
Gaviota Coast Planning Advisory Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES MEETING No. 36

***Wednesday June 15, 2011
Vista de Las Cruces School Auditorium***

Meeting Called to Order: By Chair Kim Kimbell at 6:31 p.m.

1. Roll Call

GavPAC Members Present: Baer, Boise-Cossart (arrived after role at 6:32), Bowman, Kimbell, Lloyd, McGinnis, McKenna, McNabb, Tautrim, Van Leer

GavPAC Members Absent: Feeney

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

Claude Garciacelay, Park Planner III, County Parks Department

2. Administrative Briefings:

ACTION: Lloyd moved, seconded by Van Leer, and carried by a vote of 10-0 to authorize Chair Kimbell to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of retaining the position being cut in Long Range Planning that supports the GavPAC process.

3. Public Comment:

Scott Rushing representing the Staben/Zimmerman Properties: The 16-acre, ½ mile-wide beachfront Staben property is west of Refugio State Beach. Mr. Rushing is managing the property for his Father-in-law, who is the property owner. It is a logical expansion of the State Parks' holdings at Refugio that would allow for additional sandy beach access for visitors. The property owners have discussed such an idea with State Parks. The property will be put on the market for sale this summer. The owners could be interested in receiving some sort of tax diversion/benefit in exchange for granting a trail easement or transferring to a different entity.

4. Meeting Minutes Review and Approval

Due to GavPAC meetings over back to back weeks, minutes from Meeting No. 35 on June 7th, 2011 will be reviewed at the next GavPAC meeting.

5-8. Recreation & Trails Planning Deliberations

Doug Dodge, District Ranger, Santa Barbara Ranger District, representing the US Forest Service: Mr. Dodge explained that the main concerns with new trail development in the Forest is sustainable trail design. Trails development requires significant funding for environmental analysis, design and planning work, and maintenance. He is supportive of a multi-jurisdictional trail system and of having a series



of loop trails that connect Camino Cielo with the Coast in the Gaviota Region. He explained that there are national trail standards for trail development depending upon the type of trail use. The USFS has an "Enterprise Team" which can be called upon for specific planning efforts. West Camino Cielo to Refugio Road runs through private property. The USFS has taken measures to try and prevent unauthorized off-road motorcycle usage adjacent to Camino Cielo, however such measures are typically subverted by motorcyclists.

Public Comment:

Alan Howard: Inquired as to whether the County or the USFS has a database of all property owners in the planning area who have formally allowed access to their property under California Civil Code Section 813. He thinks Section 813 filings should be communicated to the general public, so that people know which property owners have granted the public access to their land. He stated that access across such land would not be considered trespassing.

Les Freeman: Does the USFS police inappropriate parking and littering at trailheads? He also stated that upper Refugio Road is not wide enough to support 2-way traffic if, for example, a fire truck was responding to an emergency and residents were trying to evacuate their property in their vehicle.

Doug Dodge: Responded to Mr. Freeman by stating that groups of volunteers help to cleanup certain areas of the Forest, such as the shooting area at Arroyo Burro Road and Camino Cielo. However, the forest service does not have the resources to maintain these facilities on a daily basis.

Rachel Couch: She is the project manager for the State Coastal Conservancy, the State agency mandated to implement the Coastal Trail pursuant to the Coastal Act. They can bring funding and technical expertise to the trail planning process. She is interested in participating in a Trails Subcommittee. The Coastal Conservancy owns some land, however they are not in the business of land management.

Suzanne Perkins: Urges the GavPAC to consider supporting off-road trails over "on-road trails", as the public primarily thinks of off-road trails when they have a vision of what trails should be. Existing and proposed on-road trails are shown on PRT maps. She stated that a proposed trail on a private property would still take years to implement.

Mike Lunsford: It may be helpful to have Staff do an analysis on the history behind some of the places on the PRT. This information might help guide a Trails Subcommittee.

Susan Petrovich: The CRAHTAC principles should be revised to state that the coastal trail should be only be as close to the ocean as feasible, not as possible.

Les Freeman: Any trailheads east of Refugio Road would have not room for parking. Littering at trailheads and on USFS land is an issue and can impact the health of livestock. His ranch has suffered substantial impacts to livestock from littering and trash accumulation on Refugio Road.

Alan Howard: The County and Caltrans should take into consideration any loss of parking space along the Highway 101 corridor that could be a result of new trails policies or the GavPAC's planning efforts.

Suzanne Perkins: When planning for trails, support facilities (restrooms, etc) should be provided at trailheads where necessary.



Susan Petrovich: Does not support continuous access to the coast as there are marine mammal “haul out” locations and other sensitive areas on the coast which should be protected from human disturbance.

Suzanne Perkins: Does not think all trails should be “multi-use”. The GavPAC should stay away from creating trails that could support off-road vehicles. A specific trail could be designated for mountain bike usage.

Susan Petrovich: Asked if there was any way for trails to be closed on “Red Flag” / high fire hazard days.

Suzanne Perkins: The County should establish criteria that allow the public to be involved in trail planning and maintenance.

Susan Petrovich: Is concerned about inverse condemnation of land for designation as recreation.

Deliberation: McGinnis asked if the USFS has applied for joint grant funding with the County. Dodge responded that there are no plans for new USFS trails in the planning area, except for the connector from the Baron Ranch trail. McNabb asked if the USFS feels there is adequate access to the forest for fire fighting. McNabb suggested property owners be involved in updating the PRT maps. Baer wants the GavPAC to discuss the PRT map in relation to the western part of the planning area as well. Lloyd responded to Mrs. Perkins that a road Right-of-Way could be expanded to accommodate on-road trails. Tautrim requested aerial photo examples of constructed sections of the coastal trail in other areas as a reference for trails deliberations. Boise-Cossart wants to see the intent of the Coastal Act for trail access followed and she reminded the Committee that County CLUP Policy 7-15 States that “the vegetation in the small canyons at the mouths of Canada San Onofre and Canada del Molino streams shall not be disturbed by recreational development use.” Lloyd suggested creating a trail overlay/network for the Cojo-Jalama Ranches. Lloyd reminded the GavPAC that the PRT map does not preclude property owners from dedicating a trail easement somewhere else on their property. Mr. Garciacelay stated that all County trails prohibit motor vehicle usage and that it is County and USFS policy that all trails are multi-use, but that a trail dedication can have accompanying use restrictions. He also said the County is looking into expanding their ability to close trail access on high fire hazard days. McGinnis inquired as to whether there is any educational material available on trail usage during high fire hazard days. McNabb inquired about the ability to enforce restricted trail uses. Staff stated that the trail siting guidelines developed for the Goleta and Toro Canyon plans can be used as a resource for the GavPAC.

ACTION: Van Leer moved, seconded by Baer, and carried by a vote of 10-0, to create a Gaviota Trails Subcommittee including the following GavPAC members: McGinnis, Bowman, Feeney, and Boise-Cossart. The GavPAC requested that all GavPAC Committee members be noticed of the Subcommittee meetings and that the Subcommittee should engage stakeholders (State Parks, County Parks, agriculturalist/ranchers, landowners, Forest Service, etc) in the planning process. The GavPAC directed the Subcommittee to discuss the following recommendations:

- 1) Update PRT maps for the eastern and western portions of the Gaviota planning area and consider updating the PRT maps with appropriate trail linkages between inland and coastal trails, including linkages between Baron Ranch, Arroyo Hondo, and El Capitan Canyon.
- 2) Consider incentives for trail dedication, including reducing the existing permit requirement for a trail from a CUP to a CDP/LUP



- 3) Develop thematic scheme for trail development and consider the appropriate intensity of use for a trail and the trail audience
- 4) Consider Policy to encourage specific plans for trail development on large landholdings
- 5) Consider issues related to Coastal Trail planning, including the proximity of the trail to the ocean and the CCC guidelines for the Coastal Trail and Coastal access.
- 6) Consider implications for desired infrastructure (e.g. parking) associate with trails development
- 7) Consider potential impacts of trails development from the landowner perspective
- 8) Consider minimizing the use of asphalt for trails
- 9) Consider CRAHTAC adopted principles for trail development.

9. Long-Term GavPAC Meeting Schedule: The July 6th GavPAC will include an update on planning for the GTC site. The final GavPAC meeting before the break, on July 20th, will include discussion of non-agriculture related CCC modifications.

Adjournment – 9:00 p.m.

