
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.

