

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO OTHERS INTERESTED IN PUBLIC ACCESS PLANNING AT HOLLISTER RANCH,
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

At its October 17, 2019 meeting, the State Coastal Conservancy will be considering an item to authorize disbursement of up to \$300,000 for consultant services to facilitate development of a contemporary Hollister Ranch Access Program, in Santa Barbara County. The meeting will be held in Arcata, California with specific location not yet determined. The full staff report for the item will be posted to our website at least 10 days prior to the meeting (<https://scc.ca.gov/public-meetings/>). If you would like to submit a letter or email regarding this potential authorization, please address them to:

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy

The letters can be emailed to Trish.Chapman@scc.ca.gov (preferred) or sent in hard copy to the address at the bottom of this email. If possible, please submit your comments by October 1st.

Additional information about the proposed authorization:

The goal of the planning effort is to resolve a long-standing conflict regarding providing public access to an 8.5-mile stretch of the Gaviota Coast in Santa Barbara County. Hollister Ranch is a 14,000-acre subdivision that includes 8.5 miles of shoreline along the Santa Barbara coast with no land-based coastal access for the adjacent public shoreline. The Gaviota Coast, of which Hollister Ranch is a significant part, is the least accessible stretch of coast in California, with less than 2 miles of publicly accessible shore in more than 60 miles of coastline. Providing public access to the Hollister Ranch shoreline has been the subject of a decades-long dispute with the owners of the ranch. In 1982, the California Coastal Commission approved a Hollister Ranch Public Access Program which the Conservancy was directed to implement. Despite repeated attempts, the Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission have not been able to secure public access to the ranch.

In March of this year, the Conservancy, Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, and State Parks entered agreed to work collaboratively to develop and implement a contemporary Hollister Ranch access program. The Conservancy volunteered to lead the planning effort and to contribute \$50,000 to the initial planning. State Parks offered to contribute up to an additional \$300,000 to complete the plan. The item that will be considered at the October 17 Conservancy meeting would allow the Conservancy to use the State Parks funds to contract for consultant services to facilitate development of the access program.

The goals of the planning process include: 1) engaging a wide variety of stakeholders in a collaborative planning process; 2) developing an over-arching shared vision for public access at Hollister Ranch that will guide development and implementation of the program; 3) ensuring that the vision and program provide for diverse, equitable, and inclusive access that meets the needs, interests and concerns of as broad a range of Californians as possible; and 4) developing a program that can be feasibly implemented in light of the property's physical and environmental characteristics, regulatory requirements, private property interests, public safety and other constraints and interests identified through the planning process.

Consultant services will be used to lead the community engagement process, assess the property's resources, identify access opportunities and constraints, summarize the strengths and weaknesses of various potential access program components, and assist the four state agencies in finalizing the access program. Once the access program is complete, the Coastal Commission will consider whether to adopt it as the Hollister Ranch Access Program, replacing the 1982 plan.

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