

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST AREA  
 89 SOUTH CALIFORNIA ST., SUITE 200  
 VENTURA, CA 93001  
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Filed: 5/22/03  
 49th Day: 7/10/03  
 180th Day: 11/18/03  
 Extended to: 2/15/04  
 Staff: MH-V  
 Staff Report: 11/20/03  
 Hearing Date: 12/11/03  
 Commission Action:



### STAFF REPORT: REGULAR CALENDAR

**APPLICATION NO.:** 4-02-251

**APPLICANT:** Santa Barbara County, Parks and Recreation Department

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 5986 Sandspit Road, Goleta Beach County Park, Goleta (Santa Barbara County)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Retain 600 lineal feet of rock riprap placed at Goleta Beach Park under Emergency Permit No. 4-02-251-G.

**SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends **approval** of the proposed project, to authorize the retention of the riprap revetment, for a limited term of two years from the date of Commission approval of CDP 4-02-251 (Special Condition 1), provided the study required by Special Condition 2 is successfully completed within the prescribed period of time. Permanent retention of the revetment would require further Commission consideration and approval. If the revetment is not authorized by the Commission within the prescribed period of time, removal of the revetment is required (Special Condition 1) by the conditions of the permit. The requirements of the study have been developed by the Commission's Technical Services staff, including the Commission's civil engineer, geologist, and biologist. Upon completion of a study compliant with the requirements of Special Condition 2, Commission staff should have sufficient technical information, including the evaluation of alternatives to the proposed revetment, to analyze the appropriate response to increased patterns of coastal erosion at Goleta Beach.

The County has agreed to undertake such a study at the suggestion of, and with the support of, Commission staff. The staff of the County Department of Parks and Recreation, and of 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Susan Rose have been particularly helpful and have already undertaken some components of an overall planning study the County initiated last summer. The California Coastal Conservancy and the Goleta Valley Land Trust have provided funding toward the County's more extensive master planning for the future of the park. To ensure that technical study requirements are also clear, and are incorporated fully into the County's process, the staff recommends that the Commission provide guidance and support for technical study requirements through approval of a temporary term for the existing revetment, and the technical study requirements outlined in Special Condition 2.

Staff also notes that the County has discovered that additional placement of rock riprap occurred at Goleta Beach about 15 years ago without the benefit of coastal development permits. The County has submitted a separate application to retain the

additional revetment, but Commission and County staff agreed that application would remain incomplete pending the completion of the studies required by Special Condition 2 of CDP 4-02-251.

**APPROVALS RECEIVED:** Santa Barbara County Planning and Development

**NOTE on TIMING:** The 180-day review period is extended by agreement with the County until February 15, 2004. The February Coastal Commission meeting is scheduled for February 18 – 20, 2004, therefore the Commission must act on the subject application no later than the January 2004 Commission meeting.

## **I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**MOTION:** *I move that the Commission approve Coastal Development Permit No. 4-02-251 pursuant to the staff recommendation.*

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL:**

Staff recommends a **YES** vote. Passage of this motion will result in approval of the permit as conditioned and adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

### **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT:**

The Commission hereby approves a coastal development permit for the proposed development and adopts the findings set forth below on grounds that the development as conditioned will be in conformity with the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act and will not prejudice the ability of the local government having jurisdiction over the area to prepare a Local Coastal Program conforming to the provisions of Chapter 3. Approval of the permit complies with the California Environmental Quality Act because either 1) feasible mitigation measures and/or alternatives have been incorporated to substantially lessen any significant adverse effects of the development on the environment, or 2) there are no further feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that would substantially lessen any significant adverse impacts of the development on the environment.

## **II. STANDARD CONDITIONS**

- 1. Notice of Receipt and Acknowledgment.** The permit is not valid and development shall not commence until a copy of the permit, signed by the permittee or authorized agent, acknowledging receipt of the permit and acceptance of the terms and conditions, is returned to the Commission office.
- 2. Interpretation.** Any questions of intent or interpretation of any condition will be resolved by the Executive Director or the Commission.

3. **Assignment.** The permit may be assigned to any qualified person, provided assignee files with the Commission an affidavit accepting all terms and conditions of the permit.
4. **Terms and Conditions Run with the Land.** These terms and conditions shall be perpetual, and it is the intention of the Commission and the permittee to bind all future owners and possessors of the subject property to the terms and conditions. These terms and conditions shall be perpetual, and it is the intention of the Commission and the permittee to bind all future owners and possessors of the subject property to the terms and conditions.

### III. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

#### 1. Term of Permit; Subsequent Removal of Revetment

- (A) This permit is valid for a term of twenty-four months commencing upon the date of Commission approval of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251. The County shall complete the study required by Special Condition 2, set forth below, within the two-year term of the permit, and by the end of the permit term shall either have submitted a new coastal development permit application and obtained approval from the Commission for the retention of the subject revetment or have submitted a complete coastal development permit application for the removal of the rock revetment at Goleta Beach Park at that time; and
- (B) Unless the Coastal Commission authorizes permanent retention of the revetment within the two-year term of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251, the County shall, upon Commission approval of the completed application for removal required by subparagraph (A) above, remove the revetment in its entirety and restore the affected area of Goleta Beach in accordance with the terms and conditions of the applicable coastal development permit.

#### 2. Technical Study of Goleta Beach Erosion & Effects of Shoreline Protection Structures

**Prior to the Issuance of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251,** the applicant shall submit a study plan for the Executive Director's approval that incorporates, at a minimum, the elements set forth in this Special Condition. In addition the study shall be undertaken and completed by qualified coastal engineers, geologists, and marine biologists/ecologists, as appropriate, and the selected consultants shall have demonstrated substantial relevant experience in their respective areas of expertise. Asterisks or other symbols included as placeholders mean data collection/design parameters that shall be finalized by the Commission technical services staff in consultation with the applicant's consultants. The coastal development permit shall not be issued until a final study plan incorporating all changes recommended by Commission technical services staff has been reviewed and approved by the Executive Director.

(A) Kelp Study

(1) Kelp Control Areas: Establish kelp study plots that can be used to study the interactions of kelp with changing sediment inputs. At least one study plot shall be established in the shallowest limits of the kelp, since this is the area most likely to experience seasonal shifts in sediment. Each plot shall be identified by coordinates that will allow a diver to return to each plot and regularly record data on sediment levels, kelp viability, plant density and other variables.

(2) Kelp Study: A qualified biologist shall make at least bi-monthly dive surveys of the kelp plots, measuring sediment levels and plant density and shall continue these surveys for at least two years (additional length of study may be required by Commission technical services staff upon review of applicant's draft study proposal). The viability and health of the kelp in each plot shall be assessed for each survey and each plot shall be photographed as part of each survey.

(3) Kelp Map: Within 6 months, prepare a detailed map of the tunicate casing areas and kelp areas offshore of Goleta Beach in the area bounded by Point A and Point B, and from the shoreline offshore to Depth X (parameters to be established in consultation with Commission staff). Within 12 months, add onto the map those areas that have the physical attributes to support kelp in the future.

(4) Reporting: Within two months after each complete year of kelp surveys, the biologist shall provide the executive director with a written report on the survey results, on the kelp viability, plant densities, the range of sediment levels and any information that can relate kelp viability and health with changes in sediment levels.

(5) Literature Review: The first Kelp report shall be augmented with a report on the known habitat requirements for this type of kelp – water temperature, clarity, sediment input, water depth, and any other factors identified in the literature. A complete bibliography shall be provided with this literature review.

(B) Sediment Transport Study

(1) Beach and Nearshore Profiles: Establish at least 6 profile locations to measure onshore-offshore transport of sediment at Goleta Beach. Work with the kelp biologist and known information on kelp recruitment locations to establish profiles that will both support the kelp study and minimize overall disturbance to the existing kelp. Profiles shall be approximately equally spaced and span the entire length of Goleta Beach. Profiles shall be undertaken in conformance with the protocols established in "Monitoring Plan of Offshore, Nearshore and Intertidal Resources for the Goleta Beach Nourishment Demonstration Project" (pages 3 and 4).

(2) Bathymetric Surveys/Profile Measurements: Profiles shall be surveyed bi-monthly, timed to coincide to the extent possible with the biological kelp surveys and shall be measured from the revetment to -40' MLLW (closure depth).

- (3) Sediment Budget Study: Develop a study to determine a sediment budget for Goleta Beach and the area offshore to the closure depth. This study should include:
  - (a) Determination of the closure depth from the beach profile data described above, and an estimate of sand loss to deep water.
  - (b) Estimates of the eastward flux of sand into the Goleta Beach area.
  - (c) Estimates of the westward flux of sand out of the Goleta Beach area
  - (d) Estimate of sand contributions to the Goleta Beach area from Atascadero Creek
  - (e) Estimate of current and pre-revetment contributions of sand to the Goleta Beach area resulting from erosion of the bluff at Goleta Beach.
  - (f) Any other sources or losses of sand to the Goleta Beach area
- (4) This study should be reported on in the final monitoring report.
- (5) Reporting: Within two months after each complete year of bathymetric surveys, the engineer or surveyor shall provide the executive director with a written report on the survey results, on the extend of onshore/offshore transport, the seasonal and/or storm influenced changes in sediment volume and depth throughout the profiles.
- (6) Literature Review: The first bathymetric survey report shall be augmented with a report on the known sediment transport characteristics of the area, longshore transport, sediment inputs, the sediment budget for the cell and, if possible, the sub-cell area, and any other factors identified in the literature. A complete bibliography shall be provided with this literature review.
- (7) Long-term Nourishment Programs: Within 18 months, develop the parameters for a long-term beach restoration program adequate to protect the park and access road. This program shall account for longshore sediment transport, ongoing beach and bluff erosion, sea level rise and other foreseeable factors that will affect the viability of a beach nourishment program. The program shall identify nourished profiles, adjusted profiles, nourishment frequency, and nourishment volumes for a program that could be successful for the next 50 to 75 years. The long-term nourishment program shall estimate changes to sea level, nourished profiles and adjusted profiles for the following time periods: 10, 15, 25, 50, and 75 years from the present.
- (8) Analysis of Long-term Shoreline Treatment Options: Within 18 months, estimate long-term changes to the shoreline profile for the options where the revetment is kept in place and for the managed retreat (no protection, but removal of facilities as they are threatened) alternative over the same time periods. Considering sea level rise and other foreseeable factors that will affect the shoreline, estimate shoreline profiles for these options for the following time periods: 10, 15, 25, 50, and 75 years from the present. Prepare these profiles in a manner that profiles for all future projections can be compared against each other.
- (9) Long-term Impacts to Kelp: Based on the anticipated long-term profiles for the nourishment option, the revetment option and the managed retreat option, provide an analysis of the long-term impacts and viability of the kelp areas under each option.

Provide a report on this analysis within \*\* years (to be established in consultation with Commission staff).

#### IV. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS

The Commission hereby finds and declares:

##### A. Project Overview

There is no dispute that coastal erosion has been a significant problem at Goleta Beach during the past few years. The beach area is adjacent to a popular public park owned by Santa Barbara County, near UCSB in the Goleta area. There is, however, considerable dispute over the cause of the erosion, the long-term implications for the park facilities, and most of all, over what should be done about the increased pattern of coastal erosion adjacent to the park.

The County has placed rock riprap revetments along the beach twice in the past few years, once removing the revetment at Commission request, and subsequently placing a new revetment during the Winter 2003 storm season (under an Emergency Coastal Development Permit). The County prefers not to remove the rock again unless a more comprehensive solution has been permitted by the Commission. The County Parks Department has initially requested permanent retention of the revetment placed last winter; however sufficient technical data, and analysis of alternatives, has not been provided to date to develop a final recommendation. The Commission staff has supported the retention of the subject revetment for a two-year temporary term, providing the County time to gather technical data and analyses recommended by the Commission's Technical Services staff.

The County has had the benefit of approximately one year's use of the revetment to date and has pursued funding for necessary studies and held initial public meetings to gather public input during this time. While the County's "visioning" process will inform the County's overall management goals for Goleta Beach Park, the Commission's ultimate decision regarding shoreline protection alternatives requires expert technical analysis. The Commission finds that the study required by Special Condition 2 will provide such information, and that by authorizing a two-year limited term (subsequent to the one year the revetment has already been in place) for the subject revetment, that the Commission thereby offers the County time and opportunity to provide the information necessary while avoiding the expense of removal. In addition, delaying removal until after the study is completed, should removal of the revetment be the Commission's ultimate decision, will avoid temporary impacts to coastal resources that may otherwise result.

It seems appropriate to the Commission to forego the impacts to coastal resources, the additional potential loss of park amenities, and the impacts on coastal recreation that may result from removing the revetment – in addition to the cost to the County to remove and store the riprap pending the Commission's final decision -- while the study is undertaken. This temporary term does not, however, prejudice the ultimate

Commission action on the revetment, or the Commission's consideration of other potential solutions to the problem of coastal erosion at Goleta Beach.

## **B. Project Location & Background**

The project site is located at Goleta Beach County Park, which occupies approximately 29 acres with 4,200 feet of beach frontage in Santa Barbara County (Exhibit 1). Goleta Beach County Park is bounded on the west by the University of California at Santa Barbara, and to the north and east by private natural gas generation and storage facilities owned by Southern California Gas Company. To the northwest, Clarence Ward Memorial Boulevard separates the Park from the greater area of Goleta Slough and the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport.

Goleta Beach County Park is situated at the mouth of the Goleta Slough which is fed by five major drainages, Tecolotito, Carneros, San Pedro/Las Vegas, San Jose, and Atascadero Creeks. The outflow channel of Goleta Slough wraps around Goleta Beach County Park along the Park's northern boundary, outletting through Goleta Beach County Park property, east of the developed facilities.

Public access is available along the entire length of the park that is contiguous to the beach, nearly one mile in length. All portions of the park located landward of the sandy beach are located on top of a clay-rich fill base placed after World War II by the federal government. Prior to placement of the fill after World War II, the subject site was a sandspit extending across the mouth of Goleta Slough subject to wave action and periodic erosion.

Existing development on site consists of a restaurant, two public restrooms, showers, parking lots, recreation lawn area, picnic facilities, numerous utility lines, and a pier. In recent years, and most notably during the 1999 winter storm season, erosion of the clay-rich fill underlying the park due to wave action has occurred forming a steep slope approximately four to five feet in height between the improved areas on site and the sandy beach.

The project site has been subject to past Commission action. Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 4-01-136 (Santa Barbara County Parks) approved construction of a temporary sand berm for the winter season from 2001-2002. Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 4-00-193 (Santa Barbara County Parks) approved the construction of a temporary sand berm for the winter season from 2000 to 2001, similar to the 2001-2002 project. Further, prior to the construction of the previous temporary sand berm under CDP 4-00-193, an approximately 1,000 feet long rock revetment was placed on the site by Santa Barbara County Department of Parks & Recreation in February 2000 as an emergency measure to prevent further erosion of the improved areas of the park pursuant to Emergency Permit 00-EMP-002, which was issued by Santa Barbara County. This action by the County was appealed by two members of the Commission. Prior to the Commission's determination of whether a substantial issue was raised by the appeal, the County submitted CDP Application 4-00-118 for removal of the previously constructed rock revetment. CDP 4-00-118 was approved by the Commission on June 13, 2000, subject to a special condition which required the rock

revetment be removed prior to August 31, 2000. Pursuant to a request by Santa Barbara County Department of Parks & Recreation, the time allowed for removal of the rock revetment was extended by the Executive Director until November 30, 2000, in order to allow the County to avoid interference with the grunion spawning cycle and to secure the necessary permits from other State and Federal agencies. That rock revetment was subsequently removed, as was required pursuant to the special condition.

Although the rock revetment installed in 2000 was removed, a new rock revetment was placed on the beach in late 2002 pursuant to an Emergency Permit. In addition, there remains a smaller rock revetment on the subject site in front of a parking area and another rock revetment buried beneath the sand in the area of the pier. According to staff from the Santa Barbara County Department of Parks & Recreation, the rock revetment by the pier at the east end of the park was constructed in approximately 1950 with additional work performed in 1961. Staff from the Santa Barbara County Department of Parks & Recreation have also stated that it appears that the rock revetment that exists in front of a parking area at the western end of the park was installed between 1985 and 1986 without the benefit of a coastal development permit, although the County approved a permit for the parking area in 1984. In order to resolve this violation and plan a comprehensive solution to shoreline erosion at the park, staff from Santa Barbara County Department of Parks & Recreation have prepared a long-term alternatives analysis for the subject site, which recommends that these existing revetments be retained and re-engineering to protect Park infrastructure. The County has submitted a coastal development permit application for the temporary retention of the existing revetments, but as noted previously, County and Commission staff have agreed that the information that will be generated by the special study required by Condition 2 will be crucial to analyzing the question of shoreline armoring generally at Goleta Beach, and thus that application will be held incomplete until the study concludes. If the Commission does not approve CDP 4-02-251, the Commission enforcement staff will further evaluate the unauthorized revetment.

The County recently completed a long-term plan for beach restoration and shoreline erosion management at Goleta Beach State Park. To protect the park facilities and infrastructure, sand berm projects were implemented in the past. The coastal development permits approved for these projects specified that future CDP applications include a complete and detailed evaluation of the feasibility of all long-term solutions and potential alternatives to the proposed project, including importation of donor sand material from offsite inland sources and coordination with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District in order to utilize sand material from local dredging projects for construction of the berms.

The Goleta Beach Nourishment Project, a temporary erosion solution, was approved by the Commission last summer (CDP 4-02-254 BEACON) after the applicant made substantial revisions at the request of Commission staff, thereby avoiding sensitive kelp habitat offshore of Goleta Beach. The revised project consisted of dredging beach compatible sand from a borrow site located in the West Beach area of Santa Barbara Harbor, with sand transport to Goleta Beach over water by barge. The City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department currently has a long-term permit (4-00-167) to remove



sand from the West Beach area on an as-needed basis. The nourishment project includes the placement of approximately 9,000 cubic yards of sand per day over 16 days.

### **C. Project Description & Purpose**

The Executive Director authorized Emergency Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251-G on December 19, 2002. The permit authorized the County's request to place 600 linear feet of rock riprap revetment, approximately 6-8 feet in height, placed at a 1:1 – 1:1.5 slope, 15 ft. wide at base, and covering an approximately 9,000 sq. ft. area of Goleta Beach along the base of the existing lawn and parking lots at Goleta Beach County Park.

The County stated that the revetment was necessary to prevent further loss of park facilities due to tidal action and severe beach erosion, in the face of potential continuing winter storms.

Prior to placement of the revetment, the County Parks Department stated that approximately 16,000 sq. ft. of developed park lawn was lost in the month previous to the request, and that picnic sites were closed. The County noted that the erosion line was then within twenty-five feet of an existing public restroom, main water and sewer lines, and gas and irrigation lines. In addition, the County stated that 32 parking spaces (of approximately 550 existing spaces) had been lost to coastal erosion.

The County presently notes that the edge of the eroded parking lot now protected with the most recent placement of riprap, is within ten feet of the pressure sewer main servicing Goleta Beach County Park's 3 public restrooms, the privately operated Beachside Bar and Café, and two ranger residences.

As stated previously, the County's application is for permanent retention of the revetment; however, Special Condition 1 allows only for a total additional 2-year temporary term for the structure (commencing on the date of Commission approval of CDP 4-02-251), pending completion of technical studies required by Special Condition 2 and further Commission consideration.

### **D. Chapter 3 Policies of the Coastal Act**

The applicant's request to permanently retain the revetment at Goleta Beach raises issues of consistency with a range of policies set forth in Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. These include, but are not limited to, Section 30235 (construction altering natural shoreline); Sections 30210 et seq. (public access and recreation), Sections 30230, 30231, and 30240 (protection of marine resources, including special protection of areas of special biological significance, such as the Kelp Environmentally Sensitive Habitat area offshore of Goleta Beach, and protection of coastal aquatic resources).

The Commission has an obligation under the Coastal Act to ensure that the proposed revetment is considered fully, in light of sufficient technical data that will be provided by Special Conditions 2 (including an evaluation of the offshore sensitive kelp habitat that

may be affected by the project or by alternatives to the project, evaluation of likely beach/park profiles under various potential scenarios, and analysis of sediment transport, etc.). The Commission's technical services staff has developed Special Condition 2 to ensure that the required study includes sufficient information to enable staff to develop a sound recommendation with regard to the eventual permanent solution for Goleta Beach coastal erosion. The Commission has generally found that revetments and other shoreline protective devices cause long-term loss of sandy beaches and displace beach area, have impacts on public access and recreation, and may adversely affect sensitive habitat and species. The Commission is also aware that Goleta Beach Park is an important coastal recreation area, particularly to County residents but also to other coastal visitors. The Commission finds that there is insufficient evidence to evaluate the impact of the temporary placement of the revetment, and that impacts associated with the construction activities that established the revetment have already occurred. The Commission also finds that there will be impacts to the removal of the revetment (interference with public access, disturbance of beach habitat and coastal waters of mechanized heavy equipment on the beach) that would be imposed again if the revetment were ultimately to be approved and placed again. To ensure that the impacts of any shoreline protective device considered for Goleta Beach are fully and adequately analyzed, and that the revetment is timely removed if it is not approved in accordance with the timelines set forth in Special Condition 1, the Commission finds that the temporary term for the revetment (two years commencing with Commission approval of CDP 4-02-251) is necessary, and that the completion of the study required by Special Condition 2 is necessary before the Commission can adequately evaluate a more permanent solution (which may include managed retreat) for the coastal erosion in evidence at Goleta Beach

#### **E. Local Coastal Program**

The proposed project area lies within the unincorporated area of County of Santa Barbara, but falls within the Commission's area of retained original permit jurisdiction because it is located on state tidelands or is below the mean high-tide. The Commission has certified the Local Coastal Program for the County of Santa Barbara (Land Use Plan and Implementation Ordinances) which contains policies for regulating development and protection of coastal resources, including the protection of environmentally sensitive habitats, recreational and visitor serving facilities, coastal hazards, and public access.

#### **F. CEQA**

Section 13096(a) of the Commission's administrative regulations requires Commission approval of Coastal Development Permit application to be supported by a finding showing the application, as conditioned by any conditions of approval, to be consistent with any applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of CEQA prohibits a proposed development from being approved if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available

which would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect, which the activity may have on the environment.

The Commission finds that there is presently insufficient information to adequately evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on coastal resources, that identification of feasible mitigation measure is incomplete and that sufficient information to identify such measures in a site-specific way does not presently exist, that there has been inadequate identification and analysis of potential alternatives to the proposed project, and that therefore, approval of the project as presently proposed by the County of Santa Barbara would not be consistent with the requirements of the CEQA. However, approval of the project with the required Special Conditions, including the limit of the revetment placement to a maximum of two years following Commission approval of this permit, will result in the gathering and analysis of sufficient technical data to adequately inform future consideration of the project by the Commission. In addition, the Commission finds that removal of the existing revetment without completion of the study required by Special Condition 2 might also have significant, but presently unidentified site-specific impacts to coastal resources as stated previously.

Therefore, the proposed project, as conditioned, is determined to be consistent with CEQA and the policies of the Coastal Act.

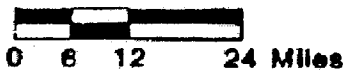
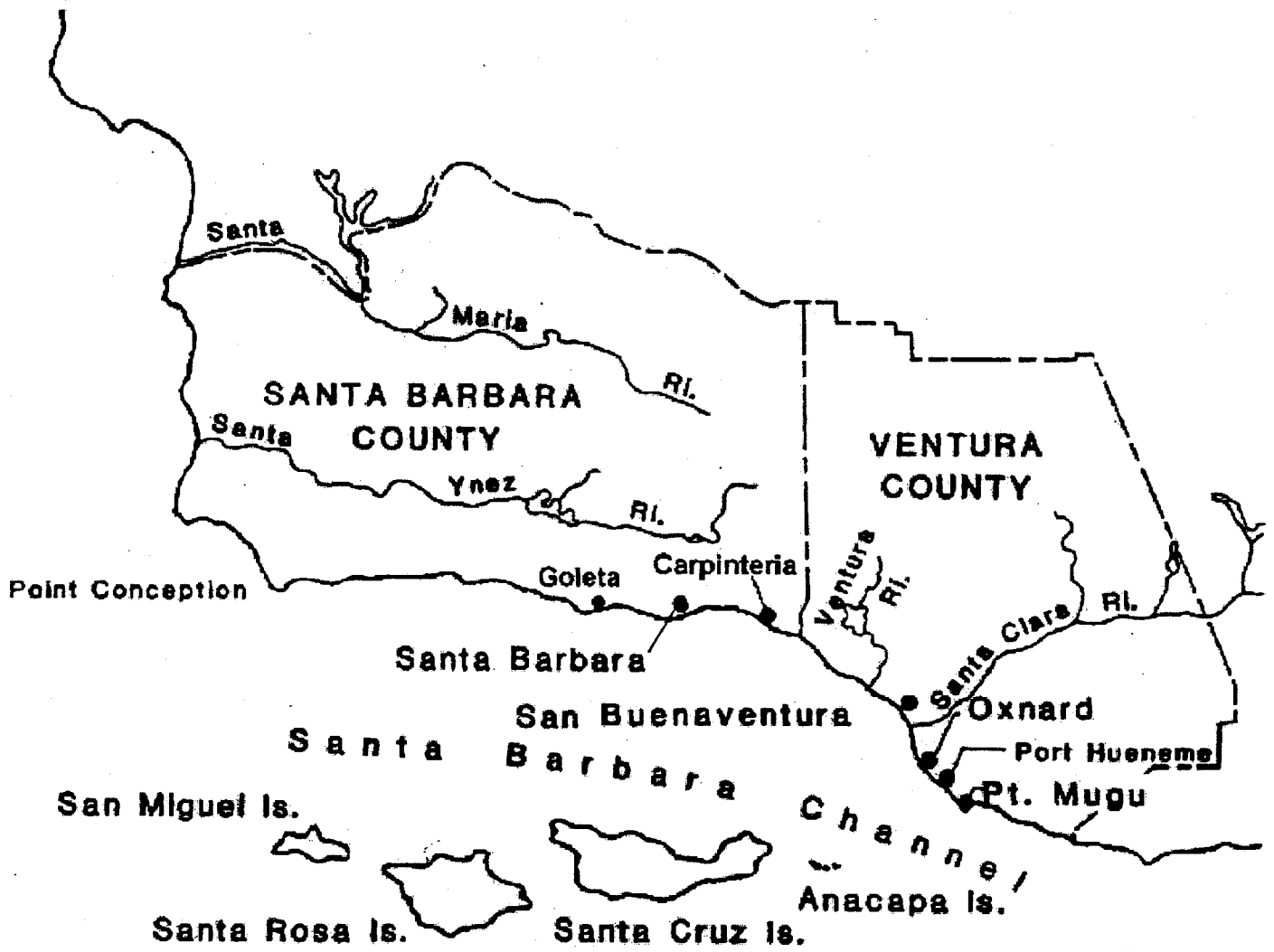


EXHIBIT NO. /
APPLICATION NO. <i>Santa Barbara County</i>
<i>Ports Dept.</i>
<i>Regional Location</i>
<i>4-02-251</i>

19C-9

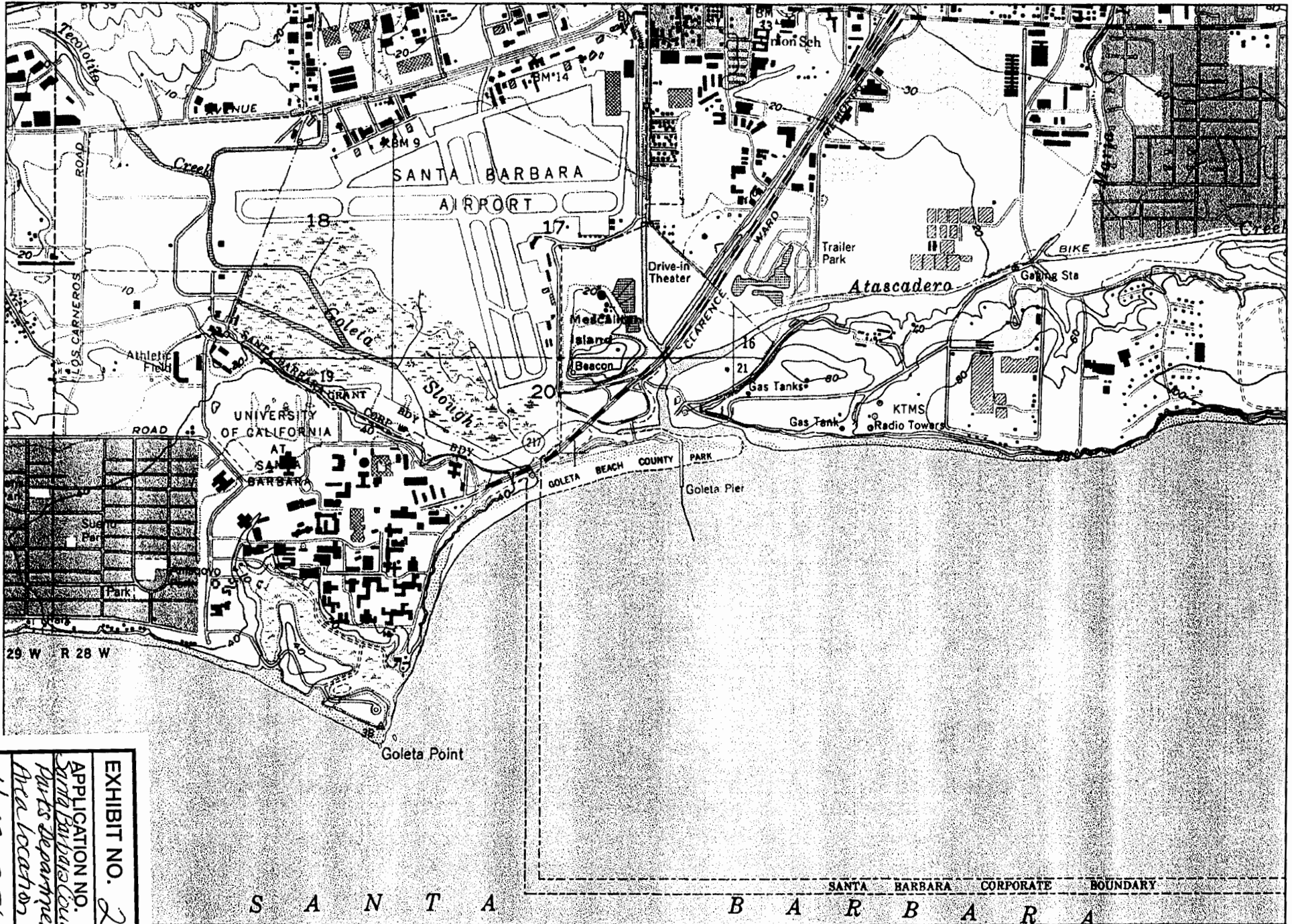
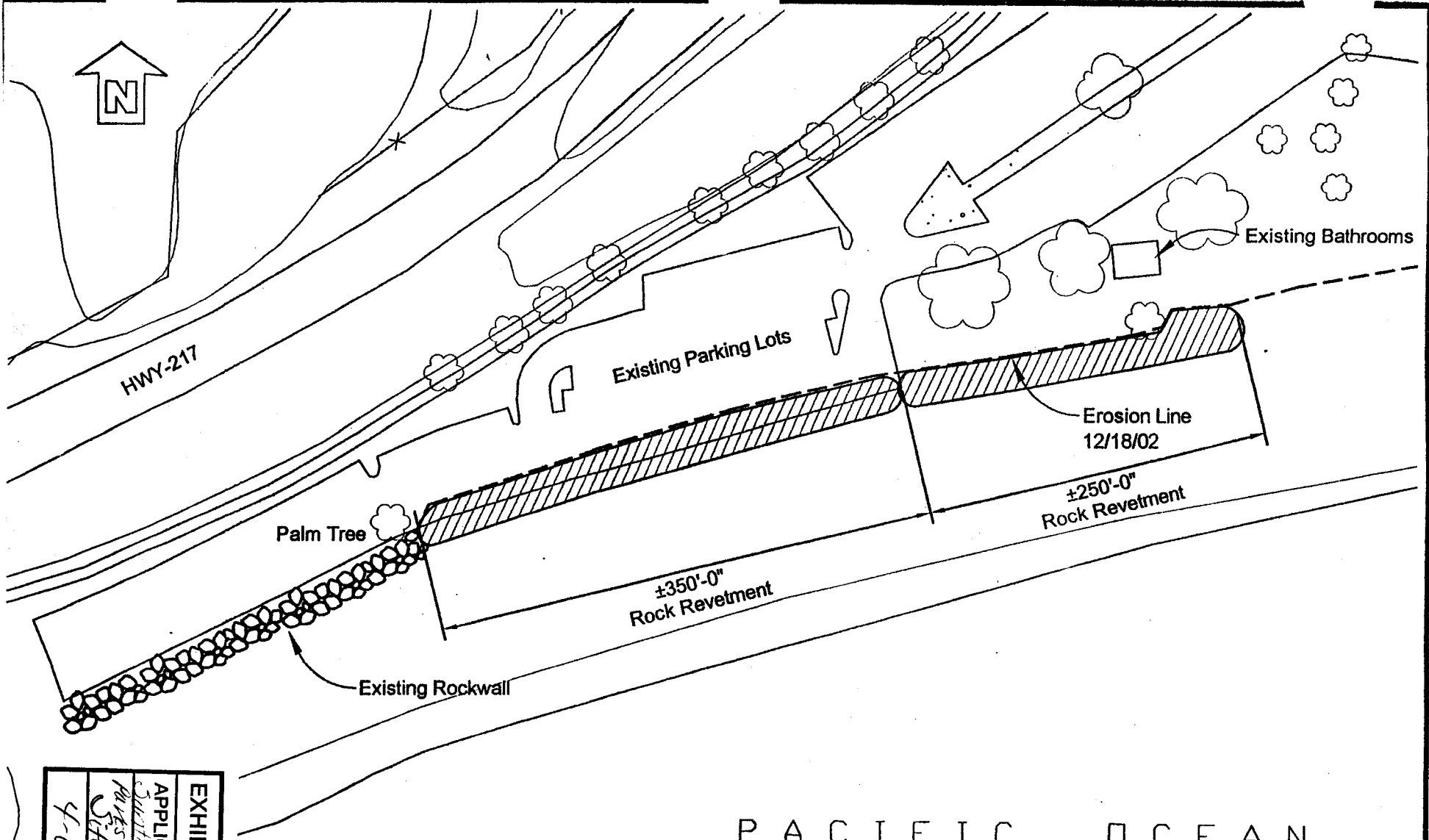


EXHIBIT NO. 2
APPLICATION NO. Santa Barbara County Parks Department Area location
4-02-251

1000 FEET 0 1/2 300 m MILE

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P A C I F I C O C E A N

EXHIBIT NO. 3  
 APPLICATION NO. Santa Barbara County Parks Dept. Site Plan  
 4-02-251

Moors \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

No.	Description	Rev.



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**COUNTY PARKS**  
 610 Mission Canyon Road  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Design: T. Vallette  
 Drawn: F. Vallette  
 Project Engineer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: C. Lund

**GOLETA BEACH PARK  
 ROCK REVETMENT**

Project No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scale: As shown  
 Sheet 1 of 1

# Buried boulders plan rejected, county says more study needed

## Temporary barrier might remain at Goleta Beach up to two years

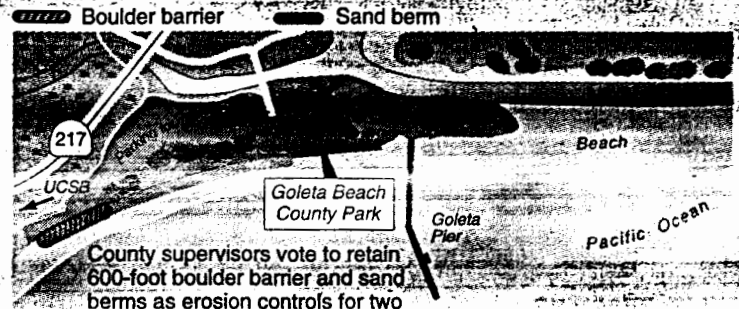
By MORGAN GREEN  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Two months after raging seas caused record erosion at Goleta Beach County Park, the Board of Supervisors says it needs up to two years to choose a permanent way to protect the beach.

By unanimous vote Tuesday, the five-member board killed a \$300,000 plan to bury boulders along the entire unprotected ocean side of the county's most popular park to stop it from washing away.

Instead, the supervisors ordered more research and public discussions in their search for a solution that pleases backers of "hard" barriers and those who oppose boulder or concrete protection. Parks officials are to return April 15 with a detailed action and spending plan.

Until a permanent solution is found, the supervisors' strategy partly relies on BEACON, an independent agency of South Coast governments, to help protect the park. BEACON plans to haul in enough sand this fall to widen Goleta Beach by 100 yards. The idea is to keep destructive winter seas from reaching the park.



County supervisors vote to retain 600-foot boulder barrier and sand berms as erosion controls for two more years.

TOM DE WALT / NEWS-PRESS

The supervisors also ordered parks officials to seek state Coastal Commission permission to leave in place for two years the 600-foot-long emergency boulder barrier, or revetment, the county built along roughly one-third of the park's unprotected beach at the height of December's destructive storms.

The temporary barrier permit required its removal before summer. It was installed after surf washed away 34 paved parking spaces and

*Santa Barbara News Press 2/26/03 pg. A1*

Please see **BEACON** on **A12**



Coastal Commission to reject a county's request to leave it be.

A park defender and revetment advocate, Glen Davis, said the supervisors' plan is purely political. "They don't want to make a 'hard' decision, although there's no indication anything else will work."

The supervisors accepted engineering studies and an array of options including a revetment last year. More study now, said Mr. Davis, "is a waste of taxpayer dollars."

Larry Stone, co-owner of the Beachside Cafe inside the park, said a buried revetment would have the same effect as similar structures at Arroyo Burro and East Beach. "Those rocks have been there forever, and there's plenty of sand."

e-mail: [mgreen@newspress.com](mailto:mgreen@newspress.com)

### BEACH

Continued from Page A1

41,000 square feet of grassy picnic area; undetermined 1,300 square feet of lawn with sinkholes, and came within 25 feet of a bathroom and underground utility lines to UCSB and beyond.

Supervisor Susan Rose, whose district includes the park, suggested the temporary solution. Too many questions remain about a permanent buried revetment, she said, to give it a thumbs up.

Public discussions have turned up dueling science and a great deal of difference of opinion over whether the structure would protect the park but undermine the beach in the long run, she said. "I am going to do anything I can to preserve the beach and the park. But I'm not willing to choose one over the other."

Other possible options for the county could include breakwaters parallel to the beach, rock groins sticking out from the beach, or an undersea sand barrier in a high-tech fabric sleeve along with continuing to add sand to the beach.

Environmental groups and grass-roots park users have formed rival factions during the community's emotional dialog over the park's future. Both sides said Tuesday they are unhappy with the supervisors' action.

The Coalition to Save Goleta's Beaches wants the park's west end to erode naturally, and opposes any protective man-made structures besides sand dunes. The group contends rock barriers accelerate sand erosion from beaches and hinder public access. In addition, approving one for Goleta Beach would signal others to try for "coastal armor" elsewhere in the county, said coalition spokesman Brian Trautwein.

The coalition wants the emergency structure at Goleta Beach removed. But it's if the group will ask the

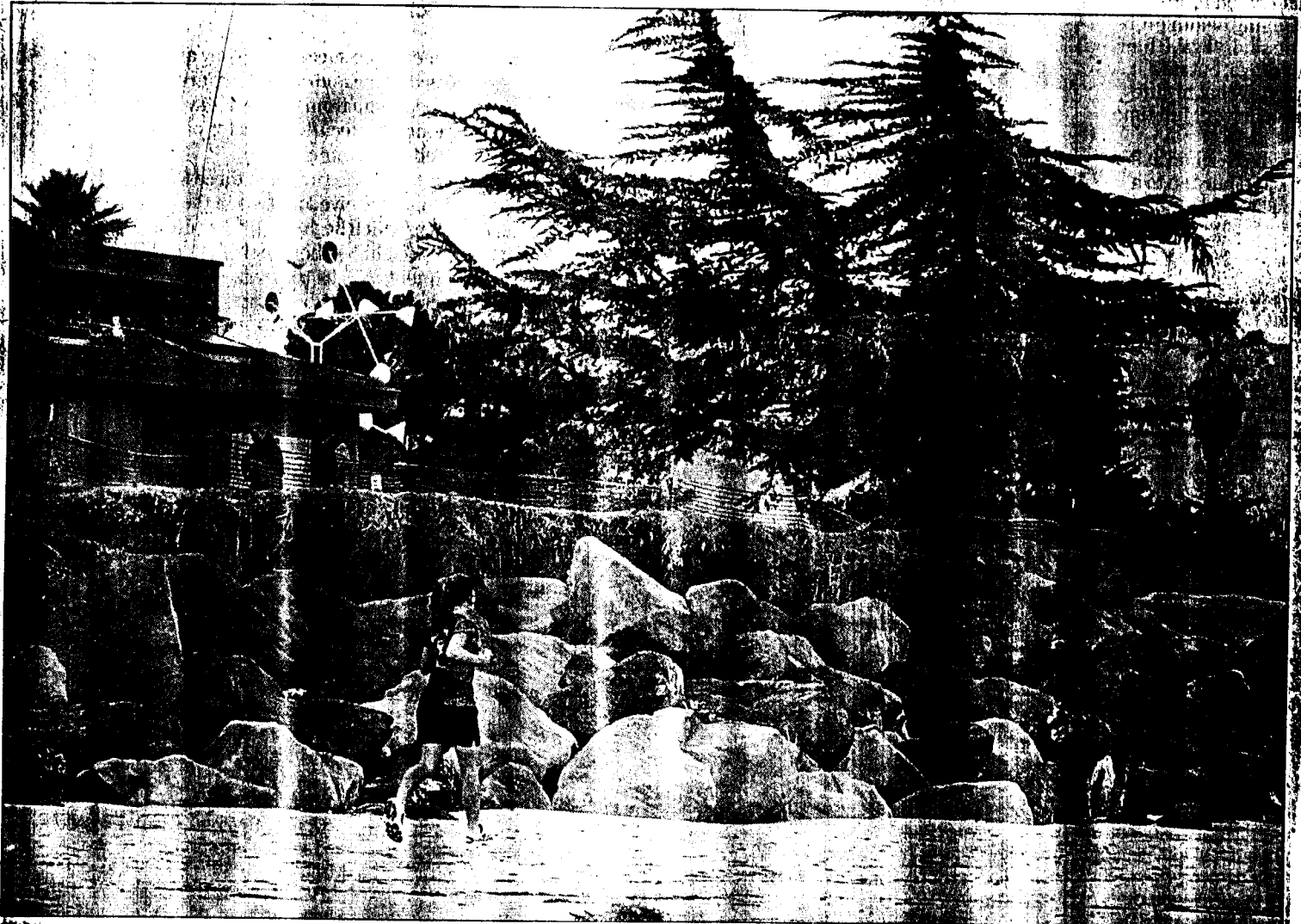
EXHIBIT NO. 4

APPLICATION NO.

Santa Barbara County  
Parks Department  
- Article -

4-02-257

*"I am going to do anything I can to preserve the beach and the park. But I'm not willing to choose one over the other."* County Supervisor Susan Rose

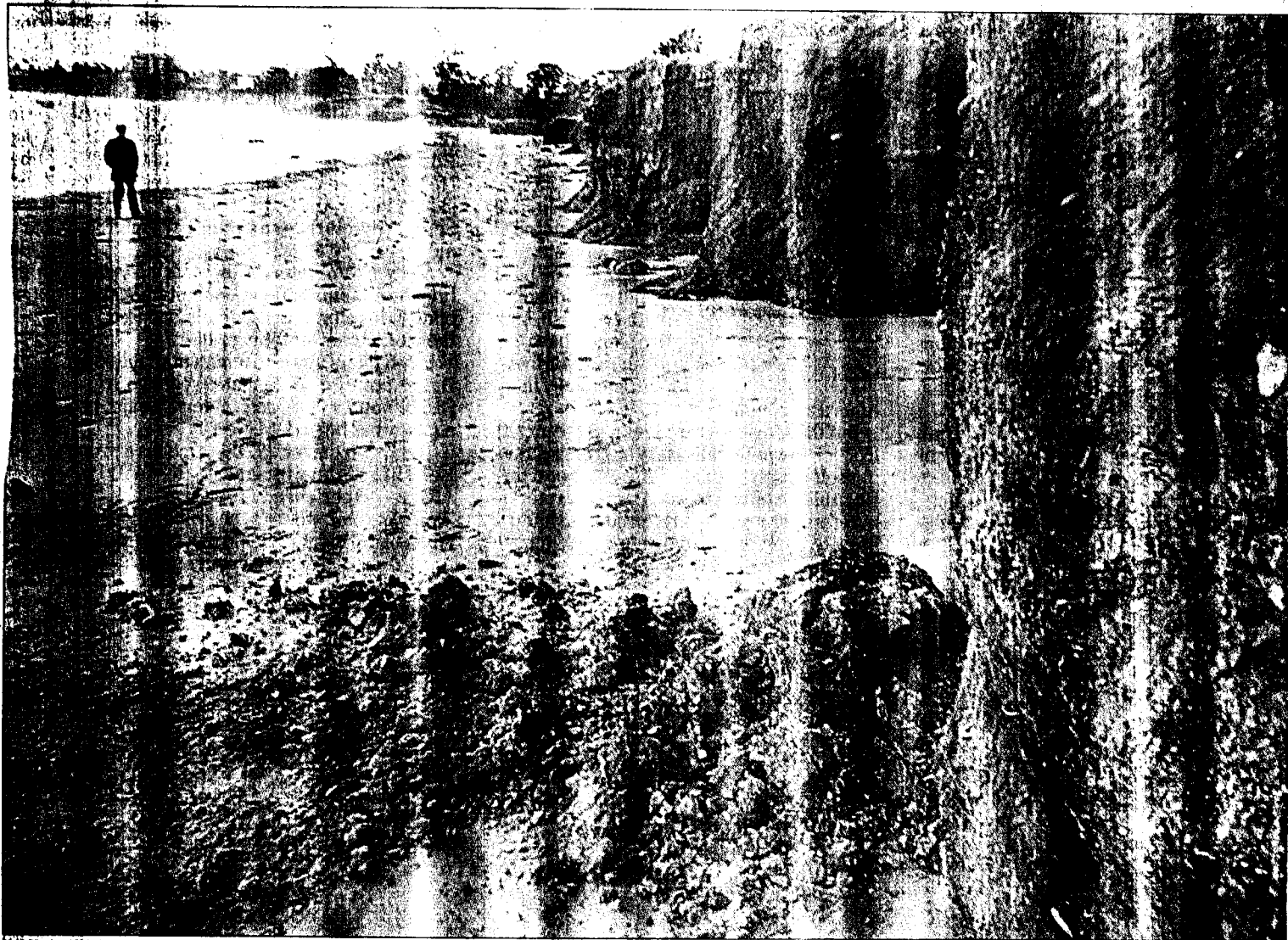


STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS

A logger at Goleta Beach County Park runs past an emergency boulder barrier that the county built during December's storms.

EXHIBIT NO. 5
APPLICATION NO. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Parks Department 4-02-251





STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS PHOTO

Raging seas have caused record erosion at Goleta Beach. Among the options proposed for protecting the beach are building breakwaters, creating an undersea sand barrier in a high-tech fabric sleeve and continuing to add sand to the beach.

EXHIBIT NO. 6

APPLICATION NO.

Santa Barbara County

Parks Dept.

Avadale -

4-02-251



# Goleta Beach Master Planning Process

- Home
- Long Term  
Master Planning
- History of  
Goleta  
Beach
- Educational  
Resources
- Photo  
Gallery
- Documents &  
Publications
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## Welcome to the Goleta Beach Website

Goleta Beach is a unique park, which has held a special place in the lives of its visitors for decades. Yet, in the recent past, the once wide sandy beach as well as the parkland has been greatly diminished. Severe storms as well as other conditions have adversely impacted a precious community resource.

We now have an opportunity to come together to devise a comprehensive, long-term sustainable future for Goleta Beach County Park. Your input is critical to determine the most advantageous way to maintain and enhance the environmental and recreational opportunities, at what many believe, to be one of the most unique coastal areas in California.

For your convenience there will be two facilitated community education and planning meetings. In an effort to ensure that there is a common understanding of the issues at Goleta Beach Park, all will be provided an overview of the history, actions to date, technical issues, regulatory requirements and other key data at the sessions. Following the overview, we will embark upon a long term planning session designed to facilitate a shared view of what the park should be for decades to come.

We hope that you can find time in what we know is a busy schedule, to spend **Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 1:00** or **Wednesday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 9:30** with us to shape the future of Goleta Beach. Your participation is crucial to devising a plan that will endure and serve generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you require additional information please feel free to contact the Santa Barbara County Parks Department at (805) 568-2461, or e-mail us at [goletabeach@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:goletabeach@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).

Sincerely,



Supervisor  
Susan Rose  
2nd District



Terri Maus-  
Nisich  
Director of Parks

and

*Special thanks to  
California Coastal Conservancy  
and  
Goleta Valley Land Trust  
for their generous funding and support  
of this master planning effort.*

This Website will be updated when necessary to include additional pertinent information.

610 Mission Canyon Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
(805) 568-2461  
[goletabeach@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:goletabeach@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

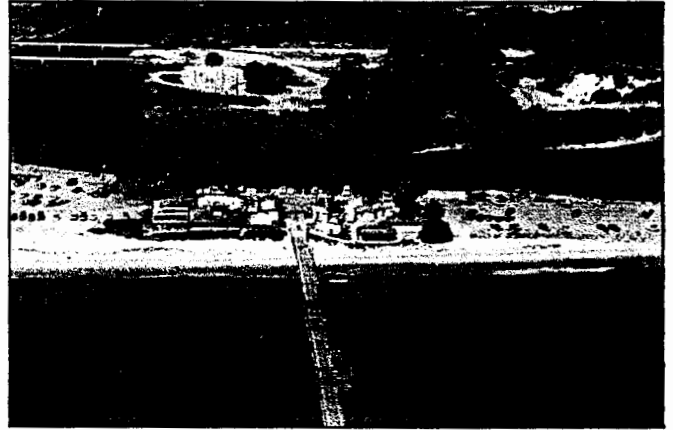
EXHIBIT NO. 7
APPLICATION NO. <i>Santa Barbara County Parks Dept. - County Literature -</i>
4-02-251



# Goleta Beach Master Planning Process

610 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105 (805) 568-2461 goletabeach@co.santa-barbara.ca.us www.sbparcs.org/goletabeach

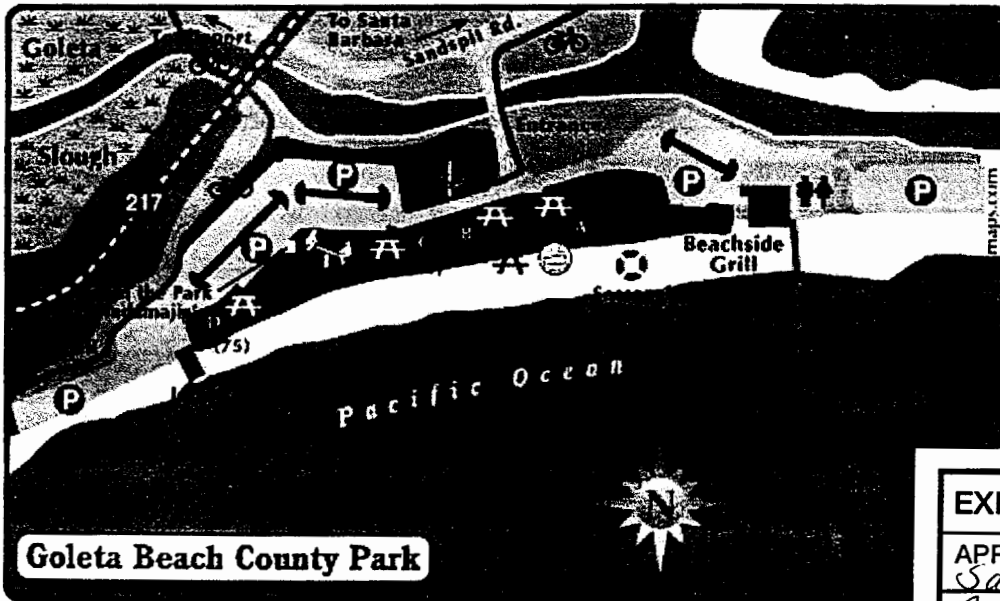
**Goleta Beach County Park** is a unique resource on the South Coast. As the only recreational beach of its kind in the Goleta area with an average of over 1 million visits annually, Goleta Beach is the most heavily used park in the County Park system. This Park has held a special place in the lives of visitors for decades. In recent years, the once wide sandy beach and parkland have been greatly diminished. Severe storms, as well as other conditions, have adversely impacted this precious community resource. Yet, out of crisis, comes opportunity.



We now have an opportunity to come together as a community to devise a comprehensive, long-term, sustainable future for Goleta Beach County Park. Your input is critical to determine the most effective way to maintain and enhance the environmental and recreational opportunities at Goleta Beach. Through this process we will work together to create a plan for this extraordinary place, which will address the many needs of our community today and serve generations to come.

## We Need Your Input

Goleta Beach County Park is a **community** resource. To help determine the future vision for the Park for current and future generations, you are invited to attend a facilitated community education and planning session. You can choose between one of two community sessions to be held on **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm** or on **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm**. (For locations, see back cover). At the sessions, all participants will be provided an overview of the history, actions to date, environmental and technical issues, regulatory requirements and other background information to ensure that there is a common understanding of the issues at Goleta Beach Park. Following the overview, we will work together to develop a shared view of what the park and beach should be for decades to come.



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Special thanks to the California Coastal Conservancy and Goleta Valley Land Trust for their generous funding and support of this master planning effort.

# Master Planning and Park Overview

## Developing a Master Plan for Goleta Beach

The Goleta Beach Master Planning Process is being conducted at the direction of the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Susan Rose's office (2nd District) and the County Parks Department are collaborating with the County Parks Commission and the 2nd District Natural Resources Advisory Committee to develop a community-based plan for Goleta Beach County Park. The purpose of the community planning process is to devise a comprehensive plan and long-term vision for Goleta Beach County Park. This is a critical step in determining the most effective way to protect and enhance the environment and recreational opportunities for the community. A visioning process was selected as a means to bring a variety of stakeholders together to work towards consensus on a long-term sustainable plan for Goleta Beach County Park. This process will build on previous studies and community input that has occurred in the past.

As described in this flyer, the beach and adjacent park have experienced accelerated coastal erosion due to storms and high tides during El Niño years and more recent storm events. These events have eroded the sandy beach and lawn area, damaged parking areas and threatened park infrastructure. The utility lines that run through the park are in jeopardy if this erosion continues. Rock revetments and sand berms have been placed to protect a portion of the beach and park from further erosion until a long-term solution can be found. We are now embarking on the process to develop the long-term solution for the area.

The County is committed to integrating its short and long-term planning and management efforts at the Park. The County wants community input in the development of a long-term, sustainable vision that balances the protection of the natural resources with the recreational needs of park users.

Following the community planning sessions, a broad-based working group will be convened to study and refine the recommendations from the community



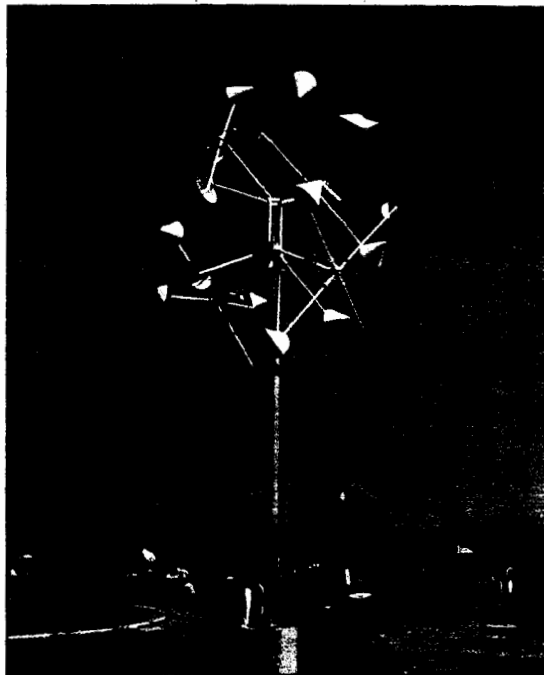
sessions. These recommendations will then be the basis of a master plan for future design and management of the park area and beach, and will be integrated with other ongoing planning efforts in the slough and surrounding watersheds.

## Park Overview

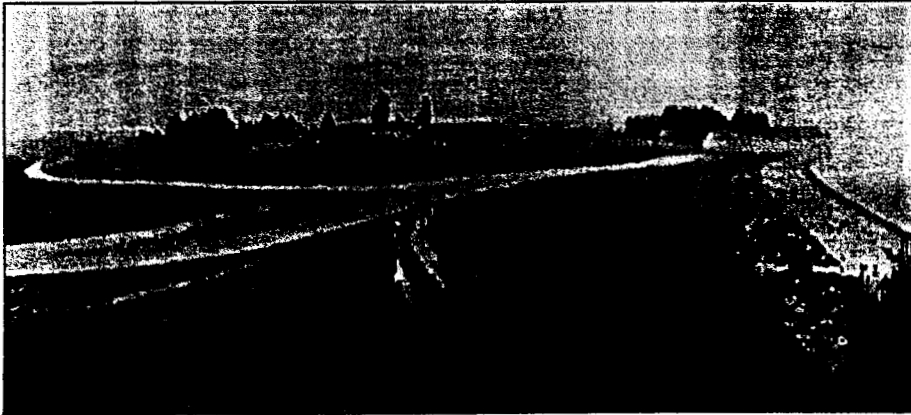
Goleta Beach County Park occupies approximately 29 acres and is located about 1 mile south of the city of Goleta. The Park includes 4,200 feet of beach frontage along Goleta Bay. About 500 feet east of Goleta Pier is the inlet to Goleta Slough, a 400-acre lagoon and marsh complex, an important resource performing many ecological functions. Also, there are sensitive reef and kelp resources offshore.

The University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) campus lies just to the west of the Park. To the northwest, Ward Memorial Boulevard (SR 217) separates the Park from the Goleta Slough and the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport. To the north, the Park is bordered by the outflow channel of Goleta Slough and its confluence with Atascadero/San Pedro/San Jose Creeks. Facilities owned by the Southern California Gas Company lie to the north and east.

Visitors access the Park from Ward Memorial Boulevard via Sandspit Road, or by paved bicycle paths that enter the Park from the east and west.



# History



**Goleta Beach and Slough Area, 1930s.**

1945	Goleta Beach constructed with non-select fill on sandspit at the mouth of slough.
1949	Federal Government grants Goleta Beach to Santa Barbara County.
1953	State becomes owner and leases Goleta Beach park area to County.
1960s	Portion of east end revetment installed.
1970	Goleta Beach granted back to the County of Santa Barbara.
1985/86	Revetment repaired at east end and installed at west end of park for shoreline and facility protection.
1994	Development of Carrying Capacity Study commences.
2000	Carrying Capacity Study draft initiated by Board of Supervisors.
2000	February - Emergency rock revetment placed along 1000 lineal feet of park to protect against storm damage.
2000	Goleta Beach designated as site for Beach Nourishment program by BEACON board.
2000	December - Removed emergency rock revetment placed in February, 2000.
2001	Sought and received funding to develop long-term erosion management plan.
2002	March - Board of Supervisors receives and Moffatt and Nichol report on Shoreline Erosion and Management - Board of Supervisors directs staff to pursue permits for winter berm, address revetment issues at east and west end of the park boundaries and work in concert with BEACON on beach nourishment program at Goleta Beach.
2002	November - Remaining berm destroyed by El Niño event.
2002	November - December - Loss of parkland - Hauling of sand and continued berming to stop loss of parkland.
2002	December - 600 lineal feet of emergency rock revetment placed at far west end of park - emergency permits received.
2003	January - Community Meeting. Approximately 200 attend.
2003	March - Board of Supervisors authorizes Parks Department to submit permit applications to allow December emergency rock to remain for two years. Board directs staff to <b>not</b> pursue short-term use of additional rock and to take steps to begin a long term community master planning process to determine future of Goleta Beach.
2003	March - New dredging site for BEACON beach nourishment program approved by BEACON board. Coastal Commission approves BEACON demonstration project in June.

**There is a rich history** surrounding Goleta Beach County Park and the adjacent Goleta Slough. The physical character of the Park has changed dramatically over the years. The first pier was constructed at what is now Goleta Beach County Park in 1874. Aerial photos from 1928 show a slough outlet at the western boundary of the park, adjacent to the rocky scarp of the campus mesa. In the late 1920s, a half-mile extension of road from Fairview Avenue and a bridge were constructed to make this public bathing beach accessible by automobile, and fresh water was pumped to the site for public use. Later, a dressing room/bath house and sanitary facilities were constructed and a raft was placed 250 feet off shore. This was the beginning of Goleta Beach County Park as we know it today.

The original park was constructed in the early 1940s from an assortment of "non-select" fill material placed on a sandspit. This operation became the foundation for the County Park. The County took ownership in 1970. In 1980, the existing pier was extended to 1,500 feet to accommodate a boat launching crane and expanded facilities for fisherman. In addition, a 645 foot rock revetment along the main tidal channel into the slough was constructed in the 1980s to protect the Park and the restaurant, which was expanded from an existing snack bar in 1982.

Additional detail about the history of the Park and actions taken to protect the beach and recreational facilities is contained in the timeline. For additional historic photos of the area please visit the website at [www.sbparcs.com/goletabeach](http://www.sbparcs.com/goletabeach) and visit the photo gallery and links page.



**Goleta Beach County Park, 1979**

# Beach Erosion / Management Strategies

The once wide sandy beach that existed at Goleta Beach County Park in the 50s, 60s and 70s experienced significant erosion in the El Niño event of 1983. Since then the beach has continued to erode, especially rapidly during El Niño years. Over 200 feet of beach width was lost between 1983 and 1998, and an additional 30 feet of developed parkland was lost between 1998 and 2003. The beach has been losing approximately 80,000 cubic yards of sand per year. About one fifth is due to sediment trapped in, or upstream of, the Goleta Slough; the rest appears to be due to storm and tidal influences.

Up until the mid-1970s, a massive kelp forest existed off the coast of Goleta Beach. This kelp bed may have helped to mitigate wave action on the shoreline. This forest was heavily impacted by the severe El Niño storms of 1983. Subsequent kelp regeneration has been relatively minimal.

Over the last few decades, various measures have been tried to help reduce loss of sand and parkland, including the placement of rock revetment and sand berms. Other possible solutions to the erosion problem have been proposed by community members, consultants, scientists, government officials and employees. These approaches are briefly described below. (See 2002 Goleta Beach County Park Long-Term Beach Restoration and Shoreline Erosion Management Plan for additional detail.)

**Revetments and seawalls** are onshore hard structures that stem landward erosion by deflecting wave energy. Seawalls are vertical structures, while revetments consist of rocks placed along the back of a beach. While the revetments have been successful in preventing the loss of parkland behind it, there is scientific and technical disagreement about the impacts of revetments on sandy beaches.

Beach and Parkland Erosion 2003.



**Managed retreat** is the process of allowing coastal erosion to occur by removal of built or manmade structures in its path. It is assumed by some that managed retreat assumes is more cost-effective in the long run to plan for and accommodate coastal erosion than it is to deter it. California's State Parks have adopted a managed retreat policy for its coastal parks as does the State of Oregon. Managed retreat for Goleta Beach has been mentioned as an option for the western parking areas of the park in order to allow for a larger area of sandy beach.

**Beach nourishment** is the process of importing and replenishing beach sand by artificial means. A beach nourishment demonstration project is currently being implemented at Goleta Beach. This project will bring a one-time delivery of up to 100,000 cubic yards of sand to the beach, delivered by dredge from West Beach in Santa Barbara. This project will be monitored and analyzed for its effectiveness. Future beach nourishment projects are described on the BEACON website at [www.beacon.dst.ca.us](http://www.beacon.dst.ca.us) and in the box on the right.

**Onshore sand retention structures** include groins and jetties which trap sand and prevent it from moving down coast.

**Offshore sand retention structures** such as artificial reefs and breakwaters slow wave action at the shoreline and slow sand movement down the coast, allowing sand to build up landward of the structure.

**Kelp reforestation** is the use of experimental methods and manmade structures to encourage regrowth of kelp. At Goleta Beach the goal would be to restore kelp to pre-1983 levels in order to help mitigate wave action on the shoreline.

Protective Sand Berm Placement, Spring, 2003.



Goleta Beach County Park Summer, 2003



# Beach Erosion / Management Strategies

Restoring the optimal hydrologic function of the Goleta Slough and the watersheds that drain into it, could provide much-needed sand and sediment to Goleta Beach and could slow or prevent the Slough from filling in.

Others have proposed some combination of the above strategies. All agree that further study of the conditions and processes that are unique to Goleta Beach is needed. How we proceed in the short, medium, and long term is critical to achieving a successful outcome.

Efforts to protect the resources and facilities at the Park and beach fall into categories according to timing. In the **short** term (generally 1-2 years) the priority is to address immediate park erosion and conduct the beach nourishment program, repair damaged areas of the beach and park, and continue public discussion and community visioning on a long-term sustainable solution. In the **mid-term** (2-5 years) the efforts to protect the beach include continuing partnership projects with BEACON, monitoring other Central Coast beach enhancement projects for applicability at Goleta Beach and selecting and researching a long-term solution. In the **long-term** the emphasis will be on ongoing monitoring and analysis, long-term project implementation and additional studies.

A multi-year study has been initiated by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), the California Coast Wave Study, to gather baseline data on sediment transport, shoreline position, beach profile and wave action. Other studies may be needed to develop long-term strategies for management of Goleta Beach.

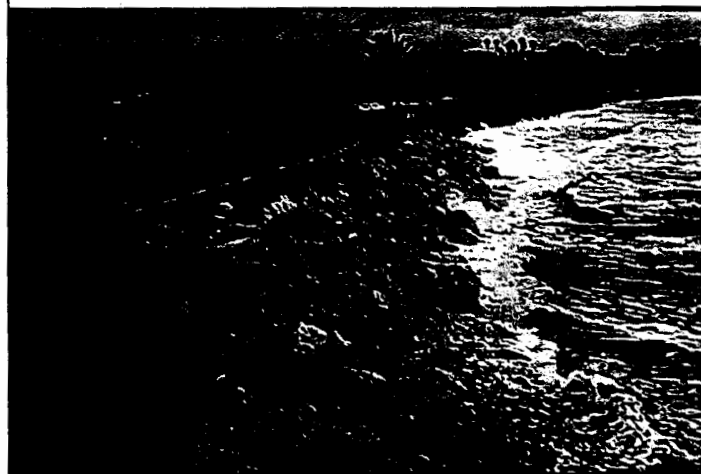


**B.E.A.C.O.N.**

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) is a California Joint Powers agency established to deal with coastal erosion and beach problems on the Central Coast of California. The agencies making up BEACON are Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and the cities of Port Hueneme, Oxnard, Ventura, Carpinteria and Santa Barbara.

BEACON is currently working on a comprehensive sand management and opportunistic beach replenishment program called South Central Coast Beach Enhancement Program (SCCBEP). BEACON, at the direction of the member agencies has recently expanded its purview to the problems of ocean water quality and plans to coordinate activities by member agencies involving beach and ocean pollution.

Rock revetment located at the far west end of the park placed to protect existing utility lines, infrastructure and parkland.



The list below describes other projects planned for the park that may or may not be affected by this community process.

## Current Projects in Development

- Pier Rehabilitation
- View decks along northern park boundary
- Native plant restoration
- Revetment repair project (on hold)

## Proposed Future Projects

- Dumpster enclosures at east and west end of park
- Development allowed within Beachside Café lease area

## Ongoing Maintenance

- Pier and boat hoist
- Beach cleaning
- Irrigation, mowing, restroom, picnic facilities, children's playground
- Rodent control
- Flood control activities:
  - \* Dredging
  - \* Opening of slough mouth
- EHS Clean Beach testing
- Recycling program

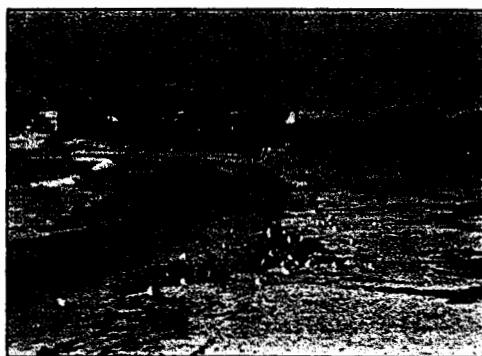
## Natural Resources

**Goleta Beach County Park** contains unique and significant biological and physical resources that are part of a very large and complex wetland estuarine ecosystem. At one time, the land where the Park is located had a rich diversity of plants and animals due in part to its location adjacent to the Goleta Slough. The majority of the land within the Park boundaries and surrounding area has since been developed, which has reduced that abundance and diversity of habitat areas. Animals that use the Park also use the surrounding areas, and visitors to the Park can impact these biological resources through their activities. A sampling of the biological and coastal resources that can be found at Goleta Beach Park are described below. For further information, see the County Parks Department's website at [www.sbparcs.com/goletabeach](http://www.sbparcs.com/goletabeach). The information below is excerpted from the *Initial 2000 Draft Carrying Capacity Study and Management Plan for Goleta Beach*.

**Coastal processes** - Before the placement of the fill on the beach in the 1940s, Goleta Beach was a shifting sandspit regularly breached by ocean waves and fresh water from the slough. The eastern portion of UCSB's beach was relatively narrow and stable. The beach accumulated sand after the fill was added, becoming very wide by the end of the 1970s. The UCSB beach became significantly wider between 1943 and 1954 and continued to widen more slowly during the 1960s and 1970s. Relatively rapid erosion of the beach began to occur during the early 1980s. Subsequent El Niño storms have increased the rate of erosion dramatically.

It is not known exactly what factors led to the widening of the beach for many years, or conversely, what has caused the rapid erosion. While a variety of theories have been presented, professionals in various fields continue the debate. A definitive study focusing specifically on Goleta Beach and the changes in erosion patterns and coastal processes has not been conducted.

**Oceanography** - Waves impacting Goleta Beach from the northwest are blocked by Point Conception. The Channel Islands block the waves from the south to southwest. Damaging waves from the south to southeast can affect the area, but waves from this direction occur less frequently. As a result, the sand transport in the region is nearly unidirectional from west to east with occasional short-term reversals.



### **Aquatic, Marine And Estuarine Biological Resources**

The aquatic biological resources of Goleta Beach County Park are a vital part of the Park and the ecosystem of the area. The aquatic resources of the Park and adjacent coastline and estuary are divided into nine classes, based upon invertebrate and fish communities. These include: the Goleta Bay, kelp holdfast area, the pier pilings, the sewer outfall pipe area, the intertidal sandy beach, lagoon, rocky bank, tidal channel and freshwater areas.

**The Goleta Bay** - This marine community is made up of a wide variety of fish and subtidal invertebrates. Two plant species that are dominant in this community are Giant Kelp, and Eelgrass. Bird species over the bay include Forster's, Royal, and Caspian terns, western gull, belted kingfisher, and California brown pelican. Marine mammals include common dolphin, gray whale and California sea lion, in addition to the California harbor seal.

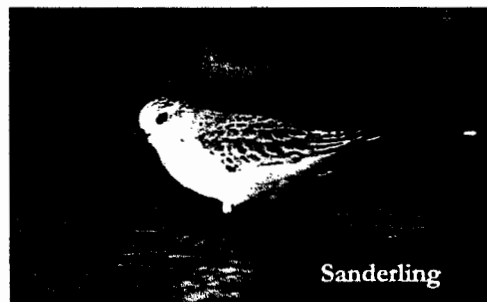
**Kelp Holdfast Area** - The root-like holdfasts of the Giant Kelp provide habitat for a number of unique invertebrates. They are loosely attached

to hard objects on the sandy bottom of the bay, such as tubes formed by polychaete worms.

**Pier Pilings** - The pilings on the pier support species that are usually characteristic of rocky shores. The most conspicuous are large clumps of California mussels and ochre stars which prey upon the mussels. The mussel clumps provide habitat for many other animals that live in the spaces between the mussels where they find cover and food.

**Sewer Pipes** - There is a treated sewage pipe located offshore and parallel to the pier that empties into Goleta Bay, creating an artificial habitat that has been colonized by several species of algae, and a variety of invertebrates. This small collection of plants and animals attracts numerous fish species, which feed upon the algae, invertebrates, or each other.

**Intertidal Sandy Beach** - A variety of fish and mammals can be found in



Sanderling

the shallow, inshore waters along the sandy beaches of Goleta Bay. These include surf perch, rays, and California Corbina. California grunion spawn on Goleta Beach at night following high tides in the spring and summer. Lower in the sandy beach community, in the intertidal zone,



# Natural Resources

the filter-feeding mole crab and polychaete worms are plentiful. Both species are an important source of food for fish and shorebirds. In the upper intertidal zone, drift kelp is an important food source for the beach hopper and kelp fly. Rove beetles prey upon these detritus feeders, and all of these insects are, in turn, fed upon by shore birds.



**Lagoon** - The lagoon at the mouth of Goleta Slough provides an interface between the saltmarsh upstream and the ocean. Many species of fish which are not exclusively estuarine may enter the lagoon during high tides to feed or use the marsh as a nursery. These include opaleye, several species of flatfish, and surf perch. Shore crabs are also common in the lagoon as well as the species described below found in the tidal channel.

**Rocky Bank** - Rocky intertidal habitats occur at Goleta Point and at a point to the east of the Park, where there is an asphalt seep. Hard substrate such as these and the revetment along the north side of the sandspit at the Park support bay mussel, acorn barnacle and, less abundantly, olympia oyster. Crabs, particularly the lined shore crab, are also common.

**Tidal Channel** - Tidal channels along Teocolito (main channel to Goleta Slough) and Atascadero/San Pedro/San Jose Creeks contain invertebrate and fish species, most of which are specially adapted to live in areas of soft sediment, tidal fluctuation, and salinity changes. Probably the most common invertebrate in the saltmarsh is horn snail. Shore crabs are also quite abundant in the summer and burrow into the mud. The jackknife clam is the



most common large invertebrate. Fishes that commonly range throughout the marsh include pacific killifish, arrow goby, longjaw mudsucker, topsmelt, and staghorn sculpin.

**Freshwater Areas** - The upper reaches of Goleta Slough are influenced by freshwater drainage from several creeks that empty into the slough. These areas support two introduced fish species: fathead minnow and mosquitofish. The native stickleback is also found in the freshwater community. Crayfish are abundant in more vegetated areas, as are tadpoles of the Pacific chorus frog.

tained in this flyer was derived from the *Carrying Capacity Study*. A *Draft Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan* (December, 1997) has been developed by the City of Santa Barbara. For a free copy, call 692-6032.

**Biological Resources** - As stated earlier, Goleta Beach Park at one time had a rich diversity of flora and fauna due in large part to its location at the mouth of the Goleta Slough. While there have been losses to the biological diversity, these may recover through restoration programs. There are limited areas of natural vegetation within the boundary of the park, however native vegetation can be enhanced through the removal of some of the exotic species and through re-vegetation programs, which are currently underway.

**Sensitive Biological Resources:** Following is a list of sensitive biological resources - habitats and species - found at Goleta Beach County Park. The sensitive biological resources fall into categories of natural habitat, plant species, animal species, and notable wildlife behavior.

## Natural Habitats

Sandspit, Southern Coastal salt marsh, coastal strand

## Sensitive Plant Species

- Parish's glasswort
- Low barley (onsite)
- Coulter's conyza (onsite)

## Sensitive Wildlife Species

- Arroyo chub
- Southern steelhead trout
- Southwestern pond turtle
- Brown pelican
- Black rail
- White tailed kite
- Cooper's hawk
- Peregrine falcon

- Snowy Plover
  - California least tern
  - Bank swallow
  - Loggerhead shrike
  - Yellow warbler
  - Belding's savannah sparrow
  - Tri-colored blackbird
- Notable Wildlife Functions Onsite**

- Grunion spawning runs
- Great blue heron rookery
- Night heron roost
- Canada goose wintering site
- Belding savannah sparrow foraging
- Shorebird foraging



The County has developed a *Draft Environmental Carrying Capacity Study and Management Plan for Goleta Beach Park* (available on the website at [www.sbparks.org/goletabeach](http://www.sbparks.org/goletabeach)) to reduce the affect of the public's use on the sensitive areas within the Park and attempt to balance the recreational uses of the Park and the continued preservation of the biological resources. Much of the information con-

# Recreation and Facilities

**Goleta Beach County Park** offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities to visitors, including picnicking and barbecuing, swimming, fishing, boating, horseshoeing, hiking, jet skiing, sunbathing, jogging, birdwatching, tidepooling and grunion hunting, as well as numerous other passive and active recreational and educational opportunities. These facilities and the recreational aspects of the Park are described in this section. Goleta Beach Park has the highest use of any park in the County system, followed by Arroyo Burro Beach (900,000 people per year) and Cachuma Lake (660,000 visitors per year).

## Facilities

**Parking:** The Park has 580 existing parking spaces. In recent years, 34 parking spaces have been closed due to storm damage and erosion in the west end parking area. Another 154 spaces were temporarily closed for safety reasons.

**Picnic Areas:** Picnicking is a popular activity at the Park, both for individual families and large groups such as schools and camps. The Park includes approximately 18 single-family picnic tables with barbecue grills. Four group areas are available to the public through reservation and are a popular during the summer months for children's day camp activities. Play equipment is located in the western portion of the Park. The "Windamajig" chiming art structure is located near the play area. Four horseshoe pits are located immediately inside the Park.

**Restrooms:** Three restroom facilities (plus 2 vault toilets on pier) are located at the Park, including a beach shower.

**Boat Launch:** A jet ski and small power boat launch area is located in the far west parking area. Buoy markers are placed

in the water in May and removed in October and define the area in which these watercraft can access the water and excludes them from the 200' swim area. Sail boats, sail boards, and other non-powered small boat users visiting the Park may traverse the swim area at any place along Goleta Beach for entry and exit from the water. A buoy line is placed at 200' offshore indicating the special use area for swimming, snorkeling, scuba diving, and fishing.

**Fishing:** The pier and shoreline offer many fishing opportunities at Goleta Beach. Fishing licenses are not required for pier fishing. The State Department of Fish and Game regulates all other licensing and regulatory requirements. Goleta Pier is lit with low level lighting for navigational safety and night time fishing use of the pier.

**Sandy Beach/Ocean Recreation:** Sunbathers, swimmers, boogie boarders, beach walkers and joggers use the sandy beach area on a daily basis. In addition, other activities such as tidepooling, birdwatching, surf fishing and grunion observing occur.



## Other Facilities

**Private Operations – Restaurant and Bait Shop:** The Parks Department manages a long-term lease with the lessee of the Beachside Bar-Cafe. The lessee also manages a small bait, tackle and sundries shop directly east of the restaurant at the entrance to the fishing pier.

**Ranger Residences:** Two ranger residences are located onsite in addition to a storage and maintenance yard for the Park. These rangers oversee many South Coast parks in addition to caring for Goleta Beach.

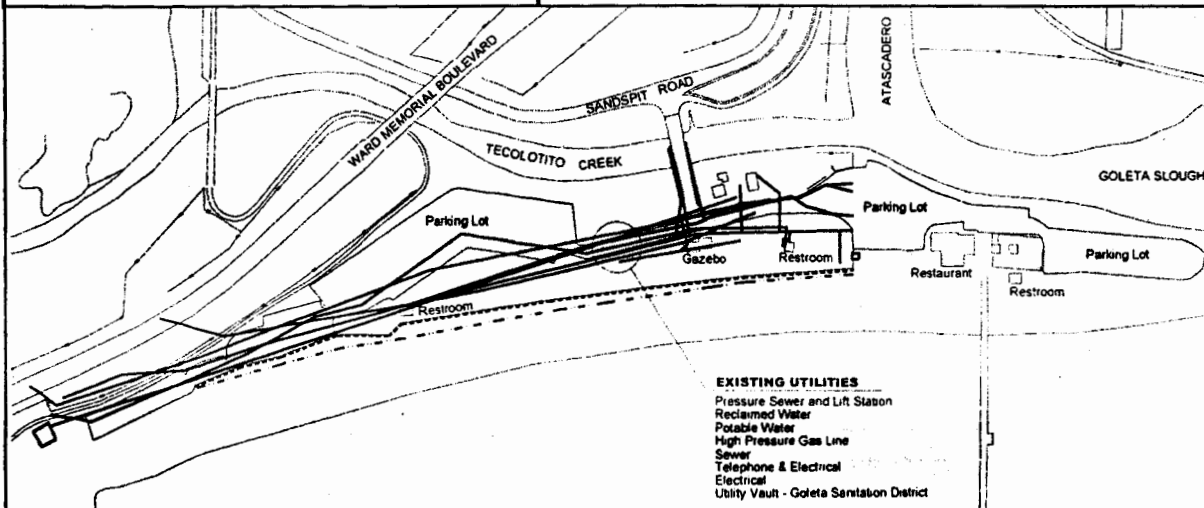
**Utility Lines:** Major utility lines traverse the Park including: a Southern California Gas Company main line; Goleta Water District reclaimed

water main, enroute to UCSB and west Goleta; a Goleta Sanitary District sewer main (a pump station is located adjacent to the west property line of the Park) and outfall line, which runs parallel to and west of the pier. As a result of recent erosion, primarily occurring during the 2002/2003 storm season, the sewer line and the reclaimed water lines are now within 10 and 20 feet respectively from the park's edge. The bulk of the lines originate in the western portion of the parking lot and traverse the parkland at various locations to service the facility.

For more information about recreational opportunities at Goleta Beach Park, visit the County Parks Department's website at [www.sbparcs.org/goletabeach](http://www.sbparcs.org/goletabeach).

## GOLETA BEACH COUNTY PARK

--- 1998 EROSION LINE  
 - - - 2003 EROSION LINE



# Regulatory Overview

A number of local, state and federal agencies regulate or oversee activities at Goleta Beach. The primary agencies responsible for regulating and guiding the long-term development and management of Goleta Beach Park include the federal Army Corps of Engineers, the California Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission, and the County Parks and Planning and Development departments. Their responsibilities are described below.

## Army Corps of Engineers - Federal

The mission of the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands. Corps permits are also necessary for any work, including construction and dredging, in the Nation's navigable waters. The Corps balances the reasonably foreseeable benefits and detriments of proposed projects, and makes permit decisions that recognize the essential values of the Nation's aquatic ecosystems to the general public, as well as the property rights of private citizens who want to use their land. During the permit process, the Corps considers the views of other Federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public. The adverse impacts to the aquatic environment are offset by mitigation requirements, which may include restoring, enhancing, creating and preserving aquatic functions and values.

## Coastal Commission / Coastal Act

The mission of the California Coastal Commission is to: Protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.

Established by voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20), the Coastal Commission was made permanent by the Legislature through adoption of the California Coastal Act of 1976. The Coastal Commission, in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development activities (buildings, divisions of land, and changes to public access) require a coastal permit from either the Coastal Commission or the local government.

## What are the California Coastal Act & Coastal Act Policies?

The California Coastal Act provides long-term protection of California's 1,100 mile coastline for the benefit of current and future generations.

Coastal Act policies constitute the standards used by the Coastal Commission in its coastal development permit decisions and for the review and approval of local coastal programs (LCPs) prepared by local governments, such as Santa Barbara County. These policies are also used by the Commission to review federal activities that affect the coastal zone. Coastal cities and counties must incorporate these policies into their individual LCPs. The policies require (partial list of required elements):

- ◆ Protection and expansion of public access to the shoreline and recreational opportunities and resources; including commercial visitor-serving facilities.
- ◆ Protection, enhancement and restoration of environmentally sensitive habitats, including intertidal and nearshore waters, wetlands, bays and estuaries, riparian habitat, certain wood and grasslands, streams, lakes, and habitat for rare or endangered plants or animals;
- ◆ Protection of the scenic beauty of coastal landscapes and seascapes;
- ◆ Protection against loss of life and property from coastal hazards.

## State Lands Commission

The California State Lands Commission has the authority and responsibility to manage and protect resources on certain public lands within the state - including the state's coastal waters - and the public's right to access these lands. The public lands under the Commission's jurisdiction include approximately 4 million acres and include the beds of California's naturally navigable rivers, lakes and streams and the state's tidal and submerged lands, extending from the shoreline out to three miles offshore.

## County Parks Department:

The mission of the Parks Department is to "provide for the health, inspiration and education of the residents and visitors of Santa Barbara County by preserving the county's most valued natural and cultural resources, and by providing opportunities for passive recreational experiences".

The County Parks Department operates Goleta Beach Park and is responsible for maintaining and preserving the natural resources and recreational facilities. The Department is also responsible for overseeing studies, acquiring necessary permits for applicable activities within the Park and complying with local, state and federal laws governing the land located in the Park.

## County Planning and Development Department; Local Coastal Plan

Local city and county planning agencies have land use authority over properties located in the coastal zone. These planning agencies are responsible for developing and implementing the local coastal program (LCP) for the coastal areas within their jurisdiction. Local Coastal Programs are basic planning tools used by local governments to guide development in the coastal zone, in partnership with the Coastal Commission. LCPs contain the ground rules for future development and protection of coastal resources. Prepared by local governments, these programs govern decisions that determine the short- and long-term conservation and use of coastal resources. Following adoption by a city or county, an LCP is submitted to the Coastal Commission for review for consistency with Coastal Act requirements. These LCPs are reviewed and updated periodically as conditions and needs change.

## Agency Contacts

Army Corps of Engineers, Ventura Office	(805) 585-2146
Santa Barbara County Parks Department	(805) 568-2461
Second District Supervisor Susan Rose	(805) 568-2190
Santa Barbara County Planning & Development	(805) 568-2000
California Coastal Commission - South Central Coast District Office; Ventura	(805) 585-1800
State Lands Commission	(916) 574-1900

# Position Statements

## Santa Barbara County Park Commission

Goleta Beach County Park has served residents and visitors to the region for decades. With over 1.5 million annual visits, it is by far the most heavily utilized park in the system. Goleta Beach is considered by many to be one of the most unique coastal experiences in California.

Our Park is now in jeopardy. It is essential to find an effective means to protect our natural resources as well as preserve the now greatly diminished parkland and restore the once wide sandy beach. This community resource must be sustained, as the experience of Goleta Beach and all of its wonderful attributes, once lost, cannot be replaced.

It is the Park Commission's opinion that we must explore and consider all technologies and all avenues available to meet these goals stated. Most importantly, it is critical that we obtain good data regarding these technologies in order to make decisions that will endure the test of time.

However, it must also be noted, that in times of fiscal crisis we must face realities, balance our resources and choose projects that will provide the greatest benefit. As your Park Commissioners, we are **your** advocates for preserving and enhancing natural resources, parkland, and beaches. Yet we must look at how to balance needs throughout the County and make recommendations that fairly address many wants. We must work together to improve and sustain Goleta Beach and manage resources wisely.

## Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Goleta Beach and its surroundings are a locally treasured ecological resource. The beach, slough, wetlands and watersheds are an integrated system that provides many benefits to humans, plants and wildlife including education, recreation, aesthetics, groundwater recharge, improved water quality, nutrient cycling, food chain support, and habitat. This area has been dramatically altered by natural and human activities, and many ecological functions and features have been degraded, yet the benefits of preservation, protection, and restoration are substantial.

As the sandy beach area of the park has eroded due to coastal processes not yet completely understood, the lawn areas and infrastructure have become vulnerable to erosion. This is to be expected given that the park consists of fill placed on what was historically a shifting sandspit inundated periodically by floodwaters from the slough and storm waves from the ocean.

The future of Goleta Beach should continue to include appropriate recreational opportunities, and should highlight natural resource values and attributes of the site and surrounding areas through habitat restoration, environmental education and research programs, interpretive services and signage.

Policies and practices should emphasize stewardship that protects, sustains or enhances natural resources and processes and that is guided by the environmental carrying capacity of the area. Capital investment, infrastructure projects, and maintenance actions at Goleta Beach Park and the surrounding areas should be consistent with these values.

Proposed solutions to erosion problems should enhance the sandy beach and not exacerbate coastal erosion at Goleta Beach or downcoast.

Alternative transportation modes should be studied to explore more efficient use of park areas for coastal dependent uses.

## Coalition to Save Goleta's Beaches

The Coalition to Save Goleta's Beaches advocates a new balance at Goleta's beaches that creates a quality recreational experience while protecting natural resources and restoring the natural process.

### General Positions:

1. Natural Resources contribute to the richness of the Goleta Beach Experience.
2. Base decisions affecting shorelines on a long-term perspective consistent with predictions of future conditions
3. Complete Carrying Capacity Study before beginning the environmental review process. It should guide all planning and capital improvement decisions.
4. Accommodate and restore the natural processes that create and maintain beaches, habitats, wildlife, safe coastal access, recreation, aesthetics, and the stability of areas down coast.
5. We support responsible decisions that avoid deferring costs and impacts to future generations.

### Specific Proposals:

1. Remove the western parking lots, but protect the utilities until they can be relocated.
2. Create extensive high beach over former western parking lots, from bike path to the ocean through beach nourishment. High beach sand may serve also as a stockpile for an emergency berm.
3. Maintain the turf park to the east from entrance road to restaurant. These three actions provide a more diverse beach experience.
4. Expand our management area to include the beach down coast of the Goleta Slough mouth. This will assist in achieving management goals and evaluating success for the larger area.
5. Use new tools—Beach Nourishment, new Natural Resource information, possibly new Partnerships, and new Restoration skills—to achieve a new plan for Goleta Beach.

## Friends of Goleta Beach

Friends of Goleta Beach and Park is an organization of local citizens who wish to preserve our important public recreational asset while balancing concerns for sound beach erosion management. Since over an acre of grassy park area has been lost over the past three years, the community and very attentive County Supervisors have been exploring how to save the park from further erosion.

Our county-hired expert coastal engineers have publicly stated that rock revetments are 100% effective at stopping erosion and are inexpensive. Since the taxpayers in our community are concerned about budget shortfalls, rock revetments area viable solution at this time. Friends would recommend that we leave the existing rocks in place and at least temporarily consider adding more rocks along the shoreline until a long term solution is in place to protect this well-loved park from further erosion.

With 1 1/2 million visitors a year, our community looks forward to enjoying Goleta Beach and Park for many years to come.

# Glossary and Resources

## Glossary

**Beach Face:** The section of beach normally exposed to the action of wave uprush.

**Beach Nourishment:** The process of replenishing a beach by artificial means.

**BEACON:** Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment.

**Beach Profile:** A cross-section taken perpendicular to a given beach contour; the profile may include the face of a dune or seawall.

**Berm:** On a beach: a nearly horizontal plateau on the beach face or backshore, formed by the deposition of beach material by natural or artificial means.

**Breakwater:** A structure protecting a harbor, anchorage, or basin from waves.

**Coastal Processes:** Collective term covering the action of natural forces on the shoreline and the nearshore seabed.

**Detached Breakwater:** A breakwater without any coastal connection to the shore.

**Geotube:** A long fabric cylinder filled with sediment used as a wall to retain sediment behind.

**Groin:** A shore protection structure. It is narrow in width (measured parallel to the shore) and its length may vary from tens to hundreds of meters (extending from a point landward of the shoreline out into the water). Groins may be classified as permeable (with openings through them) or impermeable (a solid or nearly solid structure through which sand cannot pass).

**Higher High Water (HHS):** The higher of two high waters of any tidal day.

**Inter-tidal:** The zone between the high and low water marks.

**Jetty:** On open seacoasts, a structure extending into a body of water to direct and confine the stream or tidal flow to a selected channel or to prevent shoaling.

**Littoral Current:** A current running parallel to the beach and generally caused by waves striking the shore at an angle.

**Littoral Drift:** The sedimentary material moved in the littoral zone under the influence of waves and currents.

**Littoral Transport:** The movement of littoral drift in the littoral zone by waves and currents.

**Littoral Zone:** An indefinite zone extending seaward from the shoreline to just beyond the breaker zone.

**Longshore Current:** A current located in a surf zone, moving generally parallel to the shoreline, generated by waves breaking at an angle with the shoreline, also called alongshore current.

**Managed Retreat:** The process of allowing coastal erosion to occur by removal of manmade structures in its path.

**Nearshore:** In beach terminology, an indefinite zone extending seaward from the shoreline well beyond the breaker zone.

**Nourishment:** The process of replenishing a beach. It may be brought about naturally, by longshore transport, or artificially by the deposition of dredged materials.

**Revetment:** A facing of stone to protect an embankment or shore structure against erosion by wave action or currents.

**Sandspit:** A small sandy point of land or a narrow shoal projecting into a body of water from the shore.

**Seawall:** A structure built along a portion of a coast primarily to prevent erosion and other damage by wave action. Generally more massive and capable of resisting greater wave forces than a bulkhead.

**Sediment Source:** A point or area on a coast from which beach material arises, such as an eroding cliff or river mouth.

**Sediment Transport:** The main agencies by which sedimentary materials are moved are: gravity; running water; (rivers and streams); ice (glaciers); wind and the sea (currents and longshore drift).

**Slough:** A sluggish waterway or estuarial creek, tributary to, or connecting, other streams or bodies of water, whose course is usually through lowlands or swamps.

**Wetland:** An area of water supporting a wildlife habitat, sometimes tidally influenced.

## Websites

This represents a partial list of websites. For additional web links, please visit the Santa Barbara County Parks Department, Goleta Beach website at:

[www.sbparcs.org/goletabeach](http://www.sbparcs.org/goletabeach)

California Coastal Commission:  
[www.coastal.ca.gov/whoware.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/whoware.html)

Coalition to Save Goleta's Beaches:  
<http://spf.as.ucsb.edu/Goleta.coalition.html>

Surfrider Foundation-Santa Barbara  
[www.rain.org/~srfrdrsb](http://www.rain.org/~srfrdrsb)

California Coastal Act:  
[www.coastal.ca.gov/coactact.pdf](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/coactact.pdf)

California Coastal Records Project:  
[www.californiacoastline.org](http://www.californiacoastline.org)

California Coastal Conservancy:  
[www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov](http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov)

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project:  
[www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp](http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp)

UCSB Beach: 30 Years of Waxing and Waning:  
[www.geol.ucsb.edu/faculty/sylvester/UCSBbeaches.html](http://www.geol.ucsb.edu/faculty/sylvester/UCSBbeaches.html)

BEACON - beach sand replacement project:  
[www.beacon.dst.ca.us/goleta\\_beach\\_restoration.htm](http://www.beacon.dst.ca.us/goleta_beach_restoration.htm)

Draft Review of California Coastal Erosion Planning and Response:  
[http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/coastal\\_erosion\\_draft2.html](http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/coastal_erosion_draft2.html)

California Department of Boating and Waterways Beach Erosion Control:  
[www.dbw.ca.gov/beach.htm](http://www.dbw.ca.gov/beach.htm)

California Coastal Coalition - A non-profit advocacy group: [www.calcoast.org](http://www.calcoast.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Rose - Natural Resources Advisory Committee:  
[www.countyofsb.org/susanrose/nrac/nracintro.htm](http://www.countyofsb.org/susanrose/nrac/nracintro.htm)

Project Clean Water/San Jose Creek Watershed Management Plan:  
[www.countyofsb.org/project\\_cleanwater/sanjose.htm](http://www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater/sanjose.htm)

California Shore and Beach Preservation Association: [www.csbpa.org](http://www.csbpa.org)

*The information contained in these websites does not necessarily represent the views of the County.*

## Recommended Reading

Links to the following documents are available on the Goleta Beach website at [www.sbparcs.org/goletabeach](http://www.sbparcs.org/goletabeach)

- ◆ Goleta Beach County Park Environmental Carrying Capacity Study and Management Plan.
- ◆ Goleta Beach County Park Long-term Beach Restoration and Shoreline Erosion Management Plan
- ◆ California Coastal Erosion Planning and Response
- ◆ California Coastal Act

### Additional Documents

- ◆ Draft Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan (see pg. 7)
- ◆ "Goleta the Good Land" by Walter Tompkins (Published as a community service by Goleta Amvets Post No. 55. Co-sponsored by Santa Barbara Newspaper, 1976) is available at the local public library. Contains historical information about Goleta Beach.

