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STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- THE RESOURCES AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

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STAFF REPORT: AMENDMENT

APPLICATION NO: 4-02-251-A1

APPLICANT: Santa Barbara County Parks and Recreation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: 5986 Sandspit Road, Goleta Beach County Park, Goleta

DECRIPTION OF PROJECT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED: Retain 600 lineal feet of rock riprap placed at Goleta Beach County Park under Emergency Permit No. 4-02-251-G, for a two-year temporary term.

DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT: Retain an additional 350 lineal feet of rock riprap placed under Emergency Permit No. 4-05-005-G for a one-year temporary term. The expiration of the temporary term shall coincide with the expiration of the temporary term for the originally permitted 600-foot long revetment.

LOCAL APPROVALS RECEIVED: Santa Barbara County Planning and Development.

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment to Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 4-02-251 with five special conditions, to authorize the temporary retention of an additional 350-foot long revetment at Goleta Beach. The term of the amended permit, as described in Special Condition One, will coincide with the original 30-month term of CDP 4-02-251, meaning that the amended permit would expire June 14, 2006.

Staff recommends approval of the amendment provided that substantial studies of the impacts of the revetments at Goleta Beach, and of alternatives to these revetments, (Special Condition Two) are successfully completed within the prescribed period of time. These studies began in Spring 2004 and include the area of the 350-foot long revetment that is the subject of this amendment. Completion of studies compliant with the requirement of Special Condition Two will provide sufficient information for the Commission to determine the best alternative for permanent management of erosion at Goleta Beach, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act.

The recommended special conditions require the County to submit one or more timely coastal development permit applications for a permanent proposal for Goleta Beach before the expiration of this permit as amended (Special Condition One). Other special conditions address measures to enhance beach and intertidal habitats and provide

beach nourishment as necessary for the duration of this permit as amended (Special Condition Three), provide for the County to secure State Lands Commission review (and any lease the CSLC deems necessary) prior to permit issuance (Special Condition Four), and include an assumption of risk condition (Special Condition Five).

The standard of review for the proposed amendment application is the Chapter Three policies of the Coastal Act. As conditioned, the proposed project as amended is consistent with all applicable Chapter Three policies of the Coastal Act.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: The Commission's regulations provide for referral of permit amendment requests to the Commission if:

1) ***The Executive Director determines that the proposed amendment is a material change,***

2) ***Objection is made to the Executive Director's determination of immateriality, or***

3) ***The proposed amendment affects conditions required for the purpose of protecting a coastal resource or coastal access.***

In this case, the proposed amendment is a material change to the original permit. If the applicant or objector so requests, the Commission shall make an independent determination as to whether the proposed amendment is material (§13166 of the California Code of Regulations).

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

MOTION:

I move that the Commission approve with special conditions the proposed amendment to 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 amendment 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 A PERMIT AMENDMENT:

The Commission hereby approves the coastal development permit amendment on the ground that the development as amended and subject to conditions, 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 amendment 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 amended development on the environment, or 2) there are no feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that would substantially lessen any significant adverse impacts of the amended development on the environment.

II. SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

NOTE: All standard and special conditions attached to the previously approved permit remain in effect. All conditions apply to the entire 950-foot long revetment approved pursuant to CDP 4-02-251 and 4-02-251-A1.

1. Term of Permit; Subsequent Removal of Revetment (Revised)

(A) This permit approval is valid until June 14, 2006, for a total term of thirty (30) months, commencing January 14, 2004, the date of Commission approval of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251.

(B) The County shall complete the final study required by Special Condition 2 and submit the results thereof to the Executive Director, within the thirty-month term of the original permit approval. Prior to the expiration of Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 4-02-251 as amended by Amendment 4-02-251-A1, the County shall submit to the Commission: 1) a complete application to retain the subject revetments permanently, or 2) a complete application for an alternative project to address erosion at Goleta Beach; and/or 3) a complete application to remove the subject revetments.

(C) If the Commission does not approve the permanent retention of the subject revetments pursuant to a coastal development permit application submitted by the County in accordance with the requirements of subparagraph (B) above, the County shall remove the subject revetments and restore the affected portion of Goleta Beach. Removal of the subject revetments requires a coastal development permit. Within thirty (30) days of Commission denial of an application to retain the revetments, the County shall submit a complete application to remove the revetments and shall remove the revetments in accordance with the applicable timelines established by the Commission in approving a coastal development permit for such removal. If, however, a complete application for a coastal development permit for retention or removal of the revetments is pending, and delay for the purpose of Commission consideration of the application is therefore beyond the applicant's control, the

applicable timelines shall be extended until the Commission acts on the relevant pending application.

(D) Failure by the County to: a) submit draft and final study plans acceptable to the Executive Director and in accordance with other applicable requirements of Special Condition 2, including relevant timelines, or b) failure to timely submit applicable complete coastal development permit applications pursuant to Subparagraphs (B) and (C) (above) in this special condition, may lead to further action by the Commission's Enforcement Unit.

2. Technical Study of Goleta Beach Erosion & Effects of Shoreline Protection Structures (Revised)

Prior to the issuance of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251 and Amendment 4-02-251-A1, the County shall submit a draft study plan for the review and approval of the Executive Director that incorporates at a minimum the elements set forth below. The study shall be revised by the County to incorporate the comments of the Executive Director, and submitted to the Executive Director for final approval. Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251 as amended shall not be issued until the Executive Director approves the final study plan. The approved study shall be undertaken and completed by qualified coastal engineers, geologists, and marine biologists/ecologists, as appropriate, with demonstrated substantial relevant experience in their respective areas of expertise. Asterisks or other symbols included below as placeholders mean data collection/study design parameters to be finalized by the Commission technical services staff in consultation with the applicant's consultants during the preparation and review of the draft study plan. The final approved parameters of the study plan shall incorporate milestones and interim and final reporting requirements. Reporting requirements shall be quarterly, at a minimum, during the first study year. The final comprehensive report of the results of the study required herein shall be prepared and submitted for the review of the Executive Director prior to the expiration of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251 as amended by CDP Amendment 4-02-251-A1. The scope of the required studies set forth below shall ensure that both the revetments subject to application 4-02-251, Amendment 4-02-251-A1, and the previously placed revetments at Goleta Beach that are presently subject to a pending (incomplete) coastal development permit application (CDP Application 4-02-223), are fully evaluated. Long-term alternatives analyses shall consider and address sand nourishment and managed retreat options in lieu of placement of hard protective structures.

(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 a depth of 60 feet. 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) Intertidal and Sand Beach Ecosystem Study

(1) In consultation with Commission staff, develop study parameters including sampling design, location, protocols, and reference sites, to evaluate the impacts of the subject revetment and of potential alternatives to the revetments, including beach nourishment or "managed retreat" alternatives, on the biota of the sandy beach and intertidal areas at Goleta Beach, including invertebrate populations. The study shall include species that intermittently utilize the habitat, such as grunion, as well as shorebirds that use this area. The study shall identify the extent of sandy beach and intertidal habitats present at Goleta Beach, in relation to the footprint of the revetments in place, and such surveys shall be updated on approximately April 15, and October 15, annually, and after any significant storm event, for the life of this permit. The design of the study should seek to differentiate fluctuations in species diversity and abundance due to natural seasonal changes from those attributable to the revetments that have been constructed at Goleta Beach, and to extrapolate how other potential alternatives might impact the intertidal and sandy beach ecosystem. The design of the study shall incorporate identification of, and sufficient sampling at, sites up and down coast from the Goleta Beach revetment suitable for controls. In addition, the study shall also generate recommendations on potential mitigation measures to address individual and cumulative impacts of each potential alternative on the intertidal and sandy beach ecosystems.

(C) 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 extent 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 revetments are 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 in July 2006.

(D) The final interim and final reports generated through compliance with this Special Condition shall also fully reference, append, and incorporate any and all other applicable studies undertaken by the County and others, such as the beach profile and other studies required by the special conditions of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-128 (Santa Barbara County Department of Parks and Recreation).

(E) Prior to issuance of Amendment 4-02-251-A1, the County shall submit a revised draft study plan that takes into consideration the additional 350 lineal feet of rock rip-rap approved pursuant to this amendment.

3. <u>Interim Beach Management and Nourishment (Revised)</u>

(A) Prior to the issuance of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251 and 4-02-251-A1, the County shall submit a plan, for the review and approval of the Executive Director, to nourish any area of the subject revetments that may remain exposed as determined by a survey of the revetment on or before April 1 of each year. The Executive Director shall determine if an amendment or a new CDP is required. The plan shall incorporate measures developed by a qualified biologist to nourish the affected beach area in a manner protective of grunion spawning activities and of other species that may utilize the affected area. If beach nourishment is deemed necessary by the Executive Director, based on the extent of exposed rock noted in the required survey, then sufficient beach nourishment to adequately cover the exposed area, with appropriate sand (i.e., of suitable grain size, color, and free of contaminants or debris), from a placement location inland of the revetment location and limited to the area of exposed rock, shall be implemented by the County not later than May 15 of each year, or as otherwise authorized or required pursuant to an approved coastal development permit.

If the Executive Director determines that the revetments are adequately covered by sand at the time of the requisite survey, no nourishment shall be required.

(B) Prior to the issuance of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251 and 4-02-251-A1, the County shall submit a plan prepared by a qualified biologist to address the combined effects of beach and erosion management activities at Goleta Beach, for the duration of the term of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251 as amended by 4-02-251-A1, for the review and approval of the Executive Director. The plan shall include feasible measures to enhance beach and intertidal habitat values to mitigate cumulative impacts on these habitats that may result from the combined effects of this project and other activities undertaken by the County on Goleta Beach (such as sand berm construction, beach grooming, etc.). Responsive mitigation measures may include, but not be limited to, retaining kelp detritus in some beach areas, limiting beach scraping in sensitive areas, limiting disturbance at the mouth of the Goleta Slough, or other measures the County deems feasible to improve habitat for invertebrate populations and foraging shorebirds dependant upon invertebrate food sources. The affects of any mitigation measures implemented by the County shall be considered in the studies required pursuant to Special Condition 2. The requirements of this condition shall not be interpreted in a manner that conflicts with or invalidates any active coastal development permit previously approved by the Commission. In addition, associated mitigation measures and applicable permit conditions for other active permit approvals secured by the County or others (i.e., BEACON) shall be reviewed and incorporated in the plan required by this special condition to the maximum extent feasible.

4. State Lands Lease (Revised)

Prior to the issuance of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251 and 4-02-251-A1, the County shall provide evidence that a lease for the site of the subject revetments have been obtained from the California State Lands Commission, or provide written evidence from the State Lands Commission that no lease is required for the term authorized for temporary retention of the revetments pursuant to Special Condition One (1).

5. Assumption of Risk, Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement (Revised)

By acceptance of this permit, the applicant acknowledges and agrees (i) that the site may be subject to hazards from storm waves, surges, erosion, and flooding; (ii) to assume the risks to the applicant and the property that is the subject of this permit of injury and damage from such hazards in connection with this permitted development; (iii) to unconditionally waive any claim of damage or liability against the Commission, its officers, agents, and employees for injury or damage from such hazards; and (iv) to indemnify and hold harmless the Commission, its officers, agents, and employees with respect to the Commission's approval of the project against any and all liability, claims, demands, damages, costs (including costs and fees incurred in defense of such claims), expenses, and amounts paid in settlement arising from any injury or damage due to such hazards.

Prior to issuance of the coastal development permit, the applicant shall submit a written agreement, in a form and content acceptable to the Executive Director, incorporating all of the above terms of this condition.

III. FINDINGS.

A. Project Location and Background

The project site is located at Goleta Beach County Park, which occupies approximately 29 acres within 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. An easement containing various utility and sewage line traverses the park. To the northwest, Clarence Ward Memorial Boulevard separates the park from the greater area of Goleta Slough and the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport.

The park is within the unincorporated area of the County of Santa Barbara. In 1981 the Commission certified the Local Coastal Program for the County of Santa Barbara (Land Use Plan and Implementation Ordinance), 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. All areas on state tidelands or below the mean high tide line at the beach are within the Commission's area of retained original permit jurisdiction.

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 (approximately one mile in length) that is contiguous to the beach.

All portions of Goleta Beach County Park situated landward of the sandy beach are located on top of a clay-rich fill based 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. By 1977 a pier, restrooms/bath house, parking lots, a snack bar, lawn, and a portion of the revetment on the east end of the beach had been constructed at the park. In the 1980's the pier was extended, a restaurant was built to replace the snack shop, the parking area was upgraded, and various other improvements occurred at the park. **Exhibit 4** summarizes the development history of Goleta Beach. Currently, 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 has begun to erode due to wave action. This erosion has formed steep undercut slopes approximately four to five feet in height between the improved areas onsite and the sandy beach. During the winter seasons, erosion has become so severe as to wash out portions of the parking lots and threaten facilities at the park including restrooms, picnic tables, trees, lawn area, utility lines, and parking areas (**Exhibit 2**).

In response to this erosion, the County has placed several revetments on Goleta Beach to protect the County Park and the facilities associated with it. A 250-foot long rock revetment currently protects the westernmost portion of the park and, according to County staff, was installed in 1986 without approval or permit from the Commission. Adjacent to this revetment is a 600-foot long rock revetment installed in December 2002 under Emergency Permit 4-02-251-G to protect the western parking lot and restroom. This revetment was permitted to be retained for a 30 month temporary term under Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 4-02-251 approved January 14, 2004 and described in detail in the following section. Directly east of this revetment, is an additional 350 feet of rock revetment that was installed in January 2005 under Emergency Permit 4-05-005-G (**Exhibit 2 and 3**). This 350-foot long revetment is the subject of this amendment application and is described in detail in the following sections.

On the east side of the park, 650 feet of rock revetment protects the Beachside restaurant and runs along the main tidal channel of Goleta Slough. According to the County, this revetment was partially constructed in 1961 and later expanded in 1983 and 1986 without approval or permit from the Commission. In order to resolve these violations, Santa Barbara County Department of Parks and Recreation submitted CDP Application 4-02-223 for after the fact approval and repairs to these revetments. This application is being held incomplete until the County completes the studies required pursuant to Special Condition Two of CDP 4-02-251 and a long term planning process for Goleta Beach.

In addition to rock revetments, Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department has also relied on sand berm projects to control erosion at Goleta Beach County Park. Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 4-00-193 (Santa Barbara County Parks) approved construction of a temporary sand berm for the winter season from 2000-2001. CDP 4-01-136 approved construction of a temporary sand berm for the winter season from 2001-2002, similar to the 2000-2001 project. The Commission also approved a permit for annual construction of a sand berm at Goleta Beach until May 2005 (CDP 4-02-128). This permit 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. In March 2005, the Commission also approved the Goleta Beach Nourishment Project, (CDP 4-02-074 BEACON), a temporary erosion solution. The project, as revised by the conditions of the permit, consists of a five-year program for placement of beach quality sand at Goleta Beach on an opportunistic basis. 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 for beach nourishment at Goleta Beach. These permits require long-term shoreline and biological monitoring studies.

B. Status of Coastal Development Permit 4-02-251

On January 14, 2004 the Commission approved with five special conditions CDP 4-02-251 requested by Santa Barbara County Parks and Recreation Department. This permit is for the retention of 600 lineal feet of rock riprap, placed at Goleta Beach County Park under Emergency Permit 4-02-251-G, for a limited term of thirty (30) months from the date of Commission approval.

In approving the permit, the Commission found that substantial studies were necessary to determine the best alternative for permanent management of erosion at Goleta Beach consistent with the requirements of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. Special Condition Two of the permit requires the applicant to conduct studies within the thirty-month term of the permit of kelp environmentally sensitive habitat areas offshore, intertidal and sand beach ecosystems, and sediment transport at Goleta Beach. The Commission also required, under Special Condition One of the permit, the applicant to submit, prior to expiration of the permit, either 1) a complete application to retain the subject revetment permanent, 2) a complete application for an alternative project to address erosion at Goleta Beach, and/or 3) a complete application to remove the subject revetment. Other special conditions of the permit address: measures to enhance beach and intertidal habitats as necessary for the duration of the permit (Special Condition Three), California State Lands Commission (CLSC) jurisdiction and approval over the revetment (Special Condition Four), and assumption of risk for the project (Special Condition Five). The Commission's findings on permit 4-02-251are herein incorporated by reference into these findings.

Following issuance of the Notice of Intent to Issue CDP 4-02-251, the County has submitted a plan for beach management and nourishment of the revetment area pursuant to Special Condition Three of the permit. The County has also begun to address Special Condition Four of the permit that requires the County to either obtain California State Land Commission's approval of a lease for the project or evidence from CLSC that no lease is required. In a letter to County staff dated January 13, 2004 CSLC has stated that a boundary survey will be required to determine whether the location of the revetment intrudes upon lands under the jurisdiction of the CSLC. In follow up conversations to the letter, CSLC and Commission staff agreed that activities approved by CDP 4-02-251 could commence prior to CSLC determination of jurisdiction as long as the boundary determination was conducted as soon as possible and completed prior to expiration of the permit. The County is currently planning on conducting this boundary survey in concert with CSLC in September 2005. The survey will include the entire Goleta Beach area, including the 600-foot long west end revetment, east end revetments, and the 350-foot long revetment that is the subject of the amendment application. The applicant currently has a filed coastal development

permit application (CDP Application 4-05-068) for this boundary determination that Commission staff is recommending be waived from permit requirements at the July Commission hearing. The boundary survey at Goleta Beach will require excavation of thirty 6-ft-deep 3-ft-diameter holes, along the toe of the rock revetments on Goleta Beach in order to determine whether the revetments are within state tidelands under the jurisdiction of the California State Lands Commission. As described in the proposed Waiver de Minimius, excavation will occur following grunion spawning activities on the beach in September. The project will occur over 7-10 days, after which time all holes will be filled and the area restored to natural conditions.

County Parks has also submitted plans pursuant to Special Condition Two of the permit that requires technical studies of erosion and biological resources at Goleta beach. The submitted study plan includes the entire Goleta Beach County Park area, including the revetment approved pursuant to 4-02-251 and the 350-foot revetment that is the subject of this amendment application. The County's consultants began monitoring according to the submitted plan in spring 2004 and have submitted monitoring reports pursuant to the timeline requirements of CDP 4-02-251.

C. Status of the Goleta Beach Master Planning Process

In the summer of 2003, the Santa Barbara County Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with County Supervisor Susan Rose, formed the Goleta Beach Master Plan Working Group (**Exhibit 4**). This group is a collaboration of local agencies, non profit groups, the University of California Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, and County Parks to evaluate the issues relevant to Goleta Beach Park including coastal processes; beach erosion; natural resources; possible solutions to the erosion problem; recreational needs and priorities; and local, state, and federal regulations affecting future options for the park and beach. This group is planning to provide recommendations to the County Parks Department for a preferred plan and alternatives for Goleta Beach Park that will be forwarded to the Parks Commission and Board of Supervisors at public meetings and then evaluated in an environmental impact report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

In approving permit 4-02-251, the Commission allowed for a 30-month temporary term for the permit for the purposes of allowing the County to complete the study requirements of Special Condition Two, a technical study of erosion and shoreline protection at Goleta Beach, while at the same time giving the Goleta Beach Working Group time to develop recommendations for long term management at Goleta Beach County Park. This timeline, the Commission found, would help the County secure a comprehensive package of studies and analyses in anticipation of submitting a new application to the Commission pursuant to Special Condition One of CDP 4-02-251. The County had anticipated that scoping of the EIR would commence in March or April 2004. The working group, however, is still currently in the process of defining its recommendations to the County for a preferred plan and alternatives for Goleta Beach. The County anticipates that the working group will make its recommendations by the

end of this year. The requirements of CDP 4-02-251 and Amendment 402-251-A1 stand alone, however, from the working group and EIR processes, and in the event that unforeseen delays occur in the master planning process, all of the obligations of the coastal development permit and amendment, including timely compliance with all permit conditions, are still the County's responsibility.

C. Project Description and Purpose

On January 24, 2005 the Executive Director authorized Emergency Permit 4-05-005-G for construction of a 350-foot long rock revetment at Goleta Beach County Park following heavy winter storms and severe erosion at the park. The permit authorized the placement of 1,000 tons of rock riprap at a 1:1 to 1:1.5 slope at the base of the lawn and parking area at the park. The rock was placed at a height of 8 feet in a trench approximately 2-3 feet deep to establish a foundation from which to construct the upper portion of the rock revetment (**Exhibit 3**).

The permit also authorized construction of a 650-long sand berm at the base of the park's lawn, east of the rock structure. This sand berm has been significantly washed away due to winter and spring tides. Originally a wire fence was placed along the top of the lawn to protect the pubic from encroaching onto the rock protection and berm. Currently, the rock revetment is buried under sand accumulated in the spring and the County has opened portions of the fence to facilitate public access down to the beach.

The County has stated that the revetment is necessary to prevent further loss of park and facilities due to tidal action and severe beach erosion, in the face of potential continuing winter storms. Prior to placement of the revetment and 650-foot long sand berm, the County Parks Department stated that a significant amount of sandy beach area and lawn had been washed away, despite the construction of a protective sand berm permitted under CDP 4-02-128. The County has noted that in addition to the loss of beach and lawn area, an existing parking area, restroom, picnic tables, and cypress trees have been threatened by the encroaching loss of land during winter months.

The subject application is for the amendment of CDP 4-02-251 to allow for the temporary retention of the 350-foot long rock revetment to protect park facilities from winter storm tides until completion of the technical studies required by Special Condition Two of CDP 4-02-251. The County Parks Department has proposed that the term of the amendment coincide with the original permit, meaning that the amended permit would expire June 14, 2006, or 30 months from January 14, 2004, the approval date of CDP 4-02-251. Additionally, the County has agreed to apply all terms and conditions of the original permit to the 350-foot long revetment that is the subject of this amendment application, including the studies required by Special Condition Two and the CSLC boundary determination required by Special Condition Four. Additionally, inclusion of the 350-foot long revetment into the requirements of CDP 4-02-251 would ensure inclusion of the revetment in the long term planning process at Goleta Beach. Commission staff notes that it is still undetermined whether the subject revetments are

within the jurisdiction of the CSLC. **Special Condition Four (4)** as revised, therefore, requires either CSLC approval of lease for the retention of the revetments or written evidence from CSLC that no permit or lease is required.

D. Shoreline Protection Devices

Shoreline armoring is addressed by Coastal Act Section 30235, which states that:

> ***Revetments, breakwaters, groins, harbor channels, seawalls, cliff retaining walls, and other such construction that alters natural shoreline processes shall be permitted when required to serve coastal-dependent uses or to protect existing structures or public beaches in danger from erosion, and when designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on local shoreline sand supply. Existing marine structures causing water stagnation contributing to pollution problems and fish kills should be phased out or upgraded where feasible.***

Section 30251 of the Coastal Act further states:

> ***The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alternation of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated in the California Coastline Preservation and Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and by local government shall be subordinate to the character of it setting.***

The County's request for temporary retention of an additional 350 feet of rock revetment at Goleta Beach constitutes a proposal for a shoreline protective device to protect existing development or public beaches in danger from erosion, pursuant to Coastal Act Section 30235 set forth above. Shoreline armoring projects, though, must be designed to eliminate or mitigate adverse impacts on shoreline sand supply. Additionally, armoring projects may also raise issues with respect to other sections of the Coastal Act concerning protection of marine resources, areas of special biological significance, coastal aquatic resources, recreation, public access, and visual resources, among others.

In approving CDP 4-02-251, the Commission found that insufficient information existed to analyze fully the potential impacts that the permanent retention of the 600-foot long revetment may have on shoreline processes and biological resources at Goleta Beach and long-term alternatives that may be available. The County, therefore, proposed, and the Commission approved, retention of the revetment for a temporary 30-month term in order to allow for protection of the park facilities, while technical studies were conducted

to address coastal erosion at Goleta Beach. Within the 30-month term of the permit, the Commission required Special Condition Two of CDP 4-02-251, which provides for technical studies of kelp habitat, shoreline processes, and intertidal and subtidal habitats at Goleta Beach. These studies include the area of the 350-foot long revetment that is the subject of this amendment application. The Commission also specified Special Condition One of the permit, which requires the applicant to submit, prior to expiration of the permit, either 1) a complete application to retain the subject revetment permanently, 2) a complete application for an alternative project to address erosion at Goleta Beach, and/or 3) a complete application to remove the subject revetment.

Concurrent with the approval of CDP 4-02-251, the County had undertaken a public visioning process for Goleta Beach County Park to address long-term solutions to the erosion problem at Goleta Beach. In the January 2004 findings for CDP 4-02-251, the Commission concurred with County staff that given the lack of information concerning coastal erosion and alternative solutions at Goleta Beach County Park, and the County's desire to clarify objectives for the park's future, that a period of study and analysis would be the best option to allow decision makers to address a long term solution for erosion management at Goleta Beach. The Commission also found that protection of the park facilities during this limited term was necessary as the unplanned destruction of the park and its facilities could significantly impact coastal resources and any plan for retreat or removal of facilities would require significant funds, planning, and approvals from local, State, and Federal authorities that could not immediately be provided.

The question, therefore, became how to protect the park during the limited 30-month term of the permit in a way that would minimize or avoid impacts to local shoreline sand supply, biological resources, recreation, public access, and visual resources. Several options were explored including use of geotubes or sandbags, beach nourishment, managed retreat, or a combination of these alternatives. The Commission found that none of these alternatives were feasible at the time for the temporary protection of the park for the following reasons:

1) There was insufficient information to evaluate the relative impacts of these alternatives in comparison to the retention of the revetment;
2) Removal of the revetment as required by these alternatives would cause significant disruption to the beach in and of itself;
3) Uncertainty existed as to the success of these alternatives at protecting the park from severe wave attack in the short term; and
4) Failure of any of these alternatives could have lead to construction of another rock revetment under an emergency permit.

Unfortunately, the 600-feet of revetment permitted temporarily under CDP 4-02-251, did not successfully protect the entire park during the 2004/2005 winter storms. In January, 2005, heavy storms and severe erosion threatened the lawn, parking areas, restroom, picnic tables, and a cypress tree at the park. During this time the County installed 350-

feet of rock revetment under Emergency Permit 4-05-005-G to protect these facilities. The County currently proposes amendment of CDP 4-02-251 to include the retention of this additional 350-foot long rock revetment at Goleta Beach for the remainder of the temporary term of CDP 4-02-251.

The Commission finds that a lack of information still currently exists to make any of the abovementioned temporary erosion control options feasible for protection of Goleta Beach County Park for the remainder of the 30-month temporary term of permit 4-02-251. The County has stated that without the additional 350-foot long revetment, existing structures at the park are in danger of serious damage or destruction due to further wave attacked and associated beach erosion. The Commission has previously found that protection of the park facilities is necessary during the limited term allowed to complete studies of Goleta Beach. The proposed retention of the 350-foot long revetment is, therefore, necessary to further protect the park for the remainder of the study and planning period. Therefore, **Special Condition One (1)** of CDP 4-02-251 has been revised to include the subject 350-foot long revetment in the permit application submittals that are required in June 2006. Additionally, **Special Condition Two (2)**, which requires technical studies of shoreline processes and biological resources at Goleta Beach, has been revised to ensure inclusion of the subject 350-foot long revetment area in the study. The County and the Commission concur that undertaking and completing the studies required by Special Condition Two (2) will better enable all concerned parties to evaluate relevant information that is presently unavailable and thereby arrive at better informed decisions concerning the long term solution to management of Goleta Beach.

The subject 350-foot long revetment is presently mostly buried under sand due to the lack of significant storm wave energy to date this season. Storm waves could expose the rock during upcoming winter storm seasons, though. Unless nourishment with suitable sand supplies is undertaken, the rock could remain exposed until seasonal re-deposition of sands occurs. In the interim, the exposed rock would adversely impact public coastal views of Goleta Beach and would also displace sandy beach habitat used by spawning grunion and invertebrate organisms that colonize beach sands. **Special Condition Three (3),** therefore requires the County to obtain a coastal development permit for beach nourishment to cover the exposed revetment if necessary. Implementation of **Special Condition Three (3)** will ensure that the impacts of the temporary revetment on beach sands are mitigated to the extent feasible, in accordance with the requirements of Coastal Act Section 30235 and 30251.

Finally, the subject rock revetments location on Goleta Beach may be subject to hazards from storm waves, surges, erosion, and flooding. The County has proposed several safety measures necessary to ensure public safety around the revetments, particularly when exposed. **Special Condition Five (5)** requires the applicant to assume the risks the project may have on the applicant, the public, and the property that is the subject of this permit through a waiver of liability and indemnity agreement.

Therefore, for all the reasons set forth above, the Commission finds that the proposed project, as conditioned, is consistent with the requirements of Coastal Act Sections 30235 and 30251.

E. Recreation and Public Access

The proposed amendment raises issues with concern to public coastal access, recreation, and visual resources.

Section 30210 of the Coastal Act states:

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

Section 30211 of the Coastal Act further states:

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

Section 30213 of the Coastal Act states in part:

> ***Lower cost visitor and recreational facilities shall be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided. Developments providing public recreational opportunities are preferred.***

Coastal Act Sections 30210, 30211, and 30213 mandate that maximum public access and recreational opportunities and facilities be provided and protected and that development not interfere with the public's right to access the coast.

The project site is located within a county-operated park available for public use. Public access is usually available along the entire length of the park that is contiguous to the beach. In recent years, though, and most notably during the 1999 winter storm season, wave and tidal action have caused erosion of the clay-rich fill underlying the park. This erosion has formed a steep slope (or drop-off) approximately four to five feet in height between the improved areas onsite (the portion of the site constructed on fill) and the sandy beach. As discussed in previous sections, several other revetments currently exist east and west of the project site on Goleta Beach. During winter seasons, the County puts up temporary fencing between the lawn and parking facilities at Goleta Beach County Park and the beach due to steep undercut slopes to the beach and the presence of exposed rock revetments.

The additional rock rip-rap subject to the proposed amendment may impede public access to the beach and views to and along the ocean. After storm seasons the revetment may be exposed, which could hinder public access to the beach. The Commission notes, though, that without the revetment, undercut portions of the park equally impede access, especially when temporary safety fencing is required by the County to protect visitors from drops-off to the beach. **Special Condition Three (3),** however, requires nourishment with suitable sand on the exposed portion of the revetment after storm seasons, but prior to the peak use period commencing after Memorial Day. These nourishment activities will cover the exposed rock and, thereby, provide for an easier accessway to the beach and minimize the need for safety fencing which may impede public access and views. Nourishment activities, if necessary, may also result in some adverse effects to the public's ability to access the sandy beach since beachgoers would be required to avoid the nourishment areas during placement and grading. All beach nourishment activities, though, will require a valid permit from the Commission as specified in **Special Condition Three (3).**

Coastal Act Section 30210 and 30213 require the provision of public coastal recreational opportunities and protection of recreational facilities. The temporary retention of the revetment will ensure that public facilities at Goleta Beach County Park, including parking and public restrooms, are not further damaged while studies evaluate the best long-term solution to erosion of the adjacent beach area. Therefore, the project as proposed is consistent with Coastal Act Section 30210 and 30213.

The Commission finds that the proposed amendment, as conditioned, will not significantly impact recreational opportunities and public access at the project site during the temporary term of the permit, and therefore, the project is consistent with Section 30210, 30211, and 30213 of the Coastal Act.

F. Water Quality and Biological Resources

Section 30230 of the Coastal Act states:

> ***Marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance. Uses of the marine environment shall be carried out in a manner that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters and that will maintain healthy populations of all species of marine organisms adequate for long-term commercial, recreational, scientific, and educational purposes.***

Section 30231 of the Coastal Act states:

> ***The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes appropriate to maintain optimum***

populations of marine organisms and for the protection of human health shall be maintained and, where feasible, restored through, among other means, minimizing adverse effects of waste water discharges and entrainment, controlling runoff, preventing depletion of ground water supplies and substantial interference with surface water flow, encouraging waste water reclamation, maintaining natural vegetation buffer areas that protect riparian habitats, and minimizing alteration of natural streams.

Section 30240 of the Coastal Act states:

(b) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas.
(c) Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade those areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of those habitat and recreation areas.

The project site is a sandy beach situated at the mouth of the Goleta Slough. Goleta Slough 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. The slough and beach provide a large range of biological habitats including wetland, offshore kelp, intertidal, sub tidal, marine, and estuarine communities, among others.

In the past, opponents to the revetments at Goleta Beach have asserted that there is evidence that the short-term use of revetments has caused, and will exacerbate, sand losses at Goleta Beach. The County has responded that surveys they have conducted show no such sand loss, and that seasonal fluctuations in the amount and location of beach sand deposits are within expected range. The County has further stated that their surveys do not support the assertion that the sandy beach has diminished in a manner that can be attributed to the presence of the revetment, and point out that the revetments are covered by sand most of the time. This does not mean that the revetments could not cause the loss of beach sand over the long term, though, as this is typically the impact of revetments when placed along sandy beaches. The proposed project is not, however, an application for a permanent revetment at Goleta Beach, but rather a short term application sufficient to enable technical studies of the revetment and its alternatives.

As stated previously, the proposed project would retain the subject revetments for a limited term while studies proceed pursuant to **Special Condition Two (2)**. The required studies would evaluate the impact of the revetments, as well as alternatives to the revetments, on the offshore kelp habitat adjacent to Goleta Beach and on the beach and intertidal habitat. In addition, **Special Condition Three (3)** requires the County to nourish the revetments with beach sand after storm season, as necessary, and in

accordance with a plan to limit any impacts of the nourishment on sensitive species. Nourishment will facilitate public access across the buried revetments, and will also ensure that grunion spawning habitat is not displaced by the revetment.

In addition, **Special Condition Three (3)** requires the County to manage the multiple activities conducted on Goleta Beach, including activities undertaken by BEACON, in a manner that enhances beach and intertidal habitat value to the extent feasible, consistent with other applicable permit approvals. Responsive management activities may include, but are not limited to, minimizing beach grooming/removal of kelp detritus, limiting access at the mouth of Goleta Slough, and ensuring that beach nourishment activities are undertaken in accordance with applicable conditions designed to reduce impacts on sensitive species.

Finally, and as discussed above, the proposed amendment is a temporary measure to address beach erosion while conducting extensive studies of alternatives that would address erosion, water quality, and biological resources at Goleta Beach. Other temporary alternatives, such as removing and retaining the rock with the possibility of placing it again during emergency storm conditions, also pose significant impacts and the comparative extent of the impacts cannot be determined over the temporary term of the subject permit.

For all of the reasons set forth above, the Commission finds that the proposed project, as conditioned, is consistent with Coastal Act Section 30210, 30211, 30230, 30231, and 30240.

G. Local Coastal Program

Section 30604 of the Coastal Act states:

> ***a) Prior to certification of the local coastal program, a coastal development permit shall be issued if the issuing agency, or the commission on appeal, finds that the proposed development is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of this division and that the permitted development will not prejudice the ability of the local government to prepare a local program that is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200).***

Section 30604(a) of the Coastal Act provides that the Commission shall issue a Coastal Development Permit only if the project will not prejudice the ability of the local government having jurisdiction to prepare a Local Coastal Program, which conforms with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. The preceding sections provide findings that the proposed project, as amended, will be in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 if certain conditions are incorporated into the projects and are accepted by the applicant. As conditioned, the proposed development will not create adverse impacts

and is found to be consistent with the applicable policies contained in Chapter 3. Therefore, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed developments, as conditioned, will not prejudice the County of Santa Barbara's ability to prepare or amend the Local Coastal Program for this area, which is also consistent with the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, as required by Section 30604(a).

H. CEQA

Section 13096(a) of the Commission's administrative regulations requires Commission approval of Coastal Development Permit applications 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 full range of potential impacts that the proposed project as amended, or any alternatives to it, may have on coastal resources. Identification of feasible mitigation measures for approval of any permanent project to control erosion at Goleta Beach is thus necessarily incomplete as well. Measures to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of the exposed revetments over the limited term of the proposed project as amended have been incorporated into special conditions of the permit to the extent feasible.

Therefore, the Commission finds that approval of the project with the required Special Conditions, including the retention of the subject revetment for a limited study term, is consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act and the applicable policies of the Coastal Act.

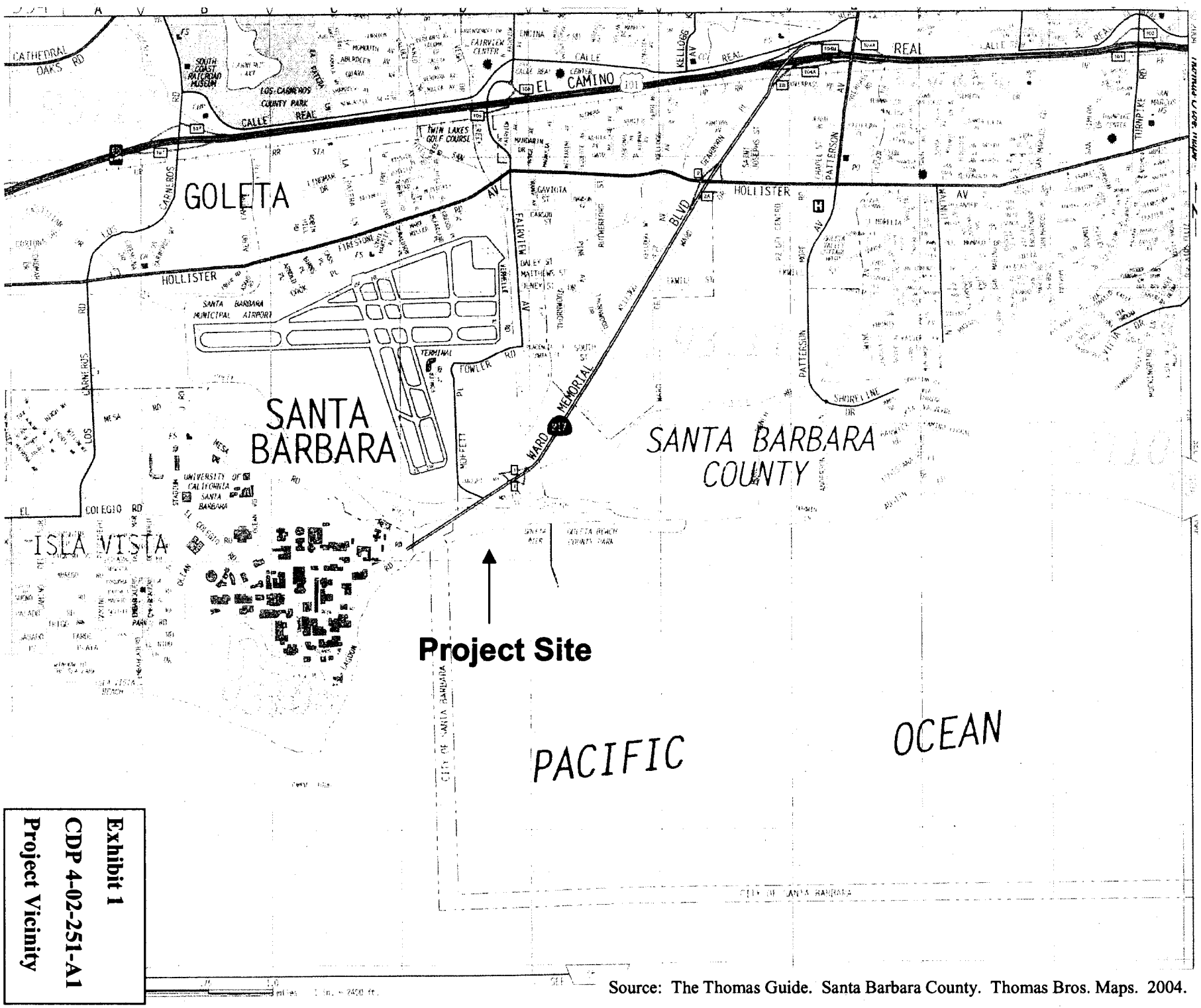


Exhibit 1
CDP 4-02-251-A1
Project Vicinity

Source: The Thomas Guide. Santa Barbara County. Thomas Bros. Maps. 2004.

January 9, 2005. Goleta Beach prior to placement of 350-foot revetment.

January, 2005 Immediately following placement of rock.

January, 2005. Sand berm placed at Goleta Beach under Emergency Permit 4-05-005-G.

June 2005. The 350-foot revetment is buried under sand.

Exhibit 2
CDP 4-02-251-A1
Project Photos

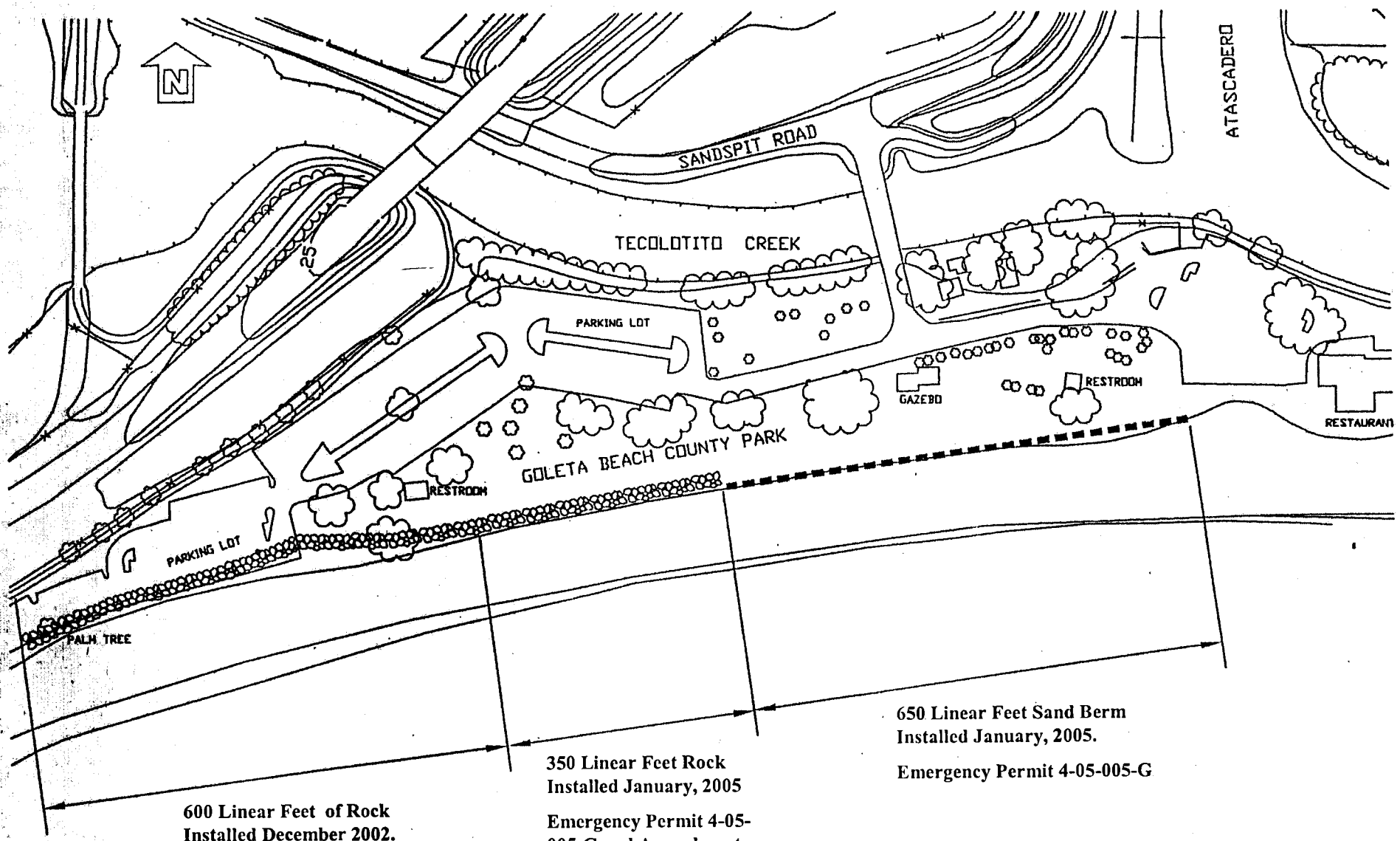
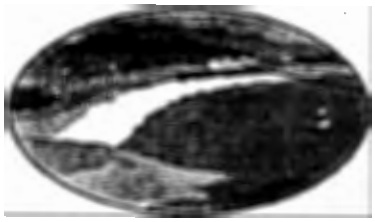


Exhibit 3
CDP 4-02-251-A1
Location of Revetments



Goleta Beach
Master Planning Process

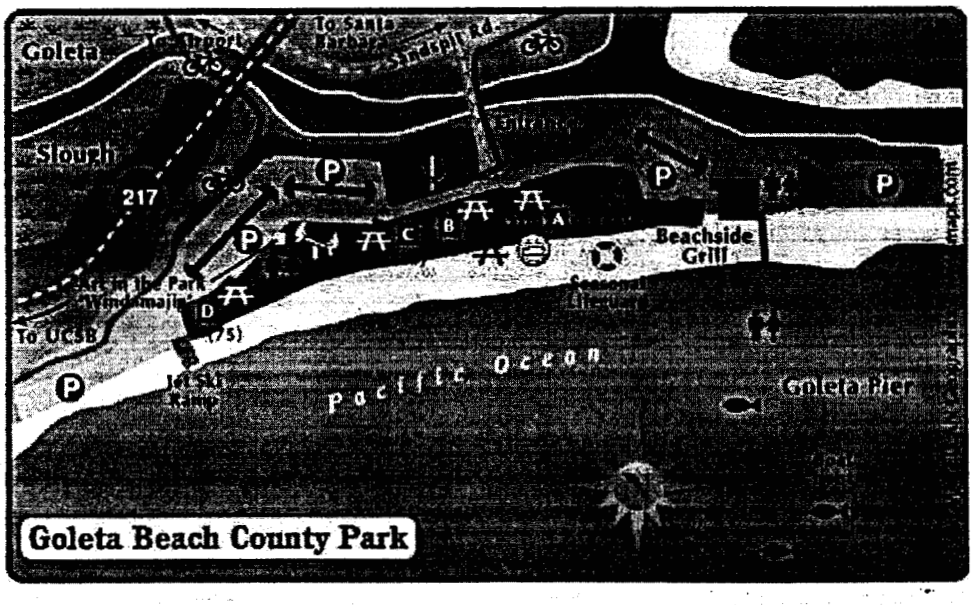
610 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105 ♦ (805) 568-2461 ♦ goletabeach@co.santa-barbara.ca.us ♦ www.sbparks.org/goletabeach

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 20th from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm** *or* on **Wednesday, October 15th 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.



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

Contents

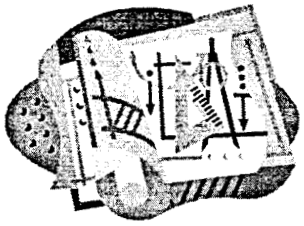
Exhibit 4

CDP 4-02-251-A1

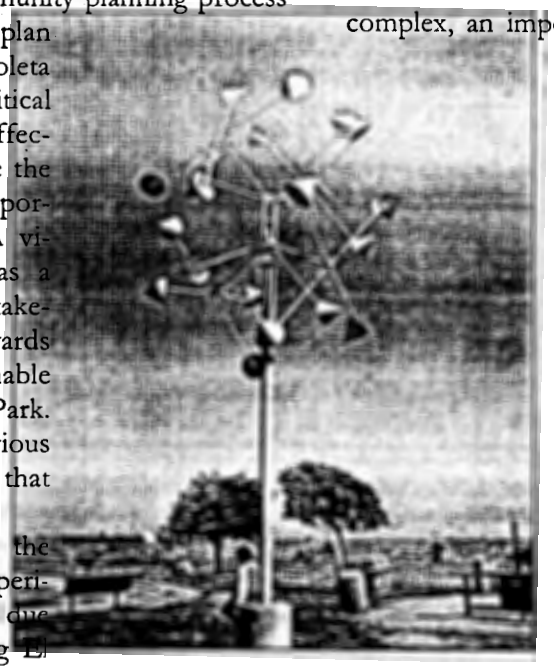
County Parks and Recreation Department Goleta Beach Website

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 not 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.

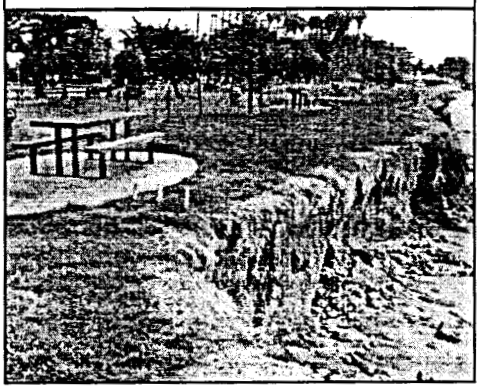
Additional detail about the history of the Park and actions taken to protect the beach and recreational facilities is contained in the timeline. For additional historic photos of the area please visit the website at **www.sbparks.com/goletabeach** and visit the photo gallery and links page.

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.

Beach and Parkland Erosion 2003.



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.

Protective Sand Berm Placement, Spring, 2003.

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 rock 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.

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 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.

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.

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

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.

Natural Resources

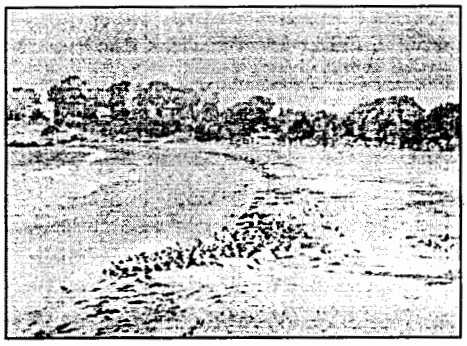
Goleta Beach County Park contains unique and significant biological and physical resources that are part of a very large and complex wetland estuarine ecosystem. At one time, the land where the Park is located had a rich diversity of plants and animals due in part to its location adjacent to the Goleta 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.sbparks.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.

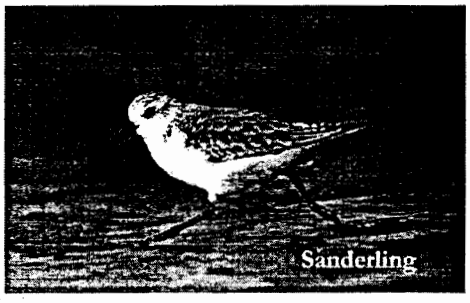
The Goleta Bay - This marine community is made up of a wide variety of fish and subtidal invertebrates. Two plant species that are dominant in this community are Giant Kelp, and Eelgrass. Bird species over the bay include Forster's, Royal, and Caspian terns, western gull, belted kingfisher, and California 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,

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 detrititus 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 Tecolotito (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.

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) 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 contained 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)
- Coulters 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

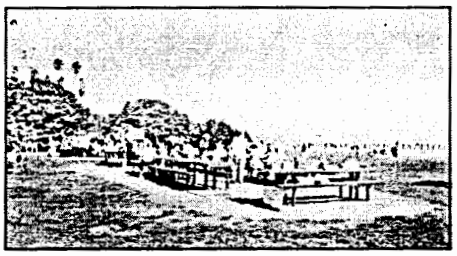
Recreation and Facilities

Goleta Beach County Park offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities to visitors, including picnicking and barbequing, 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.

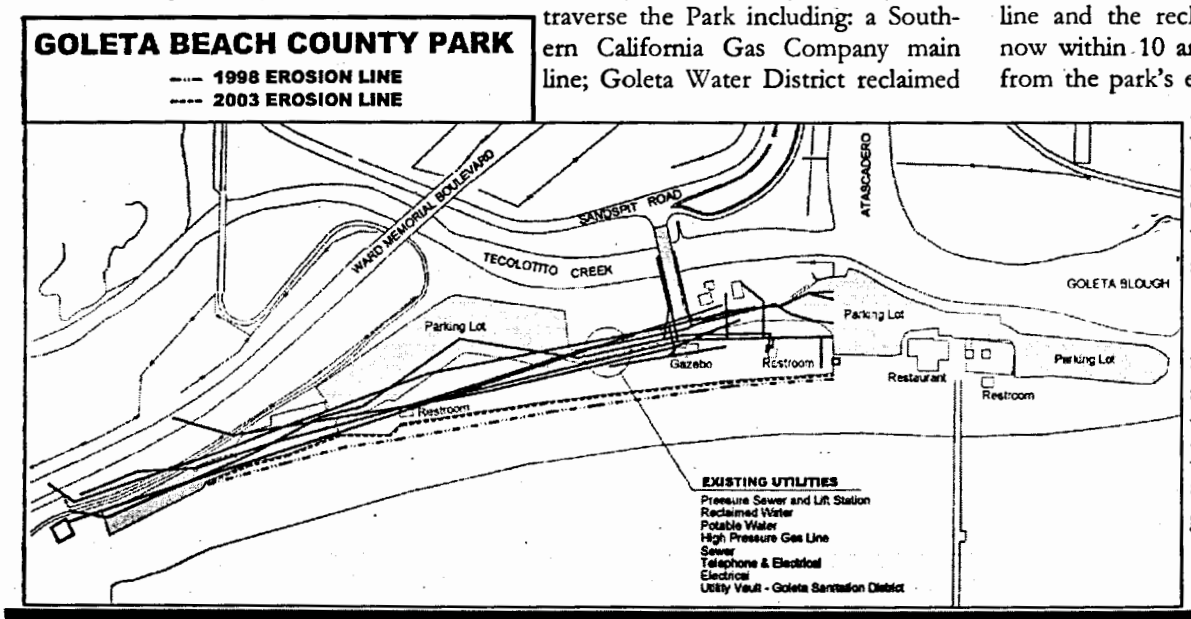
Sandy Beach/Ocean Recreation: Sunbathers, swimmers, boogie boarders, beach walkers and joggers use the sandy beach area on a daily basis. In addition, other activities such as tidepooling, birdwatching, surf fishing and grunion observing occur.

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.sbparks.org/goletabeach.

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 divers 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.

Recommended Reading

Links to the following documents are available on the Goleta Beach website at www.sbparks.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 Newspress, 1976) is available at the local public library. Contains historical information about Goleta Beach.

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.sbparks.org/goletabeach

California Coastal Commission: www.coastal.ca.gov/whoweare.html

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

Surfrider Foundation-Santa Barbara www.rain.org/~srfrdrsb

California Coastal Act: www.coastal.ca.gov/coastact.pdf

California Coastal Records Project: www.californiacoastline.org

California Coastal Conservancy: www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project: www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp

UCSB Beach: 30 Years of Waxing and Waning: www.geol.ucsb.edu/faculty/sylvester/UCSBbeaches.html

BEACON – beach sand replacement project: 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

California Department of Boating and Waterways Beach Erosion Control: www.dbw.ca.gov/beach.htm

California Coastal Coalition - A non-profit advocacy group: www.calcoast.org

2nd District Supervisor Rose - Natural Resources Advisory Committee: www.countyofsb.org/susanrose/nrac/nracintro.htm

Project Clean Water/San Jose Creek Watershed Management Plan: www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater/sanjose.htm

California Shore and Beach Preservation Association: www.csbpa.org

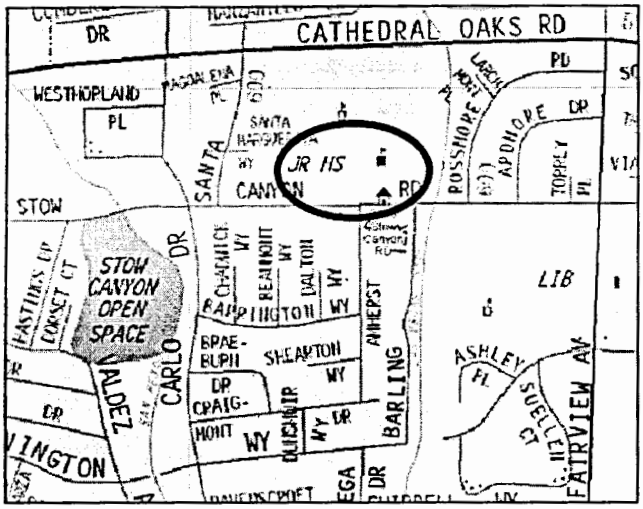
The information contained in these websites does not necessarily represent the views of the County.

Save the Date!

The 2nd District Office and the Santa Barbara County Parks Department, in partnership with Santa Barbara Park Commission and 2nd District Natural Resources Advisory Committee, invite you to attend a community planning session to help determine the future of Goleta Beach County Park. Your ideas are needed to help develop a comprehensive plan for Goleta Beach County Park, a unique coastal area.

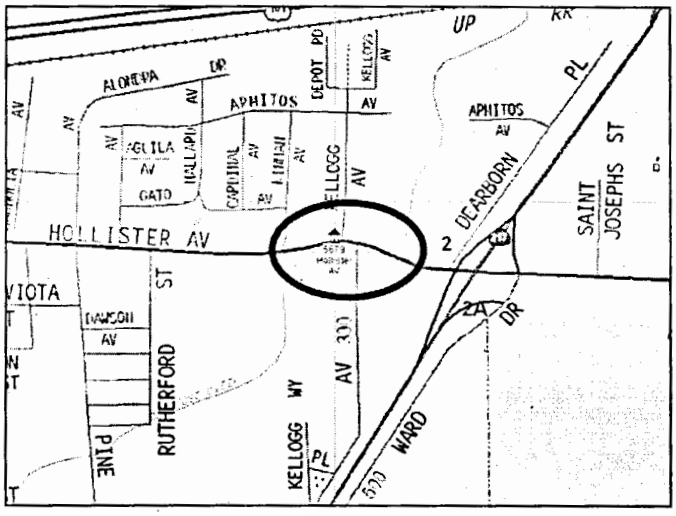
Saturday, September 20th from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Goleta Valley Junior High School Auditorium
6100 Stow Canyon Road, Goleta



Wednesday, October 15th from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Goleta Valley Community Center Auditorium
5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta
Spanish translation to be provided at this session
Proveeremos traductor en esta sesión



Santa Barbara COUNTY PARKS
610 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105