In order to provide for such coordination and allow for more fine grained planning, GAVPAC may want to consider appointment of a subcommittee of interested GAVPAC members supported by members from CRAHTAC and other interested groups. Alternately, at GAVPAC's request, CRAHTAC would be happy to coordinate such an effort. Regardless of which group leads the effort, we believe that the outcome should be a detailed coastal access and trails map and accompanying policies as part of the final Gaviota Plan.
- 4. California Coastal Trail and Coastal Access Points:** It is time for the County to seriously pursue final design and implementation of the California Coastal Trail between Gaviota State Park and Goleta, especially that segment between Goleta and El Capitan State Park. The location and general design standards for accompanying coastal access points should also be addressed. We strongly recommend that CRAHTAC ensure that the final Gaviota Plan contain a very detailed map for the location of this trail and access points, including design parameters as set forth in our accompanying Statement of Principles.

5. **Pending Development:** We are concerned that pending development projects in the eastern end of the Gaviota Planning area included a variety of trail and coastal access improvement options. CRAHTAC is extremely concerned that some of these developments may contain proposals for the California Coastal Trail and access options that are inconsistent with sound planning principles and which may not conform to CRAHTAC principles for siting and design of the Coastal Trail and access points. We urge GAVPAC to set standards for the Coastal Trail and various access points that would apply to both the trail and access points set forth in pending development and that such standards and access points be consistent with CRAHTAC principles.
6. **Trails and Access Section of Future Gaviota Plan:** The potential for expanded trail and coastal access along the Gaviota Coast represents a recreational resource of outstanding importance on a county- and state-wide level. We urge that the final Gaviota Plan contain detailed maps, policies and development standards for a trail and coastal access systems and this matter receive detailed environmental review as part of consideration of the final plan to explore and expedite trail and access construction issues.
7. **Protection of Trail Aesthetics:** The County's existing policy framework is silent on protection of views from existing and proposed trail corridors. GAVPAC should consider adoption of new policies which mandate measures to protect the aesthetic character of existing and proposed trails, particularly the Coastal Trail, as part of any new development projects along or adjacent to trail corridors.

Thank you for considering this input. CRAHTAC hopes that the GAVPAC and County staff can utilize this new Plan update to jump start efforts to expand the areas trail and coastal access system. CRAHTAC is willing to work with GAVPAC and county staff to realize this vision. We look forward to working cooperatively with you and your staff to explore this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Art Najera' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Art Najera
CRAHTAC Chair

cc. Glen Russell, Director, Planning and Development Department
Claude Garciacelay, County Parks Department
Eric Axelson County Parks Department
David Lackie, Supervising Planner, Long Range Planning
Doreen Farr, 3rd District Supervisor

Gaviota Coastal Planning Preliminary Trails Policy Principles

The following set principles has been endorsed by the County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC) to help guide both long range planning efforts along the Gaviota Coast and review of pending development projects.

1. A continuous coastal trail from Winchester Canyon to Vandenberg.
2. Siting of this trail to be as close to the coast as reasonable. Where it can be sited on the beach and still be accessible during high tide, that is fine. Where it needs to be on bluffs above the beach, then it should be sited on the bluff with no man-made structures that impede ocean views.
3. Easements for the trail should be ambulatory to accommodate future erosion.
4. The trail should be multi-use (hikers, equestrians, bicyclists). In places it may be appropriate to divide the trail so that one or more uses take a different route.
5. The composition of the trail should reflect allowed uses. For example, a trail segment for bicyclists should be paved, but one restricted to hikers need not be.
6. Vertical beach access should be provided at a variety of locations along the coast spaced so as to provide continuous beach access with reasonable walking. Parking and freeway access are relevant considerations.
7. Vertical beach access should use natural features as much as possible (e.g., existing canyons or draws rather than artificial stair structures).
8. Trail siting and vertical access should be sensitive to special ecological concerns (e.g., seal haul-out areas, endangered habitats) and cultural concerns (Native American archaeological sites).
9. Trails and vertical access should be specified in terms of (a) responsibility for construction and (b) responsibility for maintenance. A program for monitoring compliance is appropriate.
10. The connection of the coastal trail to inland trails (existing or not yet constructed) that provide access to the mountains and West Camino Cielo is an important desiderata in trail design.
11. The County should strive to substantially expand foothill trail opportunities as part of the Gaviota Area Plan; the new Plan should provide detailed maps for proposed trail and coastal access locations and new detailed polices and development standards to protect and expand access and trail opportunities.

Recreational Trail Opportunity for the Gaviota Coast

by Mike Lunsford

April, 2011

The Gaviota Coast contains significant recreational resources, and these resources are one of the elements sought to be protected and enhanced in the current Gaviota planning process. Trails, as windows to nature, offer necessary, recreational experiences for young and old. They open new perspectives, and provide opportunities for healthy, invigorating exercise.

As we plan for the future, we should not lose sight of past efforts to realize the recreational potential of the Gaviota Coast. Below is a list of some of those previous efforts and their public policy framework. Our current efforts are but the latest in a long continuum of effort over the last 40 years.

1972 Proposition 20 provided that "A hiking, bicycle, and equestrian trails system shall be established along or near the coast" and that *"ideally the trails system should be continuous and located near the shoreline."* (Completing the California Coastal Trail, pp 10-11, 2003.)

1973 The local vision of a public trail along the shoreline on the Gaviota Coast was described in detail in the report SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COASTAL TRAILS SYSTEM, Mission to Mission Trails for Bikers, Hikers and Equestrians. The report was published in October, 1973 by the Santa Barbara County Trails Council, a Santa Barbara based non-profit.

1974 The California Recreational Trails Act of 1974 called for the creation of the California Recreational Trails Plan, which was adopted in 1978, and updated in 2002. That Plan, described the Coastal Trail as a hiking, biking, and equestrian trail corridor **"...from Oregon to Mexico within the sights, and sounds of the Pacific Ocean."**

1976 The Coastal Act of 1976 required local jurisdictions to identify an alignment for the California Coastal Trail in their Local Coastal Programs.

1981 In compliance with the Coastal Act, the County began planning a Coastal Trail segment between Isla Vista and El Capitan. A staged EIR was published on June 18, 1981 by Envicom Corporation which studied a project described as "SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COASTAL TRAIL SYSTEM, EL CAPITAN – DEVEREAUX DUNES SEGMENT, (Final Environmental Impact Report 80-EIR-44.) In 1982, the County issued a Coastal Development Permit for constructing the trail, but the project was delayed and the permit lapsed.

1990 Congress established the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, which is expected to share a common alignment with the Coastal Trail on the Gaviota Coast, adding an important historical element to the value of the trail.

2000 The Coastal Trail was chosen to be California's Millennium Legacy Trail by Governor Davis. As part of the Millennium Celebration, the White House recognized the California Coastal Trail as a National Millennium Legacy Trail. Only one trail in each state was selected.

2001 Assembly Concurrent Resolution 20 (Pavley) declared the Coastal Trail an official state trail, and urged its completion. The State Legislature passed SB 908, the Coastal Trail bill, requiring the Coastal Conservancy in cooperation with State Parks and the Coastal Commission to develop a plan for the completion of the Coastal Trail. In response to this mandate, the Coastal Conservancy issued a report to the State Legislature in January, 2003 entitled "Completing the California Coastal Trail"

Existing Policies Not only is it prudent to be aware of past efforts, it is helpful to understand the present policy context for current efforts to update the Gaviota Plan. The County's Open Space Element gives priority to the protection of coastal areas for recreation where it says, "...where coastal and inland sites are equally suitable for urban development, ***the County and the cities would be wise to preserve the oceanfront lands in open space, wherever possible, because of their unique scenic, recreational and ecological values.***" (Page 95)

The Coastal Land Use Plan (CLUP) recognizes that "...there is a need for trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use to provide increased opportunities for coastal access and recreational use." (Page 88) And on Page 89 it says, "...coastal dependent and related recreational uses are given priority in the coastal zone." CLUP Policy 7-18 states, "***Expanded opportunities for access and recreation shall be provided in the Gaviota Coast planning area.***" (Page 97) CLUP Policy 7-25 states, "***Easements for trails shall be required as a condition of project approval for that portion of the trail crossing the parcel upon which the project is proposed.***"

The Need

Although the GavPAC intends to take up the matter of public recreation soon, final action by the County on recommendations is years away. In the mean time, there are several pending development projects being processed by the County on the privately owned lands between El Capitan and Goleta. Each of these projects includes offers to dedicate Coastal Trail easements without coordination of siting, resulting in inappropriate alignments which don't satisfy the long-established policy objectives stated above. Additional planning is necessary to find an acceptable route before those projects are approved.

Recommendation

It is important to not only acquire these public trail easements, but to also identify a more appropriate, integrated route. Therefore, I recommend that a subcommittee be appointed to work with CRAHTAC, property owners, and other interested groups to plan an appropriate route for the Coastal Trail between Goleta and El Capitan. The work product of this sub-committee could make an important contribution to the final recommendations the GavPAC makes to the County.



Gaviota Coast Plan GavPAC Meeting Schedule

Meeting Dates and Discussion Topics

[Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change]

June 2, 2011

Meeting/ Workshop Type	Date and Time	Location	Discussion Topics
GavPAC Meeting #38	Wednesday, July 6, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Final Topics/Agricultural Subcommittee Report
GavPAC Meeting #37	Wednesday, June 29, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Recreation & Trails IV
GavPAC Meeting #36	Tuesday, June 15, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Recreation & Trails III
GavPAC Meeting #35	Tuesday, June 7, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Recreation & Trails II
GavPAC Meeting #34 ***COMPLETED***	Wednesday, May 25, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Recreation & Trails I
GavPAC Meeting #33 ***COMPLETED***	Wednesday, May 11, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Land Use IV
GavPAC Meeting #32 ***COMPLETED***	Wednesday, April 27, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Land Use III/Visual Subcommittee Report
GavPAC Meeting #31 ***COMPLETED***	Wednesday, April 6, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Land Use II
GavPAC Meeting #30 ***COMPLETED***	Wednesday, March 30, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Land Use I
GavPAC Meeting #29 ***COMPLETED***	Wednesday, March 9, 2011 6:30 p.m.	Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium	Planning Goals Development: Transportation, Energy, & Infrastructure IV/Visual Subcommittee Report