Prepared July 10, 2018 for July 13, 2018 Informational briefing

To: Commissioners and Interested Persons

From: John Ainsworth, Executive Director

Subject: Additional correspondence for F5
Informational briefing for Hollister Ranch Settlement Agreement

This package includes 658 additional pieces of correspondence received in the time since the staff report was distributed.
I just wanted to voice my opposition to this deal. My husband and I paddle board each weekend, but we would not think to venture out from Gaviota to Hollister. It's simply too dangerous with unpredictable winds. If this is the only access point, we're going to see a lot of less cautious people venturing out there and requiring rescue or recovery. The deal is forcing people to make a trade off between access and safety.

It seems like a hiking path from Gaviota would provide reasonable access while maintaining the character of the area.
Dear Coastal Commission and Judge Sterne,

This "Ranch deal" is just wrong, it goes against what we the regular people of California, believe in, and the trust we have given the Coastal Commission.

It tells the people of California, that if you are rich and famous, the rules and the intent of what the Coastal Commission is for don't mean anything.

Sincerely

Ardon Alger
As a Californian I support the Coastal Commission’s agreed settlement with the Hollister Ranch authorities as preserving the correct balance of public access and environmental protection.

Thank you!
Diane Alexander

Sent from my awesome I-thingy!
i've been following the issue of Hollister Ranch coastal access for at least 40 years. by invitation, stealth and boating-in from Gaviota, i've surfed there many, many times. no argument it is a sublime piece of the coastline beyond its attraction to me as a surfer. BUT, growing up in malibu-before the rich and famous, when it was UPS drivers and high school teachers, beach people all- i also saw the damage unfettered public access did to equally glorious beaches and coastline. i get that Hollister residents have fought long and hard to keep the masses out and the area pristine. it really is a dilemma. but try this for a compromise.

no entry by road, walk in only, trail access exclusively. in my opinion based on what i've frequently seen, access by car always brings degradation. period. too much stuff carried around too easily, much often left behind, booze, drugs, wildlife harm. look at any roadside pull out. but walk in? whole different dynamic with outdoors-oriented people who usually don't (can't) haul around a lot of stuff. hikers and bikers are entirely different than drivers as visitors.

so the ranch is kept pristine. the owners are happy with these far, far fewer numbers. and people who appreciate our precious california coast still get to by using initiative and "sweat equity". please consider this. and thanks so much for enabling all of us who care deeply about this to voice our opinion. richard teufel  san luis obispo cal.
I'm a middle aged man; a middle aged man who loves the ocean. A middle aged man who loves the California Coast. A middle aged man who wants to share his thoughts. The state of California has undergone dramatic change over the course of my life. It's become more crowded, more expensive, and more challenging.

We need to do a better job of protecting our natural resources. We need to take steps to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities to enjoy the coast the way I did when I was a child. And I feel that unless ordinary folks speak up, the pleasure of a day at the beach a relic of the past.

I would like to humbly request that the Coastal Commission take in to account the millions of Californians who can't afford property in the Hollister Ranch. Folks like us can appreciate the beauty and wonder of this part of the coast - but that means access beyond what is proposed in the agreement with the owners. Thanks, Matt
we must take a good serious look up and down our Southern California coast. Despite the original intentions of the Coastal Act, neither our state, nor our federal government, has succeeded in preserving any significant portion our coastline in its natural state. The few remaining beautiful natural lands of the California coast are now our current endangered species. The last of these lands is still alive and well due to the stewardship and preservation of the historical owners of the Point Conception area. The settlement accomplished by our Coastal Commission should be supported in preservation of those lands. regards.
Honorable Commissioners of the State Costal Commission

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California's coast. I live in Santa Barbara County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I am an avid surfer, hiker and environmentalist.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons: First and foremost the rule of law requires that a taking of private property be done in accordance with the legal principles of ownership. I have reviewed the history of the dispute between the Hollister Ranch and the State that are legacy matters from a mis-guided grant by the YMCA.

I am certain you will receive many letters from mis-guided purists that feel that they are entitled to cross any lands they choose, public or private. They believer these are inalienable rights. Unfortunately this is not the way the law works. I believe the long and protracted issues between the Hollister Ranch and the State have produced a fair and equitable settlement of the issues at hand and strongly support the agreement that has thus far been reached.

Thank you for your service to California.

Larry Barels
805-965-4346
Please keep Hollister Ranch beaches and coastal trail open to the public for 2 reasons. First, You can't give away our legal rights to enjoy these beaches and trails.

Second, The legal battle will be epic, if this settlement agreement isn't voided. Now, probably, even it is voided.

Robert
This settlement still prevents me and most others from enjoying this part of California’s coast. There are few hardy enough to make this trip by boat or kayak. A walking or biking trail easement would open this to many more.

Marvin Sperlin
Ventura, Ca.
This settlement still prevents me and most others from enjoying this part of California’s coast. There are few hardy enough to make this trip by boat or kayak. A walking or biking trail easement would open this to many more.

Marvin Sperlin
Ventura, Ca.
To the Coastal Commissioners,

Thank you for your consideration about public access to beaches on the Gaviota coast in Hollister Ranch. While it is important to preserve this valuable resource and respect the rights of landowners this must be balanced with allowing greater accessibility for those Californians and others who wish to visit the site. It is nearly impossible to get there except by sea, which effectively bars any but the most hearty from ever getting to see the beaches there. Please consider providing some passage by land, a trail that could be walked or hiked. Of course, there should be limits on the number of people who can walk in at any time. I appreciate your thoughtfulness on this important matter. You hold great power and are entrusted by and for the people of California.

Best regards,

Jill Stein
The agreement reached between Hollister and California’s citizens does almost nothing to really increase public access to these 8 miles of beaches. I used to boat in from Gaviota to surf there. The very rich Hollister local surfers and their security thugs gave us a very hard time. I appreciate how beautiful the Hollister coastline is and I’d want to be sure it was protected, while still allowing others of the public to surf and recreate there. Let’s strive to get substantial not just token access.

Sent from my iPad
Hello. I’m just adding my voice to those already heard from re: the recent events at Hollister Ranch. Beaches on our lovely CA coastline should be open to everyone, not closed off from public use, and this beach has been used for so long and by so many over the decades. We all pay taxes, these areas should be open to all and it sets a dangerous precedent to allow areas to be set aside and only used by a select few, no matter how benevolent it sounds by adding the after school programs. Please reconsider the restrictions placed on this unique and beautiful area; let the public beaches stay public.

Thank you.

Andrea Tice
1155 Comanche
Topanga CA 90290
Members of the Coastal Commission

I urge you to approve a walking trail that the public and use to access the Beach at Hollister Ranch. For the protection of the Hollister home owners as well as the hikers. Visitors could sign in as they entered as is done at some wilderness areas.

Yours truly, Candace White,
300 Hot Springs Road
Santa Barbara CA 93108

Sent from my iPad
I’m Idaho-born and raised. When my husband and I came to live in CA in 1954, one of the most amazing things we learned about our new state was that the beaches belonged to everyone! How wonderful! The Coastal Commission should honor the law and require that the wealthy and powerful owners of the land honor the law too. They may own the land; they do not own the beach, the people of CA do!

We have granddaughters, one who lived here while her guy was getting his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at UCLA and she worked two jobs to afford their apartment near the university, lived for their one free day a week which they spent at the beach. He is doing his cross-doc work in Dallas, TX, but they hope to return to live in CA, where the beaches belong to the people. Keep all our beaches accessible! It is your duty to do so.

Louise Bianco
lgwbianco@gmail.com
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am a longtime coastal access advocate, pioneer and promoter of the California Coastal Trail, and the author of five books about hiking the coast. I implore you to heed the letter and spirit of the California Coastal Act, and demand the kind of significant public access to Hollister Ranch required of virtually every other private property holder along the 1,200-mile length of the California Coast.

When my fellow coastal access advocates and I launched the California Coastal Trails Foundation in 1983 we created a list of the “Ten Worst Obstacles” to creating a statewide Coastal Trail. The list ranged from the Irvine Ranch in Orange County to the Hearst Ranch in San Luis Obispo County to Sea Ranch in Sonoma County. To our Santa Barbara-based advocacy group, the most egregious example of coastal access denied was the Hollister Ranch, located just 30 miles up-coast from downtown Santa Barbara.

Thirty-five years later, all of these “worst” obstacles to coastal access have been modified or removed, and coastal trails constructed in these once off-limits areas that allow the public both perpendicular and lateral access to the shoreline.

Except in the case of Hollister Ranch.

Hollister Ranch property owners have been utterly uncompromising in granting the public meaningful access to the coast, and the State has for four decades failed to require them to do so.

I witnessed first-hand the successes and failures of coastal access efforts, the stunning beauty of our coastline, and the passion our diverse population feels for the state’s shoreline when I walked the length of the coast and wrote a narrative book about my adventure: “Hiking on the Edge: Dreams, Schemes and 1600 miles on the California Coastal Trail.”

I have repeatedly, over many years pointed out the considerable negative impacts caused by Hollister Ranch’s denial of coastal access. Two brief examples from my guidebooks:

“A beach route is thwarted by the Hollister Ranch up-coast from Gaviota.” “California Coast Trails” (1983)

“...the private enclave of Hollister Ranch and several more private holdings combine to make many miles of the coast off-limits to the public.” “Coast Walks: Santa Barbara” (2014)

Hollister Ranch’s denial of coastal access, and “the domino effect” to the north of the ranch has caused Santa Barbara County to rank dead last among California’s 15 coastal counties in terms of percentage of coastline accessible to the public. Hollister Ranch’s resolute resistance to public pathways accounts for a huge gap in the California Coastal Trail.

Virtually every other wealthy coastal enclave in California from Palos Verdes to Pebble Beach now has coastal access and coastal trails: the public can hike a coastal trail along the bluffs of La Jolla, follow a pathway past the Ritz Carlton in Orange County, walk the beaches of Malibu.

The Irvine Ranch land is now state parkland, with four major access points and trails leading to, and along the Orange County coast. Hearst Ranch land (on the ocean side of Highway 1) is now accessible to the public—13 miles of coastline and majestic bluffs crisscrossed with hiking trails. Sea Ranch’s 10 miles of shoreline can now be reached by way of six major access points and a network of coastal trails.

It was the Sea Ranch property owners’ denial of coastal access and insistence on dictating the terms of the public’s recreational use of its “private” shoreline that led to court battles, much public outrage, and
that provided the impetus for legislation creating the Coastal Commission. Like Sea Ranch, Hollister Ranch has severely restricted access to the coast, caused widespread public outrage, and is attempting to justify its actions by using the same discredited arguments made more than 40 years ago.

The 8.5 miles of coast in Hollister Ranch belongs to all Californians. The Coastal Commission must act in accordance with the law, and require, as it has nearly everywhere else along the coast, access points and coastal trails for the public to reach and enjoy the coast of Hollister Ranch.

Thank you for your consideration and re-consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

John McKinney
www.TheTrailmaster.com
I grew up in LA and was not able to access Topanga and the Malibu Canyon Colony to surf. Unless I knew someone who owned property there way back when in the 60's. Then the county declared eminent domain at Topanga beach and now it is a public space for all to enjoy and recreate. I don't know what happened at The Colony. I only know that access to the ocean is a right and has to do with the tide lines. I am a native Californian born in Santa Monica and I grew up going to the beach frequently. It is a place that all should be able to enjoy whether you are rich or poor!

Susan Beer
970 Solano Ave.
Sonoma, Ca. 95476
708-038-8309
smobeer@comcast.net

Sent from my iPad
To: California Coastal Commission:

Re: Access to the Gaviota Coast

The entire Gaviota Coast should be accessible to the general public from land or sea. Ultimately the access points to the coast should be open all of the time and include use of roads and trails to reach them.

A plan to develop full access should be implemented over two to five years, perhaps starting with guided tours, supervised hiking and/or vehicle entry.

The public should not be denied access to this portion of the California Coast

William Griswold
4025 Tambor Road
San Diego, Ca 92124
The Coastal Commission was created to ensure that California’s wonderful coastline would remain a public resource, to be enjoyed forever by every American who wanted to take in its glory. The unbelievably disgusting decision to give parts of the coast to a couple of rich individuals, denying land access to all others, is a new low in an age of ever lower lows. Reverse your horrible decision or resign and let more honorable people take your place.
I am sending this email to agree with this proposal... the tenets thereof offer fair equity to beach land that serves us all....

regards
JF.
Commissioners,

First I want to acknowledge your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in Los Angeles and I have been surfing from Northern California down to San Diego since 1966.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer. Below are a few of the reasons for my support:

I have followed this issue for several years. I know the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy staff along with the Attorney General’s office were focused and diligent over four years litigating the case to produce a fair settlement.

I believe the settlement provided the State with a positive outcome. Had the State prevailed in the case, I do not believe it would have achieved as much as the settlement. To have gained access would have been dependent upon unfunded transit service and passage through a hazardous, unsuitable drainage tunnel to the beach.

I strongly support the terms of the settlement and thank you for your service to California. I believe this is the best outcome for all parties involved.

 Regards,

Danny Markus
Coastal Commissioners:
I have ridden Amtrak trains several times through the Hollister Ranch area near Vanderburg Air Force Base and appreciated each time, with a beat-skipping leap of my heart and soul, the sheer beauty the place affords. I am writing to lodge vehement opposition to the pending "deal" the Commission plans to consider in the coming weeks with the Coastal Conservancy. The notion of an offshore, ocean approach by kayak or other water-borne means for visitors to gain beach access along the Hollister Ranch property line defies rationality and the intent of the established legislative act. Coastal Commissioners cannot vote for the deal without violating the law itself and without failing to represent the interests of all, not just beach-going Californians. Commissioners certainly know that failing in their duties deprives Californians the privileged coastal access that the original Coastal Act intended. All Californians — and not simply those skilled, brave or foolhardy enough to float themselves into the Hollister beaches — are owed the Commission’s full protection of their right to unfettered beach access. Access via a walking trail using offsite parking with regular bus service, considering as well all due disabled access accommodations, represents a good and reasonable starting place that can be implemented in the short term. The long term goal should include strategic state acquisitions — through eminent domain if necessary — of enough sections of Hollister Ranch land to insure full, convenient, permanent and unfettered accommodation of all beach access seekers desiring to use and appreciate their California coastal resource and heritage.

Sincerely,
Paul Vandeventer
1743 Hill Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90041
pvmn@roadrunner.com
213-500-2016
BEING A LANDOWNER IS A FANTASTIC PRIVLAGE IN THIS GREAT STATE OF OURS, AS ALMOST ANYBODY CAN CONCLUDE. BEACHES, RIVERS, STREAMS AND LAKES ARE ALL PUBLIC PROPERTY NOT A COMMISIONS PROPERTY. OUR GREAT COUNTRY AND A VAST MAJORİTY OF THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO VERY LITTLE LOGIC IF ANY IN DECISIONS OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY. SO COMMİSION, LETS DO IT RIGHT. BECAUSE PEOPLE DO HAVE MEMORIES AND ITS PRETTY EASY TO START A MOVEMENT OF ONE THEN 2 AND SO ON. THANK YOU. JAMES HUGH TOMPKINS-BORN SAN FRAN. 1961
Dear Commissioners,

This proposed agreement is fair to the public and landowners. Its a working cattle ranch there at the Hollister Ranch. Please keep it that way. Please finalize the proposed agreement. Sincerely, Bill Tracy 470B Linfield Place Goleta CA 93117
Dear Commissioners,

The current proposal for coastal access to the Hollister Ranch doesn't provide much in the way of access. If anything, the access it allows for will probably kill a number of people. The proposal also sets a precedent to deny reasonable access to the coast in the future. The coast belongs to us all.

California has a wonderful thing called the California Coastal Trail. Every day I walk a portion of it. I saw a presentation about hiking the whole trail at the library. Two women hiked the entire thing end-to-end in one go. The only portion of the trail they couldn't hike near the coast was the area around Point Conception and Hollister Ranch. They had to walk on highways and it was the worst part of the whole trail. It was hot, dry and dangerous because of traffic. There is so much interest and tourism around hiking America's long distance trails such as the Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail. The California Coastal Trail, were it completed, would add to the tourism of California with an amazing adventure for long distance trail enthusiasts. Being a trail with limited backcountry camping, people would end up spending a lot of money at hotels, campgrounds and state parks, bringing tourist money to California.

Please reconsider the current proposal and come up with a better one that provides more reasonable access. Nobody wants to harass cattle. They just want to go for a walk or surf at the beach.

Diane Soini
1224 W. Valerio St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
18054556818
Dear Commissioners,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara County for over 50 years. I attended high school and college in this county, and worked full time as a registered nurse for over 40 years. I have been a home owner and paid taxes for all of my adult life. I believe as a citizen I have paid my dues and deserve to have the benefit of our beautiful area, both mountains and coast.

I had the opportunity to visit the Hollister Ranch coastline many years ago and know first hand how important it is to protect it from indiscriminate and harmful use.

I treasure this area and I would like to make sure that I and other citizens of this county and state are not denied access to any of our natural resources that we have all paid for and supported with our taxes.

Please consider all the citizens of California, not just the wealthy, when making a decision about access to our beautiful coastline. Certainly there can be a system in place to keep the coastline pristine without denying the enjoyment to all citizens.

Thank you for your attention
Kathleen Yeomans
Dear Commissioners,

As a native Californian, a trail rider and a hiker, I believe our beautiful coastline must remain open to the public, not just the wealthy few who can afford to buy a slice of it. Please allow the public to have access to the coastline in Hollister Ranch, especially the coastal trail that the Santa Barbara Trails Council is trying to accomplish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Irene Cunningham, 878 Ballard Canyon Rd., Solvang, CA 93463
Dear Commissioners, the Santa Barbara Trails Council has ask that its supporters email comments to you on requiring a bluff top trail easement through Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County.

The Coastal Act of which I was an original supporter, was intended to provide access to the beach where previously the public was cut off from the beach. It was never intended to provide access to all beaches and locations in California.

Furthermore, I as an avid hiker do not think having a bluff top trail along the bluffs of Santa Barbara County west of Santa Barbara is as desirable as having a trail along the edge of the National Forest. A trail along the edge of the National Forest would provide a better view and would probably be more easily and quickly achieved.

Thank you for considering my view on this.

Douglas Scott
1716 Calle Boca Del Canon
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Dear Commissioners,

It's so incredibly important to allow beach access at Hollister Ranch. We should use the coastline for what it was meant for to be for - enjoyed but also to bring about the good of well-intended research and nonprofit work, to promote the outdoors and learning about our local environment, but also to keep what should be public from being private and closed for more future generations.

I’m born and raised in Hawai‘i and public beach access is the only thing that kept the rich billionaires from purchasing whole swaths of property and cutting off shoreline access that has been cherished and sacred to Hawaiians.

Money shouldn’t be the only thing that keeps you from the beach. Decades ago, the land was free to roam. Since we can no longer turn it back to its natural state, let’s at least allow some areas for those willing to work hard to reach it and give it the respect it deserves.

Thank you and mahalo for listening.

I sincerely hope this will help convince you.

Best regards,

Emmalia Sutherland
27 years old
Santa Barbara, ca
Dear Commissioners,

The California Coastal Trail CAN BE more than a dream, it can be a REALITY!!.....but only if there is public access through Hollister Ranch. What a jewel of a trail it would be for the State of California and the USA! We MUST keep working to achieve this. Thank You for holding the Vision!

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
Dear Commissioners,

Coastal access is imperative for everyone! Such a cause must be intersectional and inclusive, since limiting environmental justice to one group is counterproductive.

Hoping the voice of all people will be heard in your decision concerning this matter,
Miranda de Moraes
Dear Commissioners,

When the Coastal Act was passed nearly 70 years ago, the people of California made it quite clear that our spectacular coastline should be available to all the people of California ... and not those few wealthy landowners who are able to buy it out from the rest of us. I am fortunate enough to live near the coast in urban Santa Barbara and frequently enjoy our coast from the cliffs and beaches. Through the years I have been joined by thousands and thousands of locals and visitors who have had the joy and privilege to do take in the sights and sounds of this great place we live. Do not set this dangerous precedent that will fence any portion of our coast to all those who want to enjoy it.

Thank you for your kind consideration

Valerie Olson
Santa Barbara, CA
Dear Commissioners,

I have lived here 30 years and never been to a beach past Gaviota st park. I think it is my right to go to the beach there, it should not be taken away by some crazy deal that you have made with those wealthy landowners.

Barry Rossington  Santa Barbara ca
Dear Commissioners,

Your proposal to allow only public boat access to the Hollister Ranch beach will create a safety hazard for all but the most experienced boaters. Even they can have problem in this unpredictable ocean. Please at least require allowing non-motorized public access to the beaches so people could hike or bike to the beaches, and so there is a future opportunity for a non-motorized coastal trail.

Thank-you,

Kathleen Phelps
555 Saint Remy Place
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Kathleenrides@gmail.com
Dear Commissioners,

The draft agreement for public access to Hollister Ranch is insufficient to meet the requirements of the charge of the coastal commission. In my humble opinion, allowing only one beach to be opened to the public without any true means of access is a sham of what "access" should be. Please deny this proposal and work on getting full access to all the beaches in Hollister Ranch.

Thank you for your service.

Benjamin Drescher
Goleta, CA 93117
Dear Commissioners,

I cannot quietly sit by and watch the Coastal Commission give up any chance of building the California Coastal Trail along the northern Gaviota Coast. You cannot roll over and play dead on this one! Ever since the Coastal Act, our dream has been a continuous trail along the shore from Goleta to the Guadalupe Dunes and beyond. The agreement with the homeowners not only gives the public virtually nothing, but it would terminally end the trail at Gaviota State Beach. That would crush our hopes, a very depressing prospect.

Sincerely yours,

Otis Calef
Santa Barbara
Dear Commissioners,

Beach access?!!! We’re down to that? Have you thrown in the towel on the coastal trail also? What’s going on here? Time to turn on the lights!

The simple footpath along the shore, open in all tides, on the bluff in most cases, including access to that trail. Not asking much - asking for what the Coastal Act was voted on what 42 years ago - a vote to protect the coastline for all Californians now and into the future. And why did that legislation come about? Because Californians were sick and tired of a few rich kings and queens permanently hogging all the coastline for themselves - exactly what is being proposed at Hollister Ranch.

Do your job. Hollister Ranch is a reality, we all know that. The homeowners out there in paradise are just going to have to share, and have their 100 percent conception of perfection diminished by a couple of hikers or horse riders or beach goers passing by. And there is going to have to be access.

The California Coastal Trail is a world class public facility, on an incomparable shoreline of the great State of California. If we can’t make this happen at Hollister Ranch then the shame on us.

Bob Trimble
Santa Barbara
Dear Commissioners,

I am against the proposed settlement with Hollister Ranch. I have never been to their beaches, nor do I want to go there, but I want to keep California beaches public and accessible. I do hike the PCT and JMT and it would be great to have a CCT, a California Coastal Trail, that actually goes along the coast.

Please reconsider the general impact of your decision,
Angela Rauhut
Dear Coastal Commission,

Please DO NOT approve the skulking agreement between the Calif. Attorney General and Hollister Ranch:

- It would set a precedent that could be used to deny access to more beaches and bluff tops along the coast. When protection of the coast is relinquished it will be impossible to reverse.
- It would be a dead end to our aspirations for the California Coastal Trail through Hollister Ranch and the North Coast of Santa Barbara County--the longest and wildest reach left in California.

Be the California Coastal Commission and DO THE RIGHT THING!

Kevin Snow
980 Tornoe Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
To Whom it May Concern;

I appreciate the effort that you have made thus far and dealing with the homeowners along the California Coast, but with all due respect, even the settlement isn't enough. Coastal Waters are public property. Not only should the public have access, they should be most welcome. Any effort to limit access or to make visitors feel unwelcome should be unlawful.

I am a descendant of the Native Americans that inhabited these lands hundreds of years ago. These lands were stolen, then the Natives served in the military and were paid with their own land, then it was taken from them again. There will never be justice in this situation, but, for the love of all things, just a bit of fairness is a must.

Thank you,

Yvette Clark
I am a member of the Gaviota Coastal Conservancy. We believe that beach access be given to the public to certain portions of the beach at Hollister Ranch. My friend was a member of the Santa Barbara Surf Club in the late 60's which was permitted to use the ranch surf sites. Now, no such privilege is available to any clubs or public for any access to any of the beaches. Since it is a known fact that all beaches are public, how do the owners of property at Hollister have any right to withhold the privilege of using the beaches? I can understand rules about building shacks, having fires, out and out partying on the beaches, but as far as using the beach for swimming, surfing, picnicking - it should be allowed. I hope the upcoming meeting has an outstanding victory for YES for public access!

Dianne Lind
Please do not set precedent against public beach access. Please do not ratify the Hollister agreement. Please stand up for the majority and not the privileged minority in this dispute.

Vicki Cunningham
The restriction of California beaches is basically impossible and morally wrong. There is a guarantee of access to mean winter high tide if nothing else.
I can't believe you are making a deal that gives away our public access. Your job is to make sure ALL the public has access to our beaches. Only those with money can live near our beautiful coast, but everyone is supposed to be able to enjoy our public beaches. Why are you giving away the only way many are able to enjoy this beach. I understand that money talks but your commission is not supposed to hear money, your supposed to protect the public interest. My father, who was a marine biologist for Cal Fish and Game fought the battles with Malibu for years and won, you need to protect public access or we will no longer have public beaches. Do your job! Quit caving in to people who know they have no right to keep the public out, why do they think they can win? Teresa Rankin
Sent from my iPad
Please reconsider the Hollister settlement. Beaches in this country are for all, not just those wealthy individuals who can afford to live there.

Don’t let California beaches become what beaches are in other countries, only for the wealthy.

Don’t open the door to private beaches in our state.

ACCESS for all must be maintained!

Thank you,

Paul Granados
San Gabriel, California

Sent from my iPhone
Keep California's coastline public!

Sandra Madera
Los Angeles, Ca
Keep beach access for the people
And accessible ... by foot, car etc

Wealthy land and home owners are always looking for ways, loop holes and shady ways like simply blocking access like was discovered in Malibu

Keep beaches as access open and accessible for all.

Thank you!

Christian Lorentzen
Santa Barbara Resident
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are an Irish family of 5 who have been fortunate enough to visit Santa Barbara and the surrounding area on a couple of occasions over the past few years. We were tremendously impressed by how California has managed to strike a very reasonable balance between the legitimate needs of residents/visitors and the importance of preserving the environment now and for future generations. Getting the balance right is never easy and was made even more difficult by the considerable challenges California have faced in recent years initially from drought and subsequently from fires and flood.

During these visits we spent a few nights on the Hollister ranch which is a superb example of eco-sensitivity matched with public interest. We know that you have reached an agreement with the residents on certain coastal access issues which will shortly be ratified. The agreement you have reached seems to us to be very fair and reasonable, some compromises on both sides, and is something we would support and encourage you to endorse.

The Hollister Ranch residents have been exemplary stewards of this section of pristine coastline and consequently it remains an essential element of California's ecosystem for the marine life, shore creatures, birds and fauna of the State. Too many other parts of the world's habitats have been damaged by over-intensification of human intervention and is really important that places such as the Hollister coastline remain as sanctuaries in their original state and without buildings, parking lots or similar.

We are looking forward to visiting California again in the near future and also are encouraging our Irish friends and relatives to make it a destination of choice - indeed two families related to us will be spending their summer vacations in California this year based on our recommendation. Therefore our support for the proposed settlement is not just an abstract plea - it is based on real concern for the environment and a love for your wonderful State. We hope you will consider our comments favorably. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

On behalf of our family,

Keith & Elizabeth MacDonald
Dublin
Commissioners:
I have long enjoyed the results of your diligence in protecting our California coast. As a longtime resident of San Diego and southern California (LA, Orange, Riverside) over the years I make it a practice to refresh my body and spirit by swimming, surfing, snorkeling, hiking, diving, camping, strolling and pausing to take in a sunset at our beautiful beaches. Thank you for your diligent service.

This settlement, as I have examined addresses the requirement that public access will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected. And, I believe it is imperative that this work of conservation be rooted in law and that agreements by governing authorities be honored.

I support the settlement and thank you for your ongoing service in protecting our California coast.

Respectfully,

Kevin O’Neil

Kevin O’Neil, CISSP
CYVA Research Corporation
3525 Del Mar Heights Rd., Ste. #327
San Diego, CA 92130

858 793 8100 (direct)
koneil@cyva.com
www.cyva.com

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To Coastal Commission
California has one of the best assets of the country, and it belongs to everyone: the coastline. We, everyone, deserves access to it. It belongs to us. Please preserve that access with a vote that allows us to get to the tide zone in your vote on the Hollister Ranch.
Thank you
Julie Kortum Groves
408-499-1328

Julie Groves, OTRL
Skills for the Art of Living = Occupational Therapy

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TherapyInYourHome.net

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Los Gatos, CA 95030-6335

JulieGroves@TherapyInYourHome.net
Personal email: JulieGroves111@comcast.net

Do your loved ones know your wishes? Could they communicate them for you? If not, visit www.gowish.org and talk to your doctor about a POLST form to ensure your wishes will be followed.

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I walked through Hollister Ranch when I did my coast walk in the 1970s-80s. It is a beautiful and remote area and it would be ashamed if it was lost to the citizens of California. The coast belongs to everybody.

Alan Cook

See “Walking the World: Memories and Adventures”, by Alan Cook, on Amazon Kindle, etc.
I am writing in strong opposition to the settlement that State Lawyers negotiated to allow wealthy landowners to restrict public access to Hollister Ranch beaches. The Coastal Commission has a mandate to preserve public access and complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. Beaches in California belong to all Californians and should not be moved into private hands or have access limited by private landowners. Owning land by the beach should not give the land owner any private rights to the abutting beach. This settlement could have permanent impacts on the ability to complete the trail or hold the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association to previously agreed upon alignments. Please reverse this decision and give the beaches back to all of the public citizens of California.

Thank you.
Shirley Dostal
954 E Poppyfields Drive
Altadena, CA 91001
Dear Commissioners -

Please vote to preserve access to the Coastal Trail. My connection to it may be instructive -

I live in Boston, and have travelled to California with my pack 6 or 7 times in the last decades to hike and camp on the open sections with Coastwalk which is part of the Coastal Trail Association. I have come to your state because of the superb hiking opportunities along your varied and magnificent coastline and I strongly, even fervently, support efforts to make the entire coast open and available to all.

Please vote against the Hollister Ranch Association’s attempt to use money and privilege to deny Californians and lovers of California full access to the treasure you control.

Thank you,
Jane Hans
65 Cornwall Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
It is so important to preserve the California coast availability for all citizens, not just the rich! I have hiked almost all of the coastline, and would like it to be accessible to my grandchildren.

Please do the right thing and vote for preserving it for everyone.

Thank you!

Bea Tielborg
bea0917@gmail.com
Please preserve public access to the Hollister area so that the California Coastal Trail can be completed. When completed, this trail will showcase the natural coastal beauty of the state as the Pacific Crest Trail though California showcases the mountains and deserts.

Your mandate as the Coastal Commission is to preserve public access to the beach. If you have any doubt about the importance of this mission, please visit Oregon and drive along highways 101 and 1. If you see a really pretty place, stop the car and walk down to the beach. Walk for miles on the beach if you feel like it. Think about life. Enjoy the special beauty of this planet where the ocean and the land meet. Feel the salt air. Maybe get your feet wet. Whatever.

Now jump in your car and drive north to Washington. See a nice beach? Don’t bother to get out of your car because it’s probably private access. And if it’s public or a park, you probably can’t walk very far because it will become private access very quickly.

Going to the beach is one of the great pleasures of life. The California Coastal Commission was created so that people from all walks of life and all places in this country could enjoy the California beaches. Please protect our rights.
Dear Sirs,

I have hike almost 1,200 miles trying to walk the California Coastal Trail. I have backpacked for 9 days to finish the Lost Coast portion of the California Coastal Trail. I have walked for hundreds of miles inland because of US government property and military bases which don't allow civilians to enter their restricted areas. I understand their concerns. I don't not understand private landowners being able to restrict public access to their beaches. I have been told that the beaches of California belong to the people of California. I have been a taxpayer or child of a taxpayer here in California for more than 76 years.

Being able to access the beach or road from Gaviota to Jalama Beach would add a wonderful stretch of California Coastal Trail. When I walked the coast some 10 years ago my friend and I saw only 4 other coastal walkers. I don't think the number of people walking the trail would cause much disruption to the owners of Hollister Ranch many of whom probably aren't there much of the year.

Whatever the commission decides I hope it will be left up to review every 10 or 20 years as situations change.

With best wishes for a mutually agreeable decision,
Nancy Nenow
San Diego
Dear Commissioners;

We are relying on you to expand, rather than constrict, the rights of the public to enjoy ALL of the California coastline, along even the most secluded stretches of Hollister Ranch. We are putting our utmost confidence in you for the vote on July 23rd.

Thank you,
Dr. Rebecca Akyuz
Commissioners,

The proposed settlement is a reasonable balance of public and private stewardship of our State’s coastal resources.

I encourage you to ratify without modification the agreement between the State and the Hollister Ranch.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all who actively use our beautiful California shoreline.

Sincerely,

Kit Boise-Cossart
Santa Barbara County
To Whom It May Concern:

As Californians, we must take a good serious look up and down our Southern California coast. Despite the original intentions of the Coastal Act, neither our state, nor our federal government, has succeeded in preserving any significant portion our coastline in its natural state. The few remaining beautiful natural lands of the California coast are now our current endangered species. The last of these lands is still alive and well due to the stewardship and preservation of the historical owners of the Point Conception area. The settlement accomplished by our Coastal Commission should be supported in preservation of those lands.

The Commission needs to honor its commitments. The settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court and was signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General’s office. Those opposing the agreement are asking the State to walk away from its commitments, which will damage the Commission’s ability to reach settlements in the future and tarnish its public image.

Regards,

Arthur Moreau

Arthur S. Moreau
Shareholder and Chief Operating Officer
Klinedinst PC

San Diego 501 W Broadway, Ste. 600
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 239-8131 Ext. 2209 | vCard

Los Angeles 777 S. Figueroa St., Ste. 2800
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have received this e-mail in error, please immediately contact the sender by reply e-mail, telephone, or facsimile.
Commissioners;
Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I grew up on the coast, so I know how important it is to protect the environment of the beach.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

Please consider this email when making your decision.

Thank you.

Rebecca Artis
Coastal access belongs to all Californians. Please do not let a handful of millionaires spoil this for the rest of us!!

Thank you,

Susan North
323.661.0226
It's becoming more and more confusing when it comes to understanding whom should coastal commission serve to. Is it to elected few or is to the public and public interests.

To deny access to any part of California coast is NOT in public interest. Coast along Hollister Ranch including. Easement had been granted to the coast and it should remain. Members of the Coastal Commission should think before they make decisions that affect the public in a negative manner as in the long run, it will affect them as well. Plus they are not doing what they are required to do. Serve the public.

Placing unreasonable restrictions, denying access, infringes on free enjoyment of our surroundings. The US is slowly becoming a country with standards of 3rd world countries. Police persecute people on beaches for no apparent reason, elected officials are taking liberties with the interpretation of the law, inflicting lasting damage on people of foreign countries but it's own residence as well.

This issue is simple. It should not even be an issue. How can a member of Coastal commission conceive and justify a decision putting limits on and deny access to what's rightfully ours. ??
Regarding Coastal Access at Hollister Ranch,

I am writing to express my opposition to the "Hollister Ranch Limited Access Settlement". I believe you must consider your mandate to preserve public access and complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch as a priority over the interests of those with wealth and privilege.

Thank you,

Adrienne Badella

Sonoma County Coastwalker
Hi CCC -

I have lived and paid taxes in this area since 1981. I went to UCSB and now work at QAD in Summerland. I have been a life long surfer and visited most every beach in CA south of SF. We LIVE for going to the beach and the ocean.

I have been fortunate to spend a considerable amount of time at HR. Never as an owner. My access relied good connections (at times) but mainly via boat, and I have also hiked in from Gaviota at least 50 times over the years. I have scored Razors unbelievably great MANY times. I have benefited from it being exclusive.

However, my current view is there is NO valid reason to fence off an entire region for the benefit of some rich landowners. Do your job and help us finally break down the legal barriers and get access to this great coastline.

I believe it is a total farce they (HR owners) are helping to preserve the coast by limiting access. They literally drive all over the beach and otherwise totally enjoy free reign on perfect beaches and waves. They are NOT friendly to outsiders (boaters, hikers, etc ...) at all. Bunch of spoiled rich babies the way I see it.

PLEASE HELP!

I would love to see public access to this area of the coast before I die.

Thanks,
Bob

----------------------------------------------------
Bob Ward
IT Engineer
QAD Inc.
raw@qad.com
Tel: 805-566-6721
Cel: 805-895-6235
----------------------------------------------------
Hi
I am writing to urge you to allow more access to holisteevranch. The beach belongs to everyone!
Julie and family
--
Dr. Julie Spencer-Rodgers
Associate Professor Department of Psychology and Child Development
Building 47-23F
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Office Hours: Monday 2:00pm-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:00am-11:00am
Please preserve the whole beautiful coast for public access...housing developments should not have priority. Thank You. Valerie Phillips, hiker and coastal trail lover.
I am strongly against any attempt to restrict public access to California beaches. Cities and states across the country are increasing access to rivers, lakes and coastlines as new developments and building licenses are permitted. In this overcrowded world people need the opportunity to have access to as much open space as possible for reasons of both physical and mental health.

Hollister Ranch has enough open space without adding to it at the expense of less fortunate California citizens.

Sincerely, Ron Bromwell
48 Calle Capistrano, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
424 786 7949

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
How absurd it is that anyone's access to the Pacific Coast can be denied by any homeowner living along the beach.

For years I drove to work in Malibu at an exclusive research lab near exclusive homes from Torrance through Venice, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, arriving Malibu. I can choose any of the roads to get to work.

If I were stupid I would drive to Compton CA, park my car there and take the bus to Malibu to work.

I drive to my aunt's house on Hamel Drive Beverly Hills from Torrance to visit her, arriving her house using any streets I wish and park right in front of her house. I should not be required to park far far from her house (like Compton CA) and walk to Hamel Drive Beverly Hills just because I live in Torrance a much lesser neighborhood than Beverly Hills.

Anyone who doesn't understand no collusion of homeowners should be allowed to band together to close off any street access for any neighborhood should be required to take LSAT again. And it includes a 1000 mile long street we call "the Beach".

Stewart Fong Torrance CA.
Hi.

Please do what your agency was created to do and protect unlimited public access to coastal tide lands. Our state is increasingly becoming a place where some people have knowledge, money and access, and other groups do not. Love of and access to our ocean is a universal right. I know it isn't comfortable for everyone, and some people would like to pay to have the comfort of exclusivity. Unfortunately, this is not a correct choice and protecting the right for everyone to be able to easily reach the ocean is your job. Do it well.

Thank you.
Helen Schneider

Sent from BlueMail
To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly object to the agreement with Hollister Ranch that takes away our access to a beach area that belongs to the people of California, and not to the residents of Hollister Ranch. Sure, you gave us access, but we have to take our lives in our hands to try and get there by boat. I'm sure none of the committee members would ever attempt to try that boat trip, but you willingly gave our beach access away to a rich enclave of elites, who have the money to press for non-public access.

Shame on all of you for agreeing to such a give away of our rights to a public beach. As it is now, our beach access in limited enough, just look at what has been done in Malibu, house to house there are fences barring us from the beach that belongs to us, with almost nil access. Thanks for that too.

Again, Shame on all of you.

I'm a very disappointed California resident who loves the beach,

Jill Mallory
To: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION & STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Regarding the Hollister Ranch Settlement

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate because it is fair for the public and it will avoid uncertainty and get done quickly.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Loreen Ebroon

Loreen Ebroon
loriebroon@verizon.net
As a teenager, in the early 1960s, my father and I would scuba in the waters off Hollister Ranch. We belonged to a scuba club, the Ichtyoids, from Vandenberg Air Force Base. Some of the club would go by boat but that was a hair raising journey from Gaviota. It was easier then as there was a boat launch. The rest of us would hike to the Hollister beach. And it was gorgeous!
I think the arrangement that the Coastal Commission made was in error. No one should be denied the ability to go to that beach.
The agreement as it stands now seems to be catering exclusively to the landowners who want the beaches for themselves. We have sufficient haves and have nots in our society. Please don't forsake the people who cannot afford to buy an exclusive beach.
Thank you
Hank Fawcett
7053 White Oak Ave
Reseda, Ca  91335
The State’s legal position in claiming access to the Hollister Ranch under an offer to dedicate in 1982 by the YMCA (who were not even a part of the Hollister Ranch at that time) was very weak and contrary to California Law. Neighbors who have an accessory privilege easement over a neighbor’s property have no legal power to give away a public access easement on his neighbors property. The state would have likely wasted an enormous amount of money only to fail in such a lawsuit.

More importantly, the compromise drafted by the Commission and the Ranch includes increased public access to the marine biology program tailored by Wendy Kruthers over the past 20 plus years which promotes and fosters a greater interest in the marine biology field. Many of her students have complimented the quality of the program and some have gone on to further studies and degrees in marine biology. Some of those individuals whose exposure to the ranch triggered excitement in the biology field are moving forward to post graduate degrees and research which will help to protect the health of the entire West Pacific coastline. This carefully managed program will protect and help to insure that sensitive coastal resources will remain intact and preserved for future generations. This is unlike the situation in southern california where many sensitive ecologic environments and historical artifacts have been permanently damaged or destroyed.

Those opposing this settlement are asking the state to walk away from it’s commitment which will tarnish the commission’s reputation and will damage it’s ability to reach future agreements which protect the marine environment. Thank you Commissioners, for taking a stand to protect our coastal environment and to promote future studies that further our knowledge of these delicate ecosystems along our coast. Sincerely, Arthur C. McLean.
Dear Commissioners,

I have been an avid surfer, diver, and boater for the past four decades here along the California coast. I live in Santa Barbara County and am a regular visitor to its beaches.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement that you entered into with Hollister Ranch with regard to the YMCA offer.

It is my strongly-held opinion that the Hollister Ranch should remain private, as it has for my entire life. I do not own property within the Ranch, but have had the opportunity on occasion to be a guest of an owner. I also, at time, visit the area by boat. I believe that any addition of public access to the property will be harmful to the region. This is one of the last areas of privately-held coastline in the entire state, and it should remain such. I completely agree with the owners’ desire to keep access private. There are enough opportunities to the public to access the nearby coastline, and even to access the areas within the Hollister Ranch by boat.

If anything, the Commission should be looking to open up more access points within Vandenberg Air Force Base - the people in the city of Lompoc have no local beach access for six months per year.

Best,

Will Henry
Commissioners:

I live in Torrance, CA and regularly spend time at beaches on the coast of California. I am a residential real estate appraiser. I also am a surfer and hiker.

I have reviewed various news articles regarding the settlement of the YMCA litigation at Hollister Ranch.

It's my understanding that you are currently accepting comments on the settlement.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement for the following reasons:

— It is a basic matter of property law that a person cannot grant an easement over someone else’s property.

That’s what the YMCA did when it purported to grant an easement over Hollister Ranch common area.

— Thus the case is a LOSING CASE for the State, and the consideration gained by the State in the settlement is far better than could be expected if the matter went to trial.

— The State should stop wasting taxpayer money on a failing case.

Thank you for your service to California.

BILL LANDERS
Torrance, CA
The Hollister Ranch are excellent stewards of their environment. I’m for public access for nearly every other situation except here. Preserve and protect. Honor the settlement.

John D. Thomas
Executive Advisor
Cubic Corporation
Direct: (858) 505-2989
Cell: (858) 864-2237
Jay.Thomas@Cubic.Com
Dear Coastal Commisioners:

In order to complete the Coastal Trail, the citizens of California need to have complete access to the Trail at Hollister Ranch. It is your mandate to preserve the public access. Thank you for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcia Johnson

Marcia Johnson
Sebastopol, CA 95472
owlsnesttwo@att.net
Dear Coastal Commission, I am contacting the Commission to remind them of their mandate to preserve public access and complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. The proposed settlement could have permanent impacts on the ability to complete the trail or hold the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association to previously agreed upon alignments.

As California citizens we must ensure the right of all people public access to our coast. Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely, Gail Williams, 6151 Berkshire Way, Paradise, CA 95969
Dear Coastal Commission,

I stand on the position of preserving access to the California Coastal trail without restrictions to visitors and the general public. It would be lovely if everyone could afford a large chunk of California beach-front property but there isn't enough beach front left to own. It's not right for a few to restrict beach trails for the many so I oppose the limited access settlement at Hollister Ranch.

Regards,

Arlene Encell
I haven't yet hiked the entire coastal trail. However, the parts I have hiked are unique and truly wonderful. What exhilarating and healing experiences those hikes have been.

Please keep the entire coastal trail open for me, my children and now, also for my grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Grant Syphers, MD
Please, please continue to work for assess to complete the Coastal Trail. I have supported this for over 12 years by donations and hiking parts that are finished. Keep the public in mind when agreements are crafted and not just the monied folks. This is our future and we must keep the coast open to all as is mandated within law.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Stare
As a senior, I find the Hollister Ranch Settlement lacking in its public access. Just allowing access from the sea is not sufficient in the public's best interest. Land access must be included.

Thank you
Darrel Wilson
1176 Granito Dr
Ojai, Ca 93023
Hi,

The beach is supposed to belong to everyone. This proposed class action settlement agreement will make it difficult for many and impossible for some (the old, the very young and the infirm) to access the beach.

And, putting aside how difficult and limiting the proposed settlement agreement will make access for many people, have you considered the dangers involved?

Who will be responsible if someone is hurt (or killed) while attempting to get to the beach via the water? If it can be shown that definitive dangers were known before the settlement agreement was instituted, then it is possible the Coastal Commission will find itself on the wrong end of a lawsuit.

Please don't institute this highly flawed and dangerous settlement agreement.

Thank you,

Eban Lehrer.
I am writing to express my support of the agreement your reached with The Hollister Ranch and the YMCA. I am an avid surfer and beach hiker and feel in awe of the beauty and solitude of that stretch of beach. Sincerely, Michael Samko
Dear Commissioners,

I’m writing to let you know that I share your desire to protect California’s coast. I live in Santa Barbara and one of my favorite places to be is on the beach and surfing in the ocean, some might even call it an obsession. Over the past several years I’ve watched my kids come to share this enthusiasm for our oceans and beaches which has been one of the most rewarding parts of my life. Unfortunately, as you well know, beaches throughout California are victims of land development, urban runoff and littering from plastics.

Having had the opportunity to visit the beaches of Hollister Ranch has provided my family with a window into the past and inspiration for the future. Hollister Ranch is a much welcomed respite from the issues that other coastal areas struggle with. The carefully preserved lands of Hollister are what make it special and it is important to continue this tradition for future generations.

The lengthy and thoughtful consideration by the Coastal Commission led choosing best option for the the coastal zone, the state, and the people. It is in the long term interest of these lands to balance both protection and use. The settlement agreed upon strikes the right balance between the two.

Thank you for you commitment to such an important mission and I support the settlement.

Sincerely,

Woody Sears
Honorable Coastal Commissioners,

As a long-time surfer and former resident of the Central Coast (San Luis Obispo), I strongly object and urge you to reject the proposed Settlement Agreement with the Hollister Ranch Owners Association. The Settlement Agreement is inconsistent with the California Constitution and the Coastal Act. (Cal Const. Art. X, Section 4, Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 30210, 30211, 30212, 30214 & 30610.8) It provides minimal access only on very restrictive terms, and only to people who can afford a boat, or are part of an underserved community. Surfers with common means will be excluded from Hollister Ranch, unless they are willing to paddle 2-4 miles against strong currents. For all practical purposes, the settlement will waive and violate the Legislature’s intent encompassed in Public Resources Code 30610.8, which, in relevant part, states:

(a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that a dispute exists at the Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County with respect to the implementation of public access policies of this division and that it is in the interest of the state and the property owners at the Hollister Ranch to resolve this dispute in an expeditious manner. The Legislature further finds and declares that public access should be provided in a timely manner and that in order to achieve this goal, while permitting property owners to commence construction, the provisions of this section are necessary to promote the public’s welfare.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State Coastal Conservancy and the State Public Works Board utilize their authority provided under law to implement, as expeditiously as possible, the public access policies and provisions of this division at the Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County.

(Public Resources Code § 30610.8 (emphasis added).)

Consistent with the Public Access Policies of the Coastal Act, dry land pedestrian access should be provided to the public, while perhaps limiting the number of people that can access the parcel on a daily basis. (Pub. Res. Code § 30214.) This could be accomplished easily through having a marked trail and controlled pre-registered access granted on a first come, first served basis. Consistent with the original OTD and the Coastal Act, the number of people permitted to access the trail and the beach could be limited to 50 per day. (Pub. Res. Code § 30210.) A coastal trail running from Gaviota State Beach to Jalama State Beach would be consistent with the Coastal Act and non-impactful to the residents and environment. The proposed Settlement Agreement constitutes a complete waiver of rights and is inconsistent with the Coastal Act.

A. Public Access Proposed in the Settlement Does not Provide Feasible Public Access
The Settlement provides a license for 3,880 linear feet of beach for public use, but no feasible access to such parcel. This essentially maintains the status quo, because the public has always had the right to walk along the beach below the mean high-tide line, and because the mean high-tide line has never been established at Hollister Ranch, there was no legal means of prosecuting people for trespassing at the beach at Hollister Ranch. While the HROA offer to provide a “license” resolving a theoretical legal problem of trespassing on the beach, in reality, it provides very little practical benefit to the people of California, when such access is only available by boat.

I have been an avid surfer for over 25 years. I have traveled and surfed throughout most of California Coast from Humboldt County to San Diego. I lived in San Luis Obispo County for approximately seven years. I currently live in San Diego. During my time living in San Luis Obispo County, I surfed Jalama State Beach just to the north of Hollister Ranch numerous times. I have also surfed Refugio and El Capitan State Beaches on very large swells. I have never surfed what is infamously known as “The Ranch” due to unreasonable barriers to access.

The Ranch consists of approximate seven point and reef breaks, stretching from Government Point to below Drakes. Large northwest swell wraps around Point Conception, which results in well-organized waves that provide both good barrels and long walls for turning. Of particular importance, Point Conception will block the northwest wind, making the conditions ideal for surfing well after other areas become “blown out” by onshore winds. For example, Jalama, to the north of Point Conception, is routinely blown out by 9 am by the onshore winds. The Gaviota Coast to south, while enjoying favorable wind conditions, is so sheltered by its southward orientation and the Channel Islands that the waves are 50% or more smaller than North of Point Conception.

The Ranch is very special to surfing. It is understandable that those who own even a fractional interest in even one of the parcels of the Ranch would like to keep the public from sharing the waves at the Ranch. However, such economic localism is not acceptable under the Coastal Act. No one owns the waves. Unfortunately, the settlement locks in the status quo of exclusive barriers to public access that have served to exclude surfers over the last 50 years.

Existing access is extremely difficult. The easiest access from Gaviota State Beach is to walk along the railroad tracks, which is probably not legal, but at least Amtrak does not actively patrol the area. Unfortunately, from what I understand, the guards will threaten to arrest anyone who steps off of the railroad easement. Thus, while tempting, it is a serious risk to attempt to gain access to the Ranch via the railroad easement. Trespassing and dodging allegedly armed and hostile guards is not inviting when the core purpose of surfing is to relax and immerse yourself in nature.

Walking to the Ranch below the mean high tide line is not feasible either. The coastline just north of Gaviota State Beach is extremely steep, and if there is a significant swell running (which is what surfers seek) it is not possible to remain below the high-tide line because of waves hitting the shoreline. Further, walking a couple of miles in a wetsuit is physically difficult as well, as walking extended distances will create wetsuit rash. So, Joe Public surfer has a choice to wear clothes that are likely to get wet or a wetsuit that will chafe the skin.
Similarly, paddling two miles on a surfboard is not feasible either, particularly if you ride a short board. Shortboards, which are generally below 7’2”, are made for quick maneuvers on the wave. They are not designed for long distance paddling. Paddling for long distances may result in chaffing in the underarm region. The resulting muscle fatigue (aka burn-out) from such a long paddle would make the quick power and acceleration necessary to get into a wave near impossible to generate. After a two-mile paddle, the ability to effectively surf good waves is greatly diminished. It would be akin to running a half marathon, then trying to compete in the 100 meter dash. Even a highly conditioned athlete would not be able to give a peak performance. Such challenge is impossible for the average surfer.

Finally, requiring a boat for “public” access is the opposite of providing “low-cost visitor serving facilities”. (Pub. Res. Code § 30213.) Only those wealthy enough to afford a boat will be able to feasibly access the Ranch. Furthermore, it cannot be just any boat. Only soft-bottom boats of 12 feet or less are permitted to access the license area. (Public Access License Agreement § 2(xii).) Since many high-quality Zodiac style boats are in excess of 12 feet, such license condition further reduces access.

B. The Settlement Provides the Hollister Ranch Owners Association With Unlimited Discretion to Exclude Surfers From the Managed Access Program.

The Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program is limited two exclusive categories that almost categorically excludes avid surfers. The Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program is limited to the “Tidepool School Program” supervised by the HROA and the Non-Profit Access Program. (Settlement ¶ 1.11.) The Tidepool Program consists of “K-12th grade children who are granted access to observe tidepools on Hollister Ranch for educational purposes.” (Settlement ¶ 1.19.) By definition, surfing is not included.

The second category for the Managed Access Program is for “certain Approved Non-Profit Groups.” (Settlement ¶ 1.12.) The language of the Settlement makes it clear that it is not just any non-profit that would qualify, but a non-profit with “a mission to provide services to individuals” (Settlement ¶ 1.3.) This language excludes many non-profits like the Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club. The Surfrider Foundation’s mission statement states,

“The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network.”

Technically, Surfrider’s mission is not to serve individuals, but to protect and enjoy the ocean, waves and beaches. Based on the language in the Settlement Agreement, the Surfrider Foundation would be excluded and could not qualify as an approved non-profit. Likewise, the Sierra Club, whose mission is “to promote the preservation, protection and enjoyment of California’s environment” would not qualify. Both of these highly respected non-profit organizations that both protect the natural resources and encourage their members to enjoy nature would be excluded by the Settlement Agreement. If it is not the intention of the parties to exclude these groups, then the language in the Settlement Agreement must be changed.
To make it even less likely that a group of surfers will be approved, any non-profit must be “vetted and approved by both the Plaintiff and the Coastal Conservancy”. In fact, the Settlement explicitly states, “both the Plaintiff and the Coastal Conservancy shall have the power to disapprove a group, for any reason, at any time.” (Settlement ¶ 1.3.) This creates unlimited discretion to discriminate to the exclusion of surfers, regardless of whether they meet all the other criteria to qualify as an “Approved Non-Profit.”

Furthermore, most non-profit groups will not be able to qualify. The many requirements for the non-profit, include:

1. Formal non-profit or not-for-profit corporate structure
2. operational track record
3. financial responsibility (above and beyond the 1,000,000 liability insurance),
4. a mission to provide services to individuals such as the disabled, children, or underserved populations who would benefit from therapeutic, recreational, and/or educational experiences to the coast,
5. history of successful and close management/supervision of similar activities

The Coastal Commission should evaluate whether non-profit organizations can meet the vague criteria set forth in the Settlement. (Settlement ¶ 1.3) What does operational track record mean? (Exclude newly formed or young non-profit organizations?) What does financial responsibility mean? (Exclude non-profit organizations that have less than $50,000 in reserve?) How much does it cost to obtain 1,000,000 in liability insurance? Is it reasonable to require a small non-profit to provide $1,000,000 in liability insurance for a single day of access that may be only 4 hours? It would appear that only very large established non-profits would potentially qualify, and only if the HROA approved – which they could disapprove for any reason.

Surfers are one category of people that most use the coast, and most likely to be in a position to use the aquatic resources at the Ranch. Adult able-bodied surfers typically do not fall under the categories of “disabled, children or underserved populations”. The Coastal Act was enacted to protect surfing. (See Pub. Res. Code § 30220.) Entering into a Settlement Agreement designed to exclude surfers, without any legally appropriate justification, violates the Coastal Act.

C. The Extreme Limitations on the Time, Circumstances and Number of Opportunities Destroys any Semblance of a “Public Access Program.”

The Managed Access Program includes twenty-four “opportunities” for the Tidepool School Program and seven opportunities for the non-profit access program. (Settlement ¶ 4.2, 4.3.) An “opportunity” means an offer to allow 20 people access to the beach that is accepted. (Settlement 1.13.) If more than 40 people are offered an opportunity for public access, it counts as two “opportunities.” Similarly, if 60 people are offered an opportunity for public access, it counts as three opportunities. (Id.)

Thus, theoretically, the HROA could comply with the Managed Access Program requirements in a day and half by offering an “Approved Non-Profit” managed access to the beach over three four-hour timeslots for 60 people at a time. Pursuant to the Settlement, the
HROA could limit the number of members of the public with access to 140 people (two groups of 60 people, and one group of 20 people = 7 opportunities). It is unclear whether the calculation of “opportunities” also applies to the Tidepool School Program. But, if it did, then educational access could be restricted to eight days a year.

The fact that the settlement seeks to give an advantage to the HROA for accepting up to 60 people, demonstrates that groups as big as 60 can be safely accommodated at the 3,880 feet of linear beach without an adverse impact to the environment. Such fact is also supported by the OTD recorded by the YMCA permitting access up to 50 people a day. To limit access to approximately 680 people from 8-44 days a year is not necessary for environmental protection or privacy. After five years, when 20 opportunities exists for “Approved Non-Profits”, less than 1,000 people will gain access to the Ranch per year.

Further, under the Settlement Agreement, access may be cancelled at Plaintiff’s sole discretion to determine whether conditions are inappropriate for public access at a given time. (Settlement ¶ 1.13.) What this means is that even if a surfing oriented non-profit, such as the Save the Waves Coalition or Surfing Environmental Alliance, was granted an opportunity by the Hollister Ranch Owners Association, the HROA could cancel the “opportunity” based on large, ideal wave conditions. Of course, the HROA would likely minimize opportunities for surf oriented non-profits by avoiding granting “opportunities” during the winter, or more likely, simply denying such groups “approved non-profit” status.

While safety is a legitimate concern, injury and death from surfing is very rare, particularly considering the number of surfers and the wide range of skills. Surfers typically self-select conditions and waves within their skill set. In addition, there is little to no risk of legal liability of surfing accidents. (Gov. § 831.7.) The HROA Managed Access Program, assuming it could obtain non-profit status, would be protected from liability. (Gov. Code § 831.5.)

D. The Settlement Provides a Taxpayer’s Windfall to the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association to Maintain a Private, Extremely Limited Access Program with No Method of Public Oversight.

The Settlement provides that the Coastal Conservancy shall fund the Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program. (Settlement ¶ 4.6) The “Hollister Ranch in lieu fee program”, which is unbelievably inadequate, does not even have $300,000 after thirty years of operation. There are no controls on what is funded, as long as it is somehow related to the Managed Access Program, and the fund will be quickly depleted. After the fund is depleted, the Managed Access Program will need to be funded, in perpetuity, by taxpayers for almost no public benefit.

The Settlement will likely will create an enormous windfall to the Hollister Ranch Owners Association. The HROA will hire personnel or fund an existing employee to draw up a Managed Access Plan and manage it. Such work will drain down and exhaust the accumulated in-lieu fees that offer the only readily available funds for a robust access program for the public. There are no deliverable requirements or spending limits. There is no requirement in the Settlement Agreement that the budget for the Managed Access Program be approved by the Coastal Conservancy. The settlement is ripe (and almost designed) for abuse.
For example, the Managed Access Program requires a baseline survey of resources and facilities that will be used or affected by the Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program. (Settlement 4.4.) Such baseline survey could easily run $100,000, depleting one-third of the Hollister Ranch in lieu fee funds.

In addition, based on the baseline survey, the HROA may conclude that certain infrastructure improvements are necessary for the Managed Access Program. (Settlement Agreement ¶ 4.4.) There is nothing in the Settlement Agreement that delineates who is going to pay for these infrastructure improvements, including permitting and construction. In addition, any “necessary” improvements for the Management Access Program will be permanent improvements that will be for the benefit of the HROA and its members for 300 days a year, and only benefit the public for a maximum of 44 “opportunities”.

The Managed Access Program requires the HROA to meet annually to discuss the access program. There is no limit on how many people or what type of personnel may attend and whether such meetings will be funded by the Coastal Conservancy. The HROA could easily justify having attorneys review and attend (at $300-$500 per hour), and have the preparation and travel expenses paid by the Hollister Ranch in lieu fee funds.

In addition, the taxpayers may be obligated to pay for the HROA security for a substantial part of the year, despite the lack of public access. Assuming that only one opportunity is granted per managed access day, the Taxpayers could be paying for 44 days of security, or more than 1/10th of the HROA’s yearly budget on security. There is nothing the Settlement Agreement that limits the Coastal Conservancy to pay only the increased cost of security to the Managed Access Plan.

There are so many unknowns and risks to the public that any agreement to compensate the HROA for running the Managed Access Program will create an unreviewable blank check. It is almost assured that the Hollister Ranch In-Lieu Fee account will be depleted within 5 years leaving an uncertain budget for the program. There is no contingency set forth in the Settlement Agreement describing what occurs if the Managed Access Program is unfunded or underfunded by the legislature and agency budgets.

E. The Lack of Funding Will Create a Material Breach of the Agreement that Will Relieve the Hollister Ranch Owners Association from the Duty to Provide a Managed Access Program.

The Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program requires funding through the Hollister Ranch in-lieu fee program and other Coastal Commission funds that support increased access. Because it is predictable that $300,000 in the Hollister Ranch in-lieu fee program will be depleted in the near future, the Commission should analyze whether the Managed Access Program would significantly diminish the availability of funds for other public access needs throughout California’s 1,100 miles of coast. The size, mission, current and future financial obligations of the Coastal Resources Enhance Fund are not disclosed in the Settlement Agreement or disclosed in publically available material. (Settlement Agreement ¶ 4.6.) Such information is critical for public review and comment on the Settlement.

The Settlement Agreement states that the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy, both chronically underfunded agencies, “will make good faith efforts to support the funding of the Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program.” (Settlement Agreement ¶}
Without a careful cost benefit analysis based on enforceable budget limitations, the Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission may discover that funding the Managed Access Program costs more than buying hotel rooms on the coast for underserved families. Because the Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program will benefit less than 1,000 people per year, it is likely that the Coastal Conservancy and/or Legislature will decide to underfund or eliminate funding the program.

The Staff Report implies in a footnote that $1,000,000 in funds for public access is available from the County of Santa Barbara. However, the County of Santa Barbara has no obligation to share such funds with the Coastal Conservancy or support the Hollister Ranch Managed Access Plan. Because the County of Santa Barbara is a party to the HROA lawsuit, if it is willing to dedicate such funds to the Managed Access Program, such condition should set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Without some sort of enforceable agreement to share such funds, the Coastal Commission cannot consider such funds as potentially supporting the managed access plan. The Coastal Commission must assume that there is only $300,000 in funds available which will be quickly depleted.

Despite this glaring problem with funding, there is no contingency set forth in the Settlement Agreement addressing what will occur when the Managed Access Program is underfunded or unfunded. There is no promise by the HROA to continue the Managed Access Program despite lack of funding. It is predictable that the HROA will seek to reduce access or even eliminate access if sufficient funding is not available.

If anything, the Settlement Agreement provides a method for the HROA to cancel the entire agreement if the Managed Access Program is underfunded. The Settlement Agreement states, “If any material provision hereof is deemed unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the Agreement as a whole shall be deemed terminated and null and void.” Thus, if the Managed Access Program is underfunded, the HROA could either not comply with the Managed Access Program requirements, or could sue the Coastal Conservancy for the lack of funding. If the court found that the Managed Access Program requirements were unenforceable for any reason, the Settlement Agreement would be null and void. The public would have no access and no recourse.

**F. CONCLUSION**

The Settlement Agreement is not only inconsistent with the Coastal Act, but it grants a huge windfall to the Hollister Ranch Owner’s Association. It expressly waives and quit claims the public’s right to the Offer to Dedicate accepted by the Coastal Conservancy in 2013, in exchange for a settlement that does little more than maintain the status quo. It guarantees payment for a survey, improvements and management of a Managed Access Program for almost no benefit to the public and no controls on spending. It is almost certain that the Managed Access Program, which provides extremely limited access to an extremely narrow category of people, will quickly deplete any funding sources. Once depleted, the Managed Access Program may cease to exist.

Finally, the Coastal Act specifically protects water oriented activities such as surfing. (Pub. Res. Code § 30220.) A Settlement Agreement that is designed to exclude surfers is not consistent with the Coastal Act. The risks of rejecting the Settlement is small. A court loss on enforcing the OTD will simply maintain the status quo. Approving the Settlement will waive any chance of opening access at Hollister Ranch for the foreseeable future. Settlement
in this case will be a betrayal of people of California.

Sincerely,

Todd T. Cardiff, Esq.

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The proposed settlement provides totally inadequate access to the public. Allowing access to a very limited portion of the beach only by water places the public at risk, facing potentially dangerous conditions due to wind and water conditions common in the area. Forcing the public to risk their lives to access the coast, which is supposed to be a right of all people, violates the spirit and intent of the California Coastal Act.

Lorraine Woodman PhD
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER V
CARDNO

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Dear Coastal Commission Members,

I am writing in opposition to the settlement agreement between the Hollister Ranch Owners’ Association (HROA) and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and respectfully request that the CCC reconsider its approval of the agreement.

I have been boating into the Hollister and Bixby Ranches since 1975, including the last 20 years using my own small boat launched from the pier at Gaviota State Park. I have experienced seas where swells and waves have exceed 15’, winds in excess of 25 knots, sudden changes in winds from sideshore (west northwest) to offshore (north), and crossed up seas due to Santa Anas driving windswell out of Oxnard towards Gaviota in combination with west swells all of which make for extremely difficult and potentially hazardous boating conditions. One of my kids experienced the risks of this area when he was 18 kayaking with a friend and the friend’s father from Gaviota State Park up to San Augustine. They launched in the morning with smooth conditions, adequate food and safety gear, and a favorable weather report. All were in good physical condition and were experienced boaters. After several surf sessions, they paddled back towards the Gaviota Pier in seas that had changed due to the prevailing wind. As they got
closer to the pier, the wind changed to due north and they began to struggle to maintain their course. The friend capsized and began to be blown out to sea. My son paddled to him until his Dad could reach them and the three managed to get to shore against the offshore wind and difficult swell conditions. While ultimately all were safe, though exhausted, the outcome could have been much worse.

As the settlement is currently constructed, the agreement fails to provide effective public access to the YMCA property at Hollister Ranch, while incentivizing actions that will substantially increase risks to public safety. Limiting the general public to accessing the property solely via ocean fails to recognize the dangers inherent at that stretch of the Gaviota coastal marine environment and that very few members of the public have sufficient skill and knowledge to safely transit from the Gaviota State Park to the YMCA property. Unprepared, ill-equipped, and insufficiently fit members of the public who attempt to access the property by sea will be at risk of being capsized, blown out to sea, suffer from hypothermia, and injured in an environment where resources for rescue are scarce and difficult to implement.

The settlement also voids public access via the existing road, which is substantially safer than access by sea and diverts public money that is intended to be used for the California Coastal Trail and to increase coastal access in this region to
fund the transportation of an extremely limited special population of school children, disabled, and underserved members of the public to the YMCA property. While this small group of individuals may benefit from such access, there is little rationale for using the public funds to benefit such a small group of Californians instead of all Californians who may wish to access this part of the California coast via a coastal trail. Furthermore, including a provision in the settlement that access will be terminated if there is a condemnation of land for the California Coastal Trail is a travesty of the purposes of the California Coastal Act.

I urge you to revisit this settlement agreement and develop an agreement that provides wide public access to the YMCA property in a safe manner.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Brown
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Dear Mr. Ainsworth and Commissioners:

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) respectfully submits the attached comments regarding the Hollister Ranch settlement agreement.

Best regards,

Morgan Patton | Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)
PO Box 609 | Point Reyes Station, CA | 94956
Office: (415) 663-9312
Cell: (415) 912-8188
Email: morgan@eacmarin.org

Working to protect and sustain the lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin since 1971.
June 30. 2018

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I keep hearing about the volume of mail from people upset about the settlement with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA decision. It has been a very contentious issue for a long time. I am writing to voice my support for what you have done to help settle it.

I do not own property in Hollister Ranch. I do not own property anywhere. I am a surfer, and a hiker, and a lover of the coastline here in Santa Barbara County where I live. I do have the good fortune of having visited both the then Bixby Ranch (now the Dangermond Preserve) and the adjacent Hollister Ranch as a guest. Both are extremely remarkable stretches along the Gaviota coast that should be protected.

I believe the Hollister Ranch folks have been, for the most part, good stewards of the land since the association was formed and the Coastal Commission existed. Thank goodness for both because there were different plans to develop it that would have destroyed what we still have of the un-trampled coastline there.

The previous owners of the Dangermond bought it not to preserve it, but to capitalize on it. There were bad land management practices going on that have been stopped and the owners punished. Thank goodness for the Nature Conservancy, its donors, and the Coastal Commission for rescuing and preserving a natural treasure.

I support protecting shoreline public access and the protection of natural resources. I applaud when justice is served on someone who illegally blocks what was legally open. What one does with or on one’s own property should not have a negative impact on one’s neighborhood or neighbors.

I believe that the public’s public property rights should be respected I believe as well that a property owner’s private property rights should be respected. It’s a matter of what is right and doing what is right.

It is right that the parties settled the issue in agreement and by due process. That case has gone unsettled for decades. The more you know about the case, the more complicated it gets. Contrary to what some dissenters say, it does not sound so cut and dried to me.

Without a lawyer’s involvement and understanding in the case, it is hard to argue what was right or wrong about the decision on the merits of case. I’m not a lawyer and I don’t claim to know all the facts. The papers are reporting a lot of letters of dissent regarding the decision (at least 800 so far, compared to a handful of support.) Emotion is being stirred up, and rage, without all the facts. I want here to express a voice of support for the decision and dissent from the dissent.
I don’t share the idea that everyone is entitled to convenient access to the coastline along the entire California coast if it violates or takes away anyone’s legal personal rights who already owns property in the coastal zone. I believe some lands are better served, preserved and enjoyed when difficult to reach. We need to protect those places too, because so much beauty gets "loved' to death by too many people. (Think Yosemite in the summertime.)

The Nature Conservancy provides a good model for protecting and preserving the land while providing managed access. Any rightful access, either granted or earned on the Hollister, should be managed like the Dangermond to protect and preserve the uniqueness of the area.

There is always a way, though not convenient, to enjoy the beauty and recreation of the coastline along the Gaviota coast. If I were never allowed to experience either the Dangermond or the Hollister by land again, but knew that both lands would remain protected by responsible stewardship, this would be fine by me. I want to thank you for your part in preserving and protecting our precious resources along the entire California coastline.

Best regards,

George "Duke" Howard

Carpinteria, CA.
Please honor and enforce this extremely important agreement.

For over fifty years now my family and I have appreciated and helped preserve the unique and pristine nature of the Hollister Ranch.

This settlement helps to maintain and conserve this natural wildlife habitat and nearby marine resources which are all extremely important.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Best regards,

Robert and Suzanne Ratcliffe

Sue Ratcliffe Tel. (805) 687-2618
Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the settlement you have reached regarding the YMCA offer to dedicate. Not only is the legal position related to the original lawsuit contrary to California property law, a settlement has already been carefully negotiated which seems fair to all involved.

The unspoiled treasure of the Gaviota coastline should be protected as it is quickly becoming the last of its kind in California. The general public may not realize the limited use of the property, even by its owners. Strict internal rules govern the private and common use areas. The owners pay to maintain the surface roads and common areas.

Something else to consider is how to deal with the litter that more people on the property would create, not to mention the lack of restrooms. It seems a shame to jeopardize the fragile nature of the beaches with more traffic into the area.

I would also point out there are three state parks surrounding the Hollister property: Jalama, Refugio, and El Capitan, which are available to the public and offer the same biodiversity and coastline as well as public services including food, restrooms, and ample parking.

In closing, I hope the commission respects the negotiated settlement the Attorney General's office, State Coastal conservancy, and the Coastal Commission has reached. Doing otherwise could jeopardize future settlements.

Thank you for your consideration.

A concerned citizen of Santa Barbara County

Sent from my iPad
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in San Diego County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I am an avid hiker, fisherman, and just love this precious part of our coast. It should however be left as is. For 4 years there has been litigation over this and it was decided with a settlement from your offices. It’s Confusing ,and disturbing that this is still back in question.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. It makes sense, it was litigated in great length ,and allows a precious part of our coast some needed protection for generations to come. Thank you for your service to California. Tim Flannery
715 Hymettus Ave.
Encinitas, Calif 92024

Sent from my iPad
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in San Francisco County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I am an avid kite surfer and hiker.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.

Objections to the settlement are driven by two fundamental misconceptions:

1) Ignorance of the terms of the YMCA Offer to Dedicate, its very limited scope, and its impracticality; and

2) Ignorance of the litigation issues and reasons why the State agreed to the settlement.

To help you compose your message, we suggest you focus on one or more (not all) of the following key points. Use your own wording and phrasing as much as possible:

● The lawsuit with the Hollister Ranch is complicated, risky, and had an uncertain outcome for the State. The Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy did the right thing by settling.

● The Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy staff and Attorney General’s office were diligent over four years litigating the case and in the year that produced the carefully negotiated settlement. The Commission should continue to support their staff’s advice and support the settlement.

● The State’s legal position – claiming public access rights in Hollister Ranch under the Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA (a then neighbor of Hollister Ranch) – was contrary to 100 years of California property law. A neighbor who only holds an appurtenant easement over his neighbor’s property has no legal power to give away a public access easement (or license) on his neighbor’s property.

● Even if the State had prevailed in the case, it would not have achieved as much as the settlement provides. Access would have been dependent upon unfunded transit service and passage through a dangerous, unsuitable drainage tunnel to the beach.

● The settlement seems to provide the best option. The public
access required will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.

- The Commission needs to honor its commitments. The settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court and was signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General’s office.

- The settlement commits the State to stand by the agreement and imposes a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it.

- Those opposing the settlement are asking the State to walk away from its commitments, which will damage the Commission’s ability to reach settlement in the future and tarnish its public image.

Thank you for your service to California.

=-Steven J Hubbard

Again, your email is more powerful if you personalize it, so please do so. Duplicative emails are discounted by Commissioners and staff.

--

STEVEN HUBBARD
contact@nationalflashback.com
nationalflashback.com • 415.359.7606
171 Fair Oaks #4
San Francisco, CA 94130
From: Carol Sanders
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Complete Hollister Ranch Trail
Date: Saturday, July 07, 2018 12:24:00 PM

Please preserve public access and complete the trail, holding HO for Hollister Ranch agreement valid. Thank you.
Carol Sanders
Voter and Supporter for the California Coast
1216 moss rock ct
Santa Rosa ca 95404
While I appreciate the spirit of the Hollister Ranch family and the parks people to acquire this marvelous piece of land, it should not sacrifice the long held dream and ever closer to reality of a complete coastal trail from border to border with public access. That trail is as priceless as the PCT and John Muir Trail and irreplaceable unique bequest to all Californians and visitors both domestic and foreign. Please work out a deal that preserves this unique resource. Marilyn Morrish, 1867 Glen view Dr. Walnut Creek CA 94595.
Dear Commissioners,
I am a current resident of Goleta & Marine Biology graduate of UCSB (1984), as well as avid fisherman, sport diver, surfer & nature enthusiast & past Channel Islands National Park Service volunteer.
I wish to commend you for the recent settlement plan reached regarding The Hollister Ranch and YMCA Offer to Dedicate.
Having frequented nearly every stretch of coast along central & southern CA, it is very clear to me that The Hollister Ranch remains one of the last virtually intact areas of coastal habitat containing thriving ecosystems of flora & fauna from the lower sub tidal into the upper coastal chaparral left to be found in all of Southern California.
It seems this sensitive area has been carefully well managed when compared to any other for this to be so clearly seen.
I urge you to continue to support the settlement & your commitment to preserve & protect our coast for the sake of the many creatures that call it home & future generations of our children to be able to see what was once everywhere.
Kind regards,
Ted Booth

Sent from my iPhone
The current proposed access settlement is a terrible idea. The public needs much better access than in the current proposal.
I too protest the current settlement. Do the right thing and send everybody back to the bargaining table!

Thomas Craven
Wood Finishers
TCWoodFinishers.com
(805) 341-7713
15746 Arminta Street
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Commissioners,
I appreciate your commitment to making sure the beaches in California are kept pristine and not trashed.

I live here in Santa Barbara and have been out to Hollister a few times. Hollister Ranch and it’s beaches are truly a testament to the preservation and protection of sensitive coastal resources.

There is no denying that the more public access given, the environment, animal life and marine life will be harmed.

Susan Jordan surely knows that there are three State Parks along the coast just minutes away from Hollister where the public, including teachers, schoolchildren, underserved youth and vets can visit anytime.

Please don’t allow Jordan to attempt to play on your emotions. She obviously isn’t considering the very sensitive nature of protecting Cuerta beach, it’s wildlife and marine life. School children can go “tide-pooling” on dozens of other beaches in Gaviota and Santa Barbara. Tide-pooling kills marine life when children step on starfish, crabs and other marine life. Why allow this to happen to Cuerta beach?

The settlement which took months to be agreed upon will be carefully managed to make sure Cuerta beach remains pristine so that wild life and marine life can flourish.

The settlement allows public access but makes sure that Cuerta Beach and other beaches in Hollister Ranch are preserved and protected.

Thank you for honoring your commitment to the settlement that so many people worked diligently on for months. Please don’t go back on your word.

Thank You,
Pamelyn Ferdin
Please say no. No matter how little you think you are giving up (YMCA access=hope) what you are getting in return is worthless. The Hollister Ranch Association should not be permitted to paint themselves as reasonable and cooperative. I have been aware of the Ranch Police Nation for over 30 years. They were never reasonable and they will never voluntarily become reasonable. Don't reward their outrageous exclusivity claim. I have lived and worked as an attorney in Santa Barbara since 1979. I was born and raised in Ventura (as was my mother). I graduated from UCSB (as did my mother). My father worked in SB — Seaside Oil during the 1950's. We have camped at Refugio (before a state park), Gaviota, El Captain, and Nojoqui Falls (when you could still camp there). My parents never were able to see Hollister Ranch. My youngest children have never seen it and if you ok this deal they never will. I have only seen it 3 times (my oldest son's friends's father's mother-in-law used to own a parcel). It is magnificent and can be shared in a respectful fashion. Don't allow this “deal”, it provides the public nothing.
To whom it may concern,

I am unable to attend the public hearing on July 13th, so I am writing to express my opposition to the Hollister Ranch Limited Access Settlement. The Coastal Commission has a mandate to preserve public access and complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. This needs to happen!

As someone who hosts through-cyclists along Highway 1 in Northern California, I am familiar with the number of people who are drawn to the California coast for "epic" adventure tours. Although many do not stay in traditional tourist venues, they still contribute to the local economy.

I have been a strong supporter of the development of the Coastal Trail as another means of bringing "eco-tourism" to the CA coast, boosting the economies of small communities along the way and opening access to the natural beauty of the CA coast for those who may not be able to afford (or may not be interested in) more traditional tourism events and accommodations.

The Coastal Trail will be a draw just as the Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail are in their respective corridors. The Coastal Commission should realize the long-term value of this and prioritize the arrangements that would allow public access through Hollister Ranch.

Sincerely,
Stacey Rolland
Bodega Bay, CA
I’m very unhappy about your decision that I can only access the beach at Hollister Ranch by sea. I’m 83 years old and won’t be able to get there by sea.

Margaret Bragg
Newbury Park, CA

Sent from my iPad
To Whom it May Concern,

Hollister@coastal.ca.gov was part of an article published in the Los Angeles Times last Sunday, 6/24. We’ve received multiple complaints that it’s not an active address. Please respond to this email so I may let our readers now this is indeed the correct address to send comments.

Thank you,
Gail

Gail Marshall
Assistant to the Executive Editor
202 W. First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
gail.marshall@latimes.com
o: 213-237-2102
f: 213-237-5395
Thank you for your continued efforts at helping to resolve this important issue.

I have been surfing "the ranch" for well over a decade. I have been able to access the most easterly breaks, including (from east to west) "zoomers", "razordblades", big and little drakes and I've made it as far as I believe "Utah" or whatever the main break after drakes is.

Most of the time I hike along the beach under the cliffs on a lower tide, it always seems very risky. I've also boated in, also very risky.

It would be nice if there was a hiking/biking trail that people could take any time along the coast to access the breaks all the way down to Government Pt. on Cojo Ranch.

I don't think a lot of people would be willing to make the long trip on a consistent basis, and by opening access to as much coast as possible it will help spread out access among the breaks. In fact, people living on the ranch would then have access to Cojo Ranch breaks as well.

Thanks,

Daniel Perrine
2039 Gillespie St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-403-8403
Commissioners:

Thank you so much for for your commitment to protecting California's coast! I grew up over the hill from Santa Cruz, and now live in San Diego. I've spent most of my life at our stunning coast! As an avid surfer, paddler, and hiker, I have a deep affinity for California's beaches and coastline.

I'm writing to let you know that I support the settlement that you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate for a number of reasons.

* There were four years of big time diligent work! This was carefully negotiated and I believe the commission should continue to support their staff's advice.
* Even if the state had won the case, it wouldn't have achieved as much as the settlement provides. Access would have been dependent upon unfunded transit service through a sketchy, dangerous, drainage tunnel to the beach.

Lastly, the settlement simply put is the best option. The public access required will be managed (carefully) to ensure that our very sensitive resources are preserved and protected.

Thanks for your service to the most awesome state in the USA!!

Rich Hill
Hey Sammie:

RE: Hollister Ranch access agreement is a wipeout and a sellout, hundreds of beach lovers scream; Los Angeles Times

Seems you sold the Coastal Act, and we the people, down the river. This situation and your pathetic posing to be an expert? Time for you to resign and find a life -- if it not too late.
Commissioners,

This settlement agreement for the Hollister Ranch YMCA litigation is a good and fair settlement and should be accepted.

The State and Hollister Ranch, based on the true facts and realities of the YMCA’s legal rights, have carefully gone over and decided upon a smart resolution. The settlement represents a fair and correct outcome.

The Ranch will be allowing several large public groups into the ranch i.e. school kids, tidepool explorations and environmental studies, wounded warrior veterans, guided days at the beach and ocean. There are thousands of surfers and people who currently enjoy the Ranch via boats, walking in and driving in, etc.

This is the best settlement agreement that could have developed, and there are many legal private property, access and easement rights on the legal side of the Hollister Ranch. The general public does not know the true facts of this case and why the Coastal Commission made a smart decision here.

Please consider accepting this settlement as-is, and thank you for all your efforts in California.

Sincerely,

Bob Lamborn
Santa Barbara resident, surfer and not an owner at the Ranch

Dan Johnson
*Wire Fraud is Real*. Before wiring any money, call the intended recipient at a number you know is valid to confirm the instructions. Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.
-----Original Message-----
From: Cheryl Lavery [mailto:cheryl.lavery@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2018 1:58 PM
To: SouthCentralCoast@Coastal
Subject: Hollister Ranch

Very disappointed in Coastal Commission’s handling of Hollister Ranch. Our right to public access of our shorelines should not be for sale. Shame on the commission and the region’s commissioners for its failure to defend us.

- Cheryl Lavery

Public comments submitted to the Coastal Commission are public records that may be disclosed to members of the public or posted on the Coastal Commission’s website. Do not include information, including personal contact information, in comments submitted to the Coastal Commission that you do not wish to be made public. Any written materials, including email, that are sent to commissioners regarding matters pending before the Commission must also be sent to Commission staff at the same time.

Sent from my iPhone
California Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the settlement between the Hollister Ranch Owners Association and the CCC. As was recently made public in May of this year, this settlement severely restricts public access to the Hollister Ranch property, leaving only a tiny beach sliver open to less than 900 visitors annually, whose sole access is unconscionably restricted to an often treacherous sea corridor!

As a 53 year resident of Santa Barbara who over the years has been lucky enough to witness many of the splendors of this unique coastal property, I implore you to amend this unfairly restrictive agreement to allow instead a land trail along the beach bluffs that would permit public access to the many beaches of this unique 8.5 mile long coastal strip.

In short, the general public should not be denied access to any part of California's 1100 mile coastline, especially in this case a huge property of over 22 square miles that is held as the exclusive domain of a small number of wealthy property owners.

On the eve of our 242nd Independence Day celebration, please take to heart the egalitarian spirit of the Woody Guthrie song refrain below, which patriotically reminds us of our nation's innumerable natural wonders that are rightfully the domain for all of us to enjoy:

"This land is your land, this land is my land
From the California to the New York Island,
From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me."

Sincerely,
Lee R. Cox
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
-----Original Message-----
From: Axel johnson <axeltj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 8:42 AM
To: Ainsworth, John@Coastal <John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Not in favor of Hollister decision

I am 67 years old and you expect senior citizens to kayak or boat? What a joke! First you trash my HOA by promoting STRs under the guise of “public access” then make a decision that is obviously in favor of HR owners and does not allow reasonable public access. Tainted!
From: Brandon Sparks-Gillis <brandonsparksgillis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 3:13 PM
To: Ainsworth, John@Coastal <John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Public access to Hollister Ranch beaches

Dear Mr. Ainsworth,

Like many local citizens, I was extremely surprised to see the recent headlines regarding the proposed arrangement with the Hollister Ranch and the California Coastal Conservancy over public access. The proposed agreement is totally unacceptable from a public perspective. Any deal regarding the easement deeded to the Boy Scouts must include land access in addition to the proposed boat access.

While I appreciate the land stewardship of many Hollister Ranch owners--the area has maintained an exemplary natural beauty--their hostile attitude to any public access, even to areas seaward of the mean high tide line, is totally inappropriate, and likely illegal.

I urge you and the members of the commission to come to a resolution only when true public beach access is granted: and this means land access in addition to the already totally legal boat access.

Sincerely,
Brandon Sparks-Gillis
Solvang, California
Herewith my comments on this agenda item: My understanding is that it will be shared with the Commission and be a part of the record of this subject.

Thank you,

Edward Easton
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the settlement agreement already reached/finalized with all parties and pending approval on behalf of the plaintiff class.

I am attaching the statement from Mr. Schaefer as he states the rationale for this historic settlement far more eloquently and thoroughly than I can.

I would like to start by emphasizing that the Hollister Ranch owners do NOT prohibit or in any way interfere with public access along the beach as do the thousands of other similarly situated owners along southern California’s coast. I have always wondered why there is such a clamor to override private property rights to allow public trespass on the Hollister Ranch property but no mention of the thirty miles of coast west of UCSB that is likewise privately owned and thus with rare exception only accessible by foot along the beach. It also strikes me as ironic that we have three beautiful state parks along that stretch of coast that are almost always empty or at least significantly underutilized by the public—why would we destroy the last preserved stretch of that coast (Hollister Ranch) while vast stretches (thirty miles) of beach east of there remain open to the public and virtually ignored by that public? Where is the clamor for an easement over those privately owned lands along that thirty miles?

I reemphasize the following irrefutable points:

1. The lawsuit was far more complex than any of the public commentators can ever know and unfortunately I doubt they will engage in any realistic and objective analysis of the legal issues and thus miss one of the most cogent points: the state’s legal position was contrary to centuries of established English common law and 150 years of California law—i.e. one (in this case the YMCA) can not grant an easement over land they do not own (Hollister Ranch). The state recognized the weakness of their legal position and agreed to the settlement based on that recognition.
2. The OTD/purported easement at issue was extremely limited in scope and viability—the settlement provides more access to the public than if the OTD/purported easement was in place.
3. The State is already legally bound by the settlement and committed by its terms to support it and it imposes a legal duty on the state to oppose any proceedings designed to impair/invalidate it. While I can understand the state being uncomfortable to publicly state why they agreed to the settlement that does not relieve them of their legal and contractual duties to do so and to support and defend that settlement.
4. If the state were to breach its obligations under the agreement the damage to the legal framework of the Coastal Act and the Commission’s jurisdiction to enforce it will be irretrievably compromised—the commission will no longer be able to represent the state in...
related coastal act legal proceedings because it will no longer be able to enter into legally binding settlements.

Hollister Ranch is the last unspoiled stretch of coast east/south of Point Conception other than several military bases. This settlement balances that irreplaceable asset with managed access that will preserve it while affording responsible public access.

Michael W. McCann  
Law Offices of Michael W. McCann, Inc.  
15 W. Carrillo Street, #220 Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 567-7457  
(805) 567-1049 fax  

This e-mail (and any attachments) may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review or distribution by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete this e-mail.
Hello Mr. Ainsworth,

I'm writing in response to your call for public feedback on the upcoming deal with the Hollister Ranch Home Owners Association, which would allow limited access to public beaches in their area.

Judge Colleen Sterne and you should know that many state residents like myself want our beaches to be available to everyone, regardless of social status, class, or income. California’s Coastal Act allows public access to beaches. That should include all beaches for everyone, not just for those fortunate enough to live on Hollister Ranch.

The current settlement in discussion would allow access only by sea to less than one mile of the 8.5 miles of beaches below Hollister Ranch. Only surfboards, paddle boards, kayaks, or soft-bottomed boats would be allow to land on the beach. This severely limits access for underserved residents, especially low-income families, who deserve equal access to these beaches. Reserving beaches for the rich is discriminatory.

The Hollister Ranch Owners Association is being greedy, and their terms are unacceptable. Restricting public beaches is unconscionable. Please keep this in mind as the court case moves forward.

Thank you,

Greg C.
Forwarding in case this email was not also submitted to the Commission site.

From: Greg Camphire [mailto:gcamphire@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:24 AM
To: Chapman, Trish@SCC <Trish.Chapman@scc.ca.gov>
Cc: Couch, Rachel@SCC <Rachel.Couch@scc.ca.gov>; Duff, Tim@SCC <Tim.Duff@scc.ca.gov>; Walecka, Hilary@SCC <Hilary.Walecka@scc.ca.gov>; Gandesbery, Tom@SCC <Tom.Gandesbery@scc.ca.gov>
Subject: The Hollister Ranch Settlement Is Discriminatory

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing in response to the call for public feedback on the upcoming deal with with the Hollister Ranch Home Owners Association, which would allow limited access to public beaches in their area.

Judge Colleen Sterne, the California State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission should know that many state residents like myself want our beaches to be available to everyone, regardless of social status, class, or income. California’s Coastal Act allows public access to beaches. That should include all beaches for everyone, not just for those fortunate enough to live on Hollister Ranch.

The current settlement in discussion would allow access only by sea to less than one mile of the 8.5 miles of beaches below Hollister Ranch. Only surfboards, paddle boards, kayaks, or soft-bottomed boats would be allow to land on the beach. This severely limits access for underserved residents, especially low-income families, who deserve equal access to these beaches. Reserving beaches for the rich is discriminatory.

The Hollister Ranch Owners Association is being greedy, and their terms are unacceptable. Restricting public beaches is unconscionable. Please keep this in mind as the court case moves forward.

Thank you,

Greg C.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ledbetter, Jack" <ledbette@callutheran.edu>
Date: June 24, 2018 at 5:44:00 PM PDT
To: "Hollister@costal.ca.gov" <Hollister@costal.ca.gov>
Cc: 'Margaret' <margaret_bragg2@msn.com>
Subject: coastal access

To Home it May Concern,

Your recent action about coast only access to Hollister Ranch area is a bad idea. Even if, by your lights, it was done openly, public opinion says otherwise, leading many to mistrust public officials and what appears to be lack of transparency.

Sincerely,

J.T. Ledbetter, Ph.D
Commissioners,

I am writing to let you know that I fully support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate, and want to share my thoughts and reasons.

I grew up in Santa Barbara. I am a hiker, surfer, plant nerd and nature lover. At the age of 29, I can already see how much the California coast has changed in my lifetime, and I see how important it is to try to preserve it. I have tremendous respect for the efforts Hollister Ranch puts towards conservation. We are lucky to have this pristine piece of California preserved on this coastline.

The settlement allows for the valuable protected resources to continue to be protected and preserved. It is clear that the Hollister Ranch organization are environmental stewards first. As an environmentalist, beach lover and local resident, I support the settlement. My wish is that the Commission does not waver, and follows through on what has been committed to.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Kristen Franz Cantor
From: Marc Shevin
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Fwd: Hollister Ranch, YMCA Settlement comment
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2018 12:49:17 PM

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Marc Shevin <marcshevin@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 5, 2018 at 12:47 PM
Subject: Hollister Ranch, YMCA Settlement comment
To: Hollister@coastal.ca.gov

Dear Commissioners and staff:

I live in Los Angeles County (near Malibu), and I have always appreciated your dedication to protecting the coast, and for the public having reasonable access to it.

I am writing to you as I wanted to add my comments to the many I'm sure you are receiving pertaining to the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to dedicate. I do support this settlement for a number of reasons.

To begin, on a personal level, I started boating into the Ranch when I was 16 years old. I'm now 65, and the beaches there are as pristine now, as they were 50 years ago. The sea life is abundant, there is no trash on the beaches, there are nesting birds, resting mammals, tidepools filled with starfish and other sea creatures, beaches covered with sea shells, wonderful snorkeling, and a real feeling of unspoiled peace and solitude. To allow the public unfettered access to this area would irrevocably change this dynamic and I feel, harm the area forever. I believe there should be some places left that take a little extra effort to get to, and enjoy. The extra effort is then worth the rewards found at the end of that journey. That's how I see the Hollister Ranch today.

In specific, with regards to the YMCA Offer to dedicate, I have read some of the arguments and I think I understand them. As a successful California Real Estate Broker of many years, what I don't understand is how the YMCA could dedicate something they simply didn't own, and therefore, had no right to dedicate to someone else. That is contrary to any real estate law I am aware of. As well, as I understand they were asked to give this dedication to get a permit for something that was never built. I do like that the settlement does give the public a managed access program that protects this area and environment for future generations to enjoy. I think that those opposing the settlement truly are not versed in why it was made, or the background behind it. If they were, I feel the objections would not be so strenuous.

I urge the commissioners and State to stand behind the agreement made as I believe that is the appropriate and proper thing to do, and one that will protect this pristine area for generations to come.
Thank you for reading my comments.

Marc Shevin

--
Marc Shevin
Associate Broker
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
(818) 251-2456
marcshevin@gmail.com
Commissioners:
I live in Ventura County. I visit beaches all over the State. Especially in Santa Barbara. Hollister Ranch beaches are the most pristine. I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch and the YMCA. The Hollister Ranch is known for their Stewardship of the land and beaches. I personally attended a Help the Troops day sponsored by the Ranch. The owners that were good surfers helped the Wounded Warriors to learn to surf. Picture these hero’s with one leg or no legs surfing and having fun again. It was fantastic to witness. Thank you for your wise decision and service to the commission. Best Regards.
Anthony J. Tesoro .Sr
I am writing in response to the Holister Ranch settlement with the Coastal Commission. I am not a surfer nor am I an owner of property at the Hollister Ranch. What I am is a California resident who is concerned about natural coastal environments. I very much support their settlement. I personally have been on the Hollister Ranch numerous times there ideas on managed public access works. Lets keep this place as pristine and natural as possible and hats off to the coastal commission for recognizing that.

sincerely David Cantori
Dear Coastal Commission,

This proposed settlement is a bad deal for the public. It does not provide real access to the public, it only provides pseudo-access, window-dressing access, that almost no one in the public will actually be able to take advantage of. The only way to provide true public access to the public resources on Hollister Ranch, is to provide a road-easement option.

For too long, this amazing treasure of the California coast has been locked up behind a pay-for-privilege gated community.

Sincerely,
Jeff Phillips
3852 B Crescent Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Dear Mr. Ainsworth,

Like many local citizens, I was extremely surprised to see the recent headlines regarding the proposed arrangement with the Hollister Ranch and the California Coastal Conservancy over public access. The proposed agreement is totally unacceptable from a public perspective. Any deal regarding the easement deeded to the Boy Scouts must include land access in addition to the already totally legal boat access.

While I appreciate the land stewardship of many Hollister Ranch owners--the area has maintained an exemplary natural beauty--their hostile attitude to any public access, even to areas seaward of the mean high tide line, is totally inappropriate, and likely illegal.

I urge you and the members of the commission to come to a resolution only when true public beach access is granted: and this means land access in addition to the already totally legal boat access.

Sincerely,
Brandon Sparks-Gillis
Solvang, California
I have been surfing the Hollister and Bixby ranches since the early 70’s. I have walked in, boated in and driven in. The ranch is one of the final gems on the California coast and needs to be preserved in it’s current state. The settlement regarding the Hollister ranch access has been thoroughly researched, negotiated and considered in good faith by all parties. It has been a complex process and that now provides a beautiful balance that will continue to benefit all.

I strongly support this settlement and urge you to respect all of the time and effort that went into crafting this and approve it.

Sincerely,
John McMahon

Sent from my iPad
I protest the settlement reached by the California Coastal Commission. I am deeply concerned that the commission is not acting to enforce the coastal laws that state the public should have access to ALL of the coast. Stand up to private access deniers.

Paul Atkinson
Ventura, CA

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Date: June 26, 2018

To: The Coastal Commission
Re: Hollister Ranch

There is no excuse for your shameful decision to give up fighting the wealthy and powerful on behalf of all Californians. You must designate land access from the highway to the ocean. This is your job - this is why we have The Coastal Commission.

Leslie Wawrzeniak, resident of California
Please keep the coast open for those in the state that feel it belongs to all that live here. I led Coastwalk events in Monterey County for 5 years. I was very proud of our coastline and ability to enjoy it until we reached Pebble Beach. There we had to turn inland and hike behind the mansions and golf courses that dotted the beaches. These homes are mostly second (or 3rd) homes to the wealthy so the scenic beauty of this area is extremely limited to a small number of people. Don't let this happen again. Protect our coastline.

Thank you, Teri Bradley
Carmel Valley, Ca
7/6/18
Caif. Coastal Commission

Re: Hollister Ranch Coastal Access.
Subject: For Public Access.

Dear Coastal Commission:

I am for maximum public coastal access for all of California's beaches. Please consider allowing full public access to Hollister Ranch beaches. Thank you,

Robert Dale
1401 Sierra Vista Dr.
La Habra, CA. 90631
Ph. (562) 697-8953
Hello,

I am appalled by the decision to make our coast north of Gaviota accessible ONLY by sea. This is unconscionable. Surely there are more equitable agreements which can be found between the parties. Please, please do NOT let this agreement stand.

Sylvelin Edgerton, 80 year old California native

sylvelin@verizon.net  805 964-1658
I am writing to support public access to Hollister Ranch. I have never been privileged to visit the ranch but have heard much about its beauty as well as the impossibility of accessing it. I have heard about nasty encounters between owners and members of the public. I can understand them wishing to have it for themselves, but the beach does not belong to them, it belongs to the people of California. To limit access to part of the beach only by boat through dangerous, often treacherous, waters is a joke. This has been played out in Malibu and Santa Barbara; it's always the people with money trying to eliminate the public from what is rightfully theirs.

I would hope that anyone who gained access to Hollister would respect this special place. Perhaps interested members of the public could volunteer to become "friends" and pay special attention to the area; this happens in Carpenteria near the seal rookery and it has worked very well. I'm sure it could be worked out so that the owners of property on the ranch could coexist with the public, although I know that they are terrified by the idea of someone like me being able to actually go there.

Please reconsider the access agreement to make access more inclusive for all.

Thank you.

Judy Oberlander
508 Canada St
Ojai, CA 93023  (15 miles from the wonderful public beaches of Ventura)
To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not accept this bad compromise. Water access to the beach at Hollister Ranch needs to be supplemented with access by foot via a hiking path. Otherwise you are selling out to the idea of private ownership of our public beaches in the disguise of ecological protection. Our beaches are one of the highest democratic achievements of California, let us not sell what belongs to all.

Please keep me informed on how this matter is developing via e-mail.

With
Best Regards,
Guido Frenzel

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern:

I’m writing to vehemently object to the pending California Costal Commission settlement regarding access to Hollister Beach.

I was born in Southern California. I was raised frolicking on its beaches with my family, and as my older brother and I grew up, we surfed whenever and wherever we could, he much more than me. He would go on to a career as an ocean life guard, first for the State of California and then for Los Angeles County; such was his love of the ocean. For years he told me stories of the mythical Hollister Ranch in Gaviota where surfers risked arrest just for walking in so they could paddle out. We couldn’t understand how a wealthy few could keep the rest of us away from this wonderful treasure. Didn’t the beach and its surf belong to everyone? We hoped that someday we could walk on its shores and enjoy its waves. When the Coastal Act was passed in 1976, we felt joy and relief that access to our entire coast would now be protected for all the people of this state. Or so I thought.

Now, I am appalled that the Coastal Commission, the agency pledged to protect beach access for all California residents, has made a deal in private with that wealthy few to give away our rights to over eight miles of our coast. As described by reporters who had to dig to uncover the details, we would only be allowed access to a fraction of Hollister Beach, and only if we came in by boat on an often dangerous sea. This sweetheart deal cannot be allowed to stand, not only for the beach it would forever close-off, but also for the precedent it would set. The wealthy would now be assured that with patience and money they could keep for themselves what belongs to all of us.

We aren’t asking for parking lots or concession stands on private property, just a road to walk on or bike down or where we can catch a shuttle to get to the sand and water that belongs to everyone.

One of things I’ve always felt that made California such a magical place is that the beach is God’s gift to us all and the laws of the state ensure it belongs to us all. I now have two boys of my own. Both of them surf. Both of them should be able to surf Hollister Ranch in Gaviota without getting arrested. My wife and I should be able to stroll in the sand and watch them do it. It is our rights as citizens of this great state. It’s a right that belongs to all of us. A right that should not be given away.

I urge Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne to reject this terrible deal. it should not be allowed to stand. It must be revised in favor of the people of California; the people the Coastal Commission is supposed to represent.

Sincerely,

Steve Barnett
Santa Monica, California
Dear Hollister Ranch,
Please provide open access to your beach. The ocean is very healing and therapeutic. No one and future generations should be deprived of Nature's wonder.
Thank you, Suzanne Cawthon

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commissioners,

Please consider granting equal public access by land to the Hollister Ranch beach. I am a surfer and a naturalized citizen and one of the many beach users that regularly make an effort to keep them as clean and safe as possible. Many other law abiding citizens like me actively use and contribute to safe-guard our coastal habitat. I believe our equal right of access to the Hollister Ranch beach should be fairly balanced by the responsibility we have to abide by the common good rules of any agreement made by your publicly elected powers and all other private interests.

Sincerely,

E.S. Bell
The Ca. Costal Commission Attorneys are our public servants, paid for via Calif. taxes. As such, its their feduciary duty to protect our state citizens rights.

Our state Constitution guarantees the public access to enjoy these beautiful scenic assets.

It is perplexing to me & unacceptable that they would consider this settlement (contrived behind closed doors) with only the private landowners & their specific attorneys present.

This plan does nothing more than abdicate & surrender Ca. Citizen's right to visit their coastal beaches. The settlement provides no access whatsoever for the general public. (Furthermore its Forever!!) Instead - allowing a paltry 840 special needs people to be there for limited educational purposes, or a few others to risk their safety via kayak or surfboard.

I urge you to reject this sham settlement & retain the public's access to our coast as guaranteed.
Please tell me that you are not beholden to the developers and the elite rich wanting to keep this beautiful beach private though it rightfully belongs to the public. Your deal with the aristocrats and greedy land spoilers smells Trumpian,

Sanford Forman
Sanky1282@gmail.com
I can't believe you have hidden this issue and are ready to basically close this beach to public usage..

Disgusting.. There are no other words for this hidden agenda bowing to money interests. California beaches should be open the public. Always..

Please reconsider your ruling.. Otherwise why do we have a Coastal Commission? Just to line your personal pockets.. I want to puke..

Sarah Hutt
Dear coastal commissioners,

It's my understanding that the entire purpose of the Coastal Act and of your Commission is to preserve public access to our beautiful coastline.

This settlement would not preserve access and is therefore an unacceptable taking of a public resource and giving it to a few wealthy landowners. You must do your jobs which we the taxpayers pay you to do.

Oppose any settlements that effectively deny public access to our shared natural resource.

Thank you,

Julie Milligan, esq.
Silverman & Milligan
milligan@silmiliaw.com
Cell: (310)923-8692
Office: (310)586-2409
How can so few people steal/deny so many California residents, (40 Million) what belongs to all of us, we want our Hollister beach and coast returned to all Californian's!

Humberto Sandoval
Angeleica Sandoval
Citlalli Sandoval
Yoltic Sandoval

"This email and any attachments, contain Genuine Parts Company confidential information that is proprietary, privileged, and protected by applicable laws. If you have received this message in error and are not the intended recipient, you should not retain, distribute, disclose or use any of this information and you should destroy this email, any attachments or copies therein forthwith. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email in error."
Dear Coastal Commission,

I must insist that you do not restrict access to the Hollister Coast. Not only is it illegal, it would prevent the creation of the California Coastal Trail through the north coast of SB County, which will bring nature and healing to many people in our beautiful town, just as the Marin Headlands is accessible to people of the Bay Area.

My father was a SB County fire captain for decades who loved Hollister Ranch and shared his love of this region with me. There is a love of nature that we all feel here in SB. The best of it should be accessible to all, not only a select few.

Sincerely,
Julie Hall
Please, please consider that this is an important link to a "true" coastal trail for all Californians and hikers. With the preservation of Jalama-Coho Ranch there is now an opportunity to have a non-motorized coastal trail from Vandenberg (someday maybe) to Gaviota on south to Goleta.

Boat-in access is really no access for 99.9% of the public and adding a few more "visitor" days is the same.

Coastal access for all Californians, not just the 1%.

Kathy Longacre
6445 Corral de Piedra
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your continued commitment to protecting our California coastline. I am a native Californian and have lived in San Diego County my entire life. I regularly spend time at beaches surfing all over the Californian coast.

I am emailing you in support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. The settlement which both sides negotiated was mutually agreed upon in good faith and be should honored as the final binding agreement. Our State has numerous legal issue to deal with and only limited resources. Revisiting this issue seems like a waste of both Costal Commission time and tax dollars. The Costal Commission is far too important to be continuously reviewing settlements that had been previously prepared by members of it's own staff. I hope you take these comments into consideration as you move forward with your decision making.

Thank you for your ongoing service to California.

Jon Richard
Commissioners - We are a family of 8 who are avid beach visitors, surfers, photographers, hikers, and have been in SB for 53 years, attending UCSB (husband and wife). SB high and now Dos Pueblos. We all support this settlement of the HR easement. As a side note, the father of this family worked with the State Attorney Generals office in 1973 to review public access through implied dedication rights and concluded that Hollister Ranch was not appropriate, as it had consistently policed its borders throughout history. We love the fact that the Hollister and Bixby Ranches are private and protected, the last of their kind in Ca, while access still can be made by boat. We feel that easement rights cannot be granted to the public by an appurtenant easement holder, as it would completely overburden the easement rights. This is a long standing principle of law. Therefore, this is an opportunity for the public to gain rights it would not otherwise have. We urge you to settle this now and avoid the chance that these limited expansion of rights be lost. Thank you

Sincerely, the family of F. C. Schillinger 6545 Camino Caseta Goleta, Ca 93117
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please maintain unobstructed and fair access to all of California’s beautiful coast. We all need access, not just the landowners.

I implore you to do the right thing and provide reasonable land access for the general public to the beaches near the Hollister Ranch property.

Sincerely,

Anita Szafran
Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in Los Angeles County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I am an avid kite surfer and hiker.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.

The process and proceedings that were undertaken were fair and just and I truly believe you made the correct decision. I hope this goes away as I cannot imagine how many dollars are being wasted in these protracted legal battles, that SHOULD be spent on keeping our beaches clean, safe and well maintained.

Thank you for your service to California.

Mark Hancock
Pacific Palisades, CA
To Whom It May Concern:

I support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the California Coasta Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding public access.

The term “public access” has been misused too many times under the Coast Act under the banner of tearing down fences, while too often ignoring the Coastal Act’s parallel mandate of protecting and preserving the natural environment. The proper balance has been struck in this settlement. This is truly the last piece of the Southern California coastline in its natural state, and it should be respected and preserved that way.

Sincerely,

Eva L. Allison
Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the recent settlement reached between the Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy and Hollister Ranch. I understand this to be a complex situation, but I truly believe that these groups need to honor the agreement that was reached…unbelievable amounts of time, energy and money went towards reaching an agreement that both sides found fair and acceptable. Attempting to unwind this agreement now due to complaints from a small but vocal group would seem to undermine the credibility of the state and the entities/agencies involved. As a lifelong resident of the SB/Gaviota coast, and as a father of 3 kids who strongly advocates for keeping California's coast clean, safe and pristine, I see no better alternative than to honor the agreed-upon settlement.

Thank you.

Bill Borden

Bill Borden
(415) 963-5391 (office)
(415) 519-8917 (mobile)
Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s Coast. I am a resident of Santa Barbara County and fully SUPPORT the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

I am an avid hiker and beach lover and have visited beaches up and down the California Coast as well as all over the world. I feel the terms of the settlement offer the BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION for access to the beaches at Hollister without jeopardizing the pristine coastline. We were fortunate to have visited the Ranch Tide Pool School on a school field trip. The nature preserve area is a very delicate area that will suffer from open access to the public as will the entire coastline which is already in delicate condition.

I’ve seen comments stating that the settlement is for millionaires who don’t want to share and I could not disagree more. I support the settlement because it supports protecting our coastline.

This lawsuit has already gone on for so long. As a resident of SB County it was a relief to finally see it come to a close and in a way that supports our beaches. Reopening it would be a disaster!!

Please continue to protect our coastline.

Thank you,
Kristin Kellner
Solvang, CA

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern,

The recently proposed settlement with the Hollister Ranch is totally unacceptable.

As a local citizen, I urge you and the members of the commission to come to a resolution only when true public beach access is granted. Land access to the beaches!!

Sincerely,

Michelle Sparks-Gillis
Dear Commissioners:

I am a lifelong (53 years) resident of La Jolla and have enjoyed surfing up and down the California Coast. I thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coastal environments. I am sending this email in support of the settlement entered with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate for a few different reasons:

1. The State’s legal position – claiming public access rights in Hollister Ranch under the Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA (a then neighbor of Hollister Ranch) – this is contrary to 100 years of California property law. Any neighbor who only holds an appurtenant easement over his neighbor’s property has no legal power to give away a public access easement (or license) on his neighbor’s property.
2. The California Coastal Commission needs to honor its commitments.
3. The settlement requires the State to honor its agreement and imposes a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it.
4. Even if the State had prevailed in the case, it would not have achieved as much as the settlement provides. Access would have been dependent upon unfunded transit service and passage through a dangerous, unsuitable drainage tunnel to the beach.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to the protection of our most cherished asset. The areas of Coastal Property that are undisturbed and cherished by many long time residents.

Respectfully,

Jim Frager
for fulfillment of any amounts due or other legal remedy owed.
The Hollister Ranch are excellent stewards of their environment. I’m for public access for nearly every other situation except here. Preserve and protect. Honor the settlement.
Rob Shealy
Dear Commissioners,

I’m a local resident of Goleta, Ca. and I love where I live. I’ve been following the debate on Hollister Ranch and I’m writing to support your efforts. Clearly a lot of time, energy and work has gone into finding a middle ground. I support this deal.

Sometimes the best deal is when everyone walks away a little bit unhappy. Pluralism can be our greatest weakness but also what makes our society so desirable.

There are so many beautiful beaches in California for people to enjoy. This stretch of coastline has experienced a unique form of conservation by having limited access. I support keeping this coastline protected.

Thank you for your time.

Holly Krock
32 year resident & business owner
Dear Coastal Commission Members:

As a frequent guest and visitor to the Hollister Ranch, I find myself in the strange position of writing to support the current settlement. It is not clear that a legal easement and point of clear access exists to Cuerta Beach and although I appreciate and understand the public's desire to gain access to the Hollister Ranch, I do not believe it is legal nor fair to force easement access over someone's private property through inverse condemnation or otherwise.

This really is a special tract of land that represents what California used to look like before mass development, freeways and people. Conservation of this incredible land must remain the focus.

Thank you.

Tom Mortimer

Sent from my iPad
The beaches should belong to everyone, not just those with billions of dollars. Please do the right thing & do not restrict public access of Hollister. Do not set a precedence for future generations to be shut out of this stunning piece of earth and possibly others.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the proactive stance you are taking to protect our Beautiful California Coastline. I am a 4th generation native Californian and I know and appreciate the value of our beaches and coastline. They are both unique and are a significant part of what makes California the best place to live. I have lived in San Clemente for the last 30 years and I know that we work diligently to preserve our little “village by the sea” and that includes protecting our beaches. Oh if only we could have the option to save them in such a pristine manner as has been done on Hollister Ranch. There is at least one long stretch of our amazing coastline that is preserved. It should stay that way.

The Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy staff have worked diligently and for a protracted period of time with the Attorney General’s office to achieve this recent settlement. It was thought through with the oversite and guidance of the court and has insured commitments by the state to stand by this agreement. It is not only impractical, but maybe not even legal to allow the YMCA to allow public easement over someone else’s property. It would be most impractical, and have further negative consequences on the environment and for the people of California.

With all due respect to the people, they don’t take care of the land once they are given access. I live in San Clemente, and I see the results of public access every day. While I understand the public’s desire to be “on the beach”, they have miles and miles of beaches to access now. Let us preserve this pristine piece of coastline in Hollister Ranch in its natural state.

Thank you for all you have done to protect California and our coast. And thank you for honoring your commitment to Hollister Ranch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda K. Donahue
San Clemente, CA.
To whom it may concern:

I support the settlement the Hollister Ranch came to with the Coastal Commission.

It is very odd to me that the YMCA was able to give an easement that let strangers travel through other peoples’ property to get to their land. Since when is that legal? What Californian would be OK with their neighbor offering to allow anyone to tromp through a house the neighbor doesn’t own to get to a house the neighbor does own? Not a single one.

The Commission needs to honor its agreement with Hollister Ranch.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Paul
PO Box 1544
Pacific Palisades CA 90272-1544.
Hello,

Thank you to the commissioner for all of your efforts to protect our coasts.

I think it is important to persevere the beauty and natural area of the land. It is a rare thing in this state to have so much untouched coastline in such pristine condition.

My family owns a parcel and, as someone who wishes to pass down their land to their children, I only hope they have the honor of keeping this tradition.

I believe the current settlement is fair and creates more of a balance. The program will give opportunity to those who would otherwise not have a chance to experience the ranch while still protecting its beauty.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Hixenbaugh
We object to the deal the CCC has made with the HROA regarding the public access to the beach.

From Gaviota to Cuarto is a 3+ mile hike from Gaviota and the beach is only passable on extreme low tides. It is not feasible to access the spot by walking up the beach since the tide will come up and trap you in there. Plus that beach is essentially non-existent at high tide anyway especially with a swell.

Additionally, it is already legal to walk up any beach below the mean high tide line anyway so actually they have not really increased public access at all with the current scheme.

And the idea that if they grant public access to that beach it will spell doomsday for that whole coast is pretty much hyperbole.

From a legal perspective, it appears that HR gave up that easement long ago and is now trying to coerce the CC and the courts to get out of it. They have done a lot of development in there since the coastal act started with Prop 20 in 1972.

We expect CCC to at all times maintain a precedent of strenuous defense of public access the ocean. This deal with the HR OA does not live up to that expectation.

Sincerely,
Ann Wisehart
Michael Glick
Dear Commissioners,

I am a UCSB graduate and frequent visitor to the Santa Barbara area. The preservation of the natural environment in the area is important to me. I am an active hiker and enjoy ocean activities as well.

Please support and honor the recent settlement that was entered into between the Hollister Ranch, the California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy.

Sincerely,
Pamela Ballus
Comissioners;

I am an avid surfer and am active with the Ventura Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. I would like to register my opposition to the proposed agreement.

The CCC has always been a strong advocate for public access to our beaches, this agreement does not accomplish this goal. The only way for the public to access this important beach is via personal watercraft. As a person who is familiar with this stretch of coast, I know it is extremely dangerous to make the journey in anything other than a powered boat, which can only be launched via a hoist on the pier, which is now closed. This agreement severely limits public access.

The CCC should use this opportunity to provide a sustainable, long term, and open access to this area. I urge the rejection of this agreement.

Thanks

Vincent Kinsch
3189 Hilltop Dr
Ventura, CA 93003
805-443-1888
Members of the Coastal Commission,

As a tax-paying citizen of California, and a person appreciative of our natural resources, I am heartbroken at the sham agreement being proposed for the Hollister Ranch section of our beach.

It clearly violates long-standing right-of-way agreements and traditions, and promotes an un-American concept that some of our natural resources are reserved only for the privileged, and that the " riff-raff" should be kept out.

Please do NOT allow this to happen.
Mary Folsom
Dear Coastal Commission Staff:

I am a native born Californian. I have lived in California since my birth in 1957. My family has enjoyed beach and coastal water activities for many decades. Several of us are active Surfers.

We are all shocked at the position taken by the Coastal Commission to approve the Settlement Agreement as written. We believe this agreement not to be in the Publics interest.

My access to the Hollister Ranch has been by private boat launched from the Gaviota State Park Hoist. As you know the Hoist is now been closed indefinitely. My access is now essentially 100% restricted.

As a real estate broker and Surfer, I can assure you that what is being offered is not an easement but a potential death sentence for all those who would like to access the Ranch through the Pacific Ocean by surfboard, Kayak and other self propelled means. Walking in is not permitted and if carried out poses a threat of passerby trains, steep cliffs and aggressive Ranch Owners provoking violence, This I have experienced first hand. Paddling or arriving by surfboard, Paddle board or Kayak is a shark threat. (Please see video links below).

[links provided]

What other means does a tax paying ocean lover have to access the pristine areas of the Hollister Ranch - an mostly reserved for the privileged few who have the financial means to acquire rights and title, This Settlement is clearly not "inclusive" but rather "exclusive" which goes against the very founding principles of the Coastal Commissions statement of purpose and Mission Statement below:

"The Coastal Act includes specific policies (see Division 20 of the Public Resources Code) that address issues such as shoreline public access and recreation, lower cost visitor accommodations...California's coast and ocean for present and future generations...It does so through careful planning and regulation, rigorous use of science and strong Public participation."

We strenuously object to the Settlement plan and deplore you to reconsider your position and include "the public's voice" to influence in the decision making process and change the outcome of this matter.

Respectfully,

Shaun A. Hurley
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I am a Santa Barbara county native and have lived in the coastal zone for nearly 45 years in total. I live within 1 mile of Hendry’s Beach and as a surfer, fisherman (commercial and recreational), boater, and diver I regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I have had access to the Hollister Ranch waters for nearly two decades via boat.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement that has been entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. First and foremost is the settlement closed an otherwise complicated and uncertain outcome with a positive resolution achieving public access and respecting property rights. Second, the settlement's provisions obligating the state honor the agreement going forward should be sufficient basis to have the Coastal Commission find in favor of the negotiated settlement. Finally, I believe in both access to and protection of the wild, natural environment that is Hollister Ranch. Moving away from the negotiated, controlled and managed access that is being provided is the best outcome to both objectives.

I hope that you will ultimately find in favor of the settlement as it stands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Fell
Normally I am among the first to argue for coastal access to the public. BUT... I have been privileged to be able to visit the ranch several times as we have friends who are owners. I have multiple problems with increased access to the beach by land.

1. As an off-roader, I have been on "Closed Roads" that were better than the ranch road. It is twisty ranch road with no guardrails, trees in the middle of the road, and cows, horses, and wild boar standing in the road. It is not reasonable to expect the homeowners to either construct a road suitable for the general public or be liable for the accidents caused by stupid or overconfident drivers.

2. A lot of beach is inaccessible by land anyway because of eroding cliffs. Who would be liable for the deaths and ecological damage there? How about compensation to the railroad caused by increased erosion?

3. Between the ranch road and the beach is an active railroad. Would you make Amtrak put up state of the art road crossings instead of the "private" crossings that are currently there? Who would be liable for the deaths by drivers trying to beat the train?

4. How would the owners be compensated for the decrease in security at their often vacant homes? We don't force other gated communities to let the public access behind the gates by car. The ranch gate does not allow anyone past without an owner being present and authorizing passage.

This is not a matter of a short lateral road or hundred yard path to allow access to the beach from PCH.

Also when I looked at the map in the LA Times I wondered why no one is making a scene about lack of access on the ranch to the west of Hollister at Point Conception.

Sharon A Brossier
2121 Power St
Hermosa Beach, Ca 90254
I recently became aware of the settlement regarding access to The Hollister Ranch. It is my understanding that both parties agreed to the terms of the settlement. If that is the case then it should be binding for both parties.

Bill Ferguson
Dear Commissioners,

My wife June and I spent Easter morning at The Ranch invited by friends of our daughter. We had not been there in almost 30 years and things had not changed that much -except for the gate treatment.

> It was like crossing a border, asked for passport and visa by imperious guards, finally allowed to enter after some tense moments. Then we reached the cabana by the cliff and we had a very nice time, with gracious and welcoming hosts. --normal people celebrating a beautiful morning. But the isolation bothered me then, and I cannot shake the feeling of exclusion as if this majestic piece of coast did not belong to ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF CALIFORNIA.

The people that we met were unpretentious and sincere in their intentions to protect this piece of heaven from development, but they are not farmers. They pretend to be farmers but they are just nice people, mostly retired, living in a country club that they do not want to share.

Can a country club cover such a large area of California and not allow normal people access to the beach? Is that legal?

Alex Pujo
2425 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara
CA 93105

Sent from my iPad
To whom it may concern,

I support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding public access.

Balanced public access should not mean “paving another parking lot”. Preserve the adventure in public access. No chair lifts, no cars, no buses, no parking lots, no pollution, and no despoiling nature. The adventure of the journey is a significant part and spirit of the destination. Natural access can go hand-in-hand with balanced public access, as this settlement demonstrates.

Regards,

Mark Zagar.

19 Goonang Rd
City Beach WA
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing regarding the recent settlement with the Hollister Ranch owner’s association. For the past five years I have been living in Colorado but previous to that I lived for 40 years on the Hollister Ranch and before that I went by boat to surf. My father, a geologist, first took me there in 1959 when he was doing work for the Hollisters and it always stuck in my memory until I was able to buy in in 1973. For retirement reasons I chose to sell my land on the Ranch the hardest thing I have ever done. It was like ripping my soul out. The Hollister Ranch coast is one of the most magic places in the world, unspoiled and pristine, the way California beaches once were. There are vast flocks of birds you don't see further south because of disturbance by dogs and people. Sea lions and seals rest on the beaches, again because of no disturbance. Deer, coyotes, turtles, skunks, raccoons, foxes and even bears use the beach to get from one place to another and to forage food. There is no litter. If the Ranch beaches were open to the public they would be picked over and totally spoiled like all the beaches to the south. I can no longer enter the Ranch as an owner but it it remains in my heart, a sanctuary for those who are fortunate enough to get there as owners, guests, boaters or walkers at low tide. Some places need to remain sacrosanct and this is one of them. It doesn't matter that the Ranch is now made up of mostly wealthy people. The Hollister Ranch owners association recognizes the value of a pristine environment and is committed to protecting the beaches. Keeping the Ranch free of the general public is the best way to protect it. If someone really wants to get there it may be difficult but entirely possible. Please keep the current settlement in place and realize the importance of protecting this one of a kind stretch of coast.

Sincerely,
Paul Kemnitzer

--
Paul Kemnitzer
www.pablotees.com
www.native-teas.com
805 451-5153
Please consider reasonable public access through Hollister Ranch. I’ve lived in Santa Barbara County since I was in grade school and had always wanted to go to the beach at the ranch. More so at this point in my life, I would love to hike a trail through the ranch and have views of the ocean. California is an incredibly healthy state and even more specific, the community of Santa Barbara hike, walk, run, bike all the time. What an incredible opportunity and jewel we would have to pass through beautiful land. It would be extraordinary to start at Rincon Point and go the entire coast of Santa Barbara County, and even more so a trail that went the length of our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kim Fly
805-689-3090 cell
Public access by sea only is not access at all.
We live in a crowded world and I understand the desire of Hollister Ranch residents to keep the coastline to themselves. But it is not right or fair that only the very wealthy should have access to our beaches. Likewise for the California Coastal Trail that was planned to go through the area. Without any commercial development, and access by footpath in addition to sea access, I believe that visitors to the area would be responsible stewards.

Cathy Peterson
Santa Barbara, CA
To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Santa Barbara, with family roots dating back through 1975.

I recently found out about an agreement for public access to the Hollister Ranch Beach area, dating back to 1973!

Why this was never opened to the public from land, and only from hazardous sea/beach landings seems to me quite the effort on Hollister Ranch Home Owners Association to keep this piece of public land to themselves without having the legal rights to do so. 35 years is quite a long time to formalize legislative action, don't you think?

The new settlement, just coming to a head now, seems to have improved the rights of the home owners in this area, though they still have no right to block access to the land.

Why are we waiving easement requirements?

Why are we only allowing 480 additional visitors, when the beach is 3.5 miles long?

Why are we using funds not properly earmarked for this type of work?

I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter,

Ash Cannon
To Whom It May Concern;

As a California resident and registered voter I'd like to express my concern over the restrictions being allowed to the access of the Hollister Ranch section of the California coast. I firmly believe that coastal access needs to be broadened and insured for the appreciation of future generations; not restricted and left to the whim of a handful of individuals.

Respectfully,

Ryan Johanson
650 280 9955
Dear Sirs and Madams,

...i have owned property and lived on the California coast for fifty years...it's a privilege and a right for the public to have access to our beautiful coast line...

...i understand the impulse to slam the door shut after you've gotten yours...absolutely understandable...and sad.

...as mature, educated and intelligent adults, it is the least we can do for citizens who do not have this privilege to give them the access to our Natural environment...

...research has proven that we ALL gain a healthier society when we share these invaluable resources.

...i sincerely hope you can step up to the plate and make an ethical decision for all of us today and those who come after us...

...we all know precisely how precious these resources are...AND literally how much they are worth to California as a whole to sustain our greatest industry: TOURISM.

...vote with your heart or with your pocket book...in the very short run, access is a win-win for all of us.

...thank you for your time and consideration.

Love,
jazzmyn

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners,

Thank you for your work in protecting our California coast. It is one of our state and nations natural treasures.

I am writing in support of settlement that you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate an easement.

I support this for a number of reasons. First and foremost I believe that this is a good settlement for the people of the state of California. I have had the opportunity to have the details of the legal argument of the YMCA easement explained to me by a couple of friends that are Lawyers and it is clear that it is a very weak case. The settlement that was reached with the Hollister Ranch is a very good one given the facts.

It is my understanding the Coastal Commission staff and the Hollister Ranch spent years diligently negotiating the terms of this agreement. For the State to walk away from the existing agreement would be a mistake due to the fact that it sets a precedent for not negotiating in a straightforward way. This could potentially cause the Coastal Commission’s staff to lose credibility in future negotiations. Given the important work that it has ahead of it, I would hate to see this happen.

I realize that the settlement may not sound like a good one for a person that simply reads a one sided newspaper article. I am convinced that it is a good result as the real beneficiaries are school children and their ability to see some of the very last truly pristine tide pools south of Point Conception.

As a long term resident of Santa Barbara County I have a very clear understanding of the local issues surrounding the Hollister Ranch. Our primarily rural county has a great number and variety of accessible beaches. Some have parking lots at the shore and some require walking. The further you need to walk the more pristine. I have walked the bulk of our counties shoreline including Hollister Ranch and Hollister Ranch is some of the most unique and clean beach we have.

There has been relative quiet from our local Santa Barbara Based environment advocacy groups on the topic of this lawsuit. I suspect that they are conflicted because they understand that Hollister Ranch has created an internationally unique preserve that they whole heartedly love to see and the fact that private ownership has provided this. Private ownership and the “exclusive” nature is easy to demonize. It is politically difficult for grass roots organizations to support the demon of private ownership. Because of this, your organization is likely to hear silence from groups that are very vocal on other issues in front of the board. Listen to their silence.

Thank you for your attention to my opinion.
The California Coastal Trail is a noble goal, something that will benefit all Californians now and generations to come. The current debate over public access to Hollister Ranch and the Gaviota Coastline is a crucial opportunity to take the long perspective. Please do not take the side of a few wealthy landowners, their dominance is temporary, and the rights of the citizenry to access their natural environment should prevail.

Luckyfish, Inc.
PO Box 777
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0777
patfish@luckyfish.com
(805) 962-7552
Dear Commission members,

Thank you for your work over the years in protecting our coastal resources.

I am writing in support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. In a long and complicated issue, and after years of work by your staff and others, the settlement looks to provide the best option. The public access required will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.

I believe that the Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy did the right thing by settling.

Sincerely,

James Brady
Commissioners:
I am not an owner at the Hollister Ranch but I have had the privilege of visiting over the years. I have also been lucky enough to visit the Cojo/ Bixby ranch, now the Dangermond Preserve, to the North. We as Californians are privileged to have this expanse of coastal lands unspoiled by development and overuse. I see coastal access along the California coast as asphalt parking lots, trash, erosion from trails, harm to native plants, graffiti, and smelly bathrooms. The present owners of the Hollister Ranch and the Dangermond Preserve have been wonderful stewards of the land. In another time a conservationist meant leave it alone and protect it. I believe that is the vision of the present stewards of this beautiful piece of California and I applaud them. I wish that the State would reconsider their pursuit of access to any of these last gems of California but a deal is a deal. Just because a majority of the people want something doesn’t mean it is what is best for Mother Nature.
Sincerely,
Blake Jones

1811 El Encanto Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA

Blake Jones
blake@blueotis.com
(310)463-3345
I support the December 2017 settlement between the California Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch regarding public access.

The Hollister Ranch is truly the last piece of Southern California coastline that still exists in its "natural" state, and should be forever preserved this way.

Best regards,
Gail Young
Santa Barbara, Calif.
Speaking as an avid hiker and nature lover, I encourage you to insist that Hollister Ranch allow more access to the public, in particular public access along a coastal trail. Completing the California coastal trail would be a tremendous achievement. The coast belongs to all of us!

Catherine Ronan
3439 Wade St.
Los Angeles, CA 90066
--

Catherine
Commissioners,

My husband and I have been owners at the Hollister Ranch (Ranch) since 1977, and have spent many fine times there with our family and, more recently, their families. We are fully aware of the value of coastal land to the people of California. We are also well aware of the potential liability of land owners when people use their land in a manner that could result in injury or death. The settlement that was reached regarding public access to the Ranch recognized that unrestricted access would in fact put the public and the environment at risk, as the Ranch owners are not equipped to provide services and safety for the public at large. The settlement allows for the public to have access to the Ranch in a controlled and viable manner that provides for public safety as well as for the protection of the coastal resources.

We know that you are well aware of the impact of any kind of development on the Ranch's sensitive resources, and applaud your settlement that acts in way to protect those resources while making them available in an appropriately limited way for the public to appreciate.

I support the adoption of the settlement as written.

Thank you,

Carla Scheidlinger
Owner, Parcel 134
Commissioners,

I am writing to you in regards to the recent settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. I live in Los Angeles, and my husband and I regularly go kayaking here in LA and all along the California coast. We also enjoy frequent family visits to the Hollister Ranch. I support the current settlement, and hope that you will continue to do so as well.

As a beach-going Californian, I recognize the often contradictory requirement to both provide public access to our beaches and to protect them from too much use. Based on my understanding of the settlement that was reached, it actually provides the best option for all parties involved, as it both allows for increased public access to the Hollister Ranch coastline, and ensures that this access will be carefully managed in order to preserve and protect the fragile coastal environment in this area. Unfettered public access to the Hollister Ranch would be costly to build, maintain, and secure, and would most likely prove dangerous to both visitors and the environment.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to protecting the California coast for current and future generations,

Vera

--
Vera Scheidlinger
Dear Commissioners,

Everyone is interested in protecting our quality of life in CA especially when it relates to our ocean. Thank you for your work in helping to achieve this, the task you have is certainly not an easy one.

I want you to know that I fully support the Settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. The litigation which has lasted over four years and cost taxpayers, which I am, too much money has been seriously flawed. The reason is that our Constitution protects all of our property rights and the YMCA had no legal rights to dedicate an easement over private property. Just as I do not have a right to dedicate access to the Four Seasons Resort in Santa Barbara. I realize the issues are much more complex, but you get the idea.

My family has been using the beaches in Southern California for over thirty years enjoying swimming, surfing, and hiking. Please do not waste our money by allowing continued litigation with erroneous reporting by the media on this issue. Private property rights will not be taken away with discrediting the Settlement or any other litigation.

Thank you for your service to all of us in California.

Peter Borneman
805-886-8855
peter.borneman@gmail.com
Dear Commissioners,

I live in Santa Barbara County and I protest the recent ruling that makes it onerous if not impossible for most people to gain access to the beach at Hollister Ranch. The Coastal Act guarantees beach access to all California residents on all parts of the coast. The current plan does not provide this and another solution must be found. If not, this ruling sets a precedent for further limitation of beach access in other parts of the state. You should face up to your responsibility to the citizenry to protect their right to beach access along the entire coastline.

Susan Shields
3033 Calle Rosales, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
It is imperative that the Coastal Commission do its job: preserve public land access to the shorelines of Hollister Ranch. All Californians have rights to the access and recreational use of its beaches. It is the law of California, it's a matter of environmental equity, and these rights should not be negotiated away. Landowners understand this when purchasing property in California. And landowners must consent to reasonable land access.
Thank you for protecting our precious natural resources. Regards, Elisabeth Weinstein

Sent from my iPhone
I wish to add my protest to the voices of the public concerning the lack of ready access to the beaches at Hollister Ranch. It is unconscionable that those landowners should be allowed to block ready public access to their beaches. The Coastal Commission has a responsibility to the general public, not to private landowners, and should maintain access to all comers along the California coastline. Please revisit your recent decision.

Susan Shields
3033 Calle Rosales, Santa Barbara, CA 93105
I would like to support intervention of the possible class action settlement of the disputed public accessway to Hollister Ranch. The current plan prevents access to huge amounts of the public. The current plan is very exclusive in nature. I hope that the Coastal Commission will reconsider the current plan so that more California and other citizens can appreciate this coastal gem. Thank you.

Sincerely, Eleonore O. Starfas. Santa Barbara, CA
Coastal Commissioners,

As one who in the past has lived just above mean high tide line for over 20 years in both Malibu and Santa Barbara, I "get" the fear of potential problems related to trash, noise, and alcohol. However, especially here at remote Hollister Ranch, with access proposed via a very long walk, only respectful coastal lovers are likely to visit and they deserve to have that opportunity.

Please do what is right rather than follow those whose sense of entitlement causes them to attempt to keep the best of California only for themselves. Access to our beautiful coastline for all, while a privilege, is also a right, both morally and legally. Follow the obligations of your position to protect that coast and defend public access.

Judy Alexander
jlalex720@gmail.com
Santa Barbara, CA
All people should be able to access this lovely beach area by pathways to the shore. Why allow only a few wealthy people to control access?

Sincerely,
Raylene Crawford
raylenec724@gmail.com
Gentlemen:

I was saddened to learn that an agreement was reached between the Hollister Ranch Owners Association and your Commission in an effort to settle a longstanding dispute which precludes access for any practical purpose of the entire coast which the HROA dominates despite the intention of the Coastal Act.

I believe that the Coastal Commission should retract its approval of the settlement. Such a settlement is counter to the Coastal Act. In addition, it flies in the face of the general public’s best interest — access to the entire beach, not just an insignificant and sometimes dangerous fraction of the Gaviota Coast.

Your agreement with the ranch owners continues their exclusive use of the beaches of Hollister Ranch, a misuse of 35 years that is counter to the intention of the California Legislature.

The proposed settlement would be an inappropriate use of public funds. The limited use by a handful of individuals of Cuarto Beach would be paid for by using money earmarked for the establishment of the California Coastal Trail and beach access at the Ranch.

Coming to this agreement by the parties — your Commission and the Owners Association — without public knowledge was entirely inappropriate. It is clear that by law the public has every right to enjoy access to the Gaviota Coast, including the Ranch property. Further, the proposed settlement would waive public access to the first 3.5 miles of Hollister Ranch.

Please right this wrong by stepping back from the proposed agreement.

Sincerely,

Wilson D. Buckmaster
5360-C Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
Dear Judge,

Boating or paddling 2 miles to reach a California beach is not ACCESS! The Hollister coastline is 8 miles long, why give up access to 90% of the beach? At a minimum there should be access by walking or biking. Please do the right thing and support California’s Coastal Act by keeping the only existing public access we currently have at Hollister. No coastline should be exempt from access. Future generations will be grateful to you.

Thank you for your help.

Susie & Rich Fersch, La Habra CA.
Dear Commissioners.

I am appalled to learn that you have agreed to throw in the towel, after all these years and all this effort, on preserving coastal access for ALL people wishing to visit Hollister Ranch beaches. Worse, that you did this in private session and failed to keep it all above board.

You don't give up because you get tired. And you don't give up because the homeowners have so much more money to keep throwing at the fight against access That's EXACTLY what their goal is ... wear you down. YOUR job is to hold fast to the reason you hold your commission ... protecting the rights of all citizens to that state treasure ... the pristine beaches.

There are many ways to address the homeowners' concerns for their security (I'm sure they all have excellent security systems already). And there are many time-tested and successful ways to ensure that coastal access FOR ALL is administered responsibly. The proposed limited access provisions (in the pending "settlement") would be laughable, if not so deplorable. Throwing a dog a bone does not address his hunger ... it just gets him out of the way.

That's what your proposed settlement is attempting to do... get rid of those "pesky" citizens, who believe in public access (and have good reason to believe this!).

Please do not let $$$$$$$$$$$$$$$ and smooth talk decide this issue, It's a fundamental value to protect our natural resources and make them available to as many people as possible. It CAN be done and done well. You just have to hold firm, and not let yourselves get pushed around!

It's downright ridiculous for those homeowners to think that allowing access to the beach will endanger them or hurt their property values. They KNOW it won't ... they just want you to believe they have some inalienable rights the rest of us don't ... newsmash ... when it comes to sharing natural resources they're just the same as we are ... no more, no less! No one owns the ocean or the tidelands ... and therefore, we all must be able to get to them!

Preserve the Hollister Ranch coastal access ... let surfers surf and children play on the beach ... let the Coastal Trail stay ON THE COAST ... create & preserve a legacy for generations to come.

Rita Nesel
POB 2413
Alameda, CA 94501
Dear Commissioners:
Please keep Hollister Ranch Beach open for my grandson. My new born grandson is a 5th generation Californian. My grandparents immigrated to this great state at the turn of the century, around 1908. ' Please keep public access to California beaches open for all to enjoy.
Sincerely,
Janet Shigekawa
Hello.

The proposed beach for public use with access only via open ocean is unfair and dangerous.

At the minimum, there should be a walkway.

The idea of closing access to the entire coast north of Gaviota is wrong.

To see people driving along the beach drives home the image of gross injustice.

I wonder what history will say years from now.

- Jon Miller (805)564-3119
Please tell me that you are not beholden to the elite rich and greed driven developers in your awful decision to keep this beach, part of the California beautiful coast, away from the public use. It smells Trumpian. I trust Steve Lopez and the LA Times will further expose the underlying facts of this deceitful act.

Sanford Forman
sanky1282@gmail.com
Hello.

The proposed beach for public use with access only via open ocean is unfair.

The idea of closing access to the entire coast north of Gaviota is wrong and sets a dangerous precedent for California.

Keep our coastline accessible to all people.

Thank you,

Wendy Miller
619-806-2203
Dear Members of the Coastal Commission,

The coast must remain open to the public. Preservation of that public access is mandated.

If a few lawyers for a private interest are successful in persuading the Coastal Commission to prevent public access anywhere along the Coastal Trail, the Commission would have to face many more lawyers and many more private interests that want to grab the beaches for themselves. It would set a terrible precedent if you allow those greedy few to seize the beaches, to possess what is now public land and to use public resources to keep everyone else out. Millions of California residents and visitors who want to enjoy a day at the beach would have nowhere to go except a few relatively small public beaches. THAT would be a nightmare for the cities and counties that have to police and maintain those beaches, and for the wildlife who live there.

Hold the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association to previously agreed upon alignments. Don’t allow private interests to subvert the intention of the law and prevent public access to the truly great California Coastal Trail and to our beaches. People need the freedom to enjoy the coast - for our health, our mental health, and our connection to nature.

Thank you for protecting access to the coast for everyone,

Terre Dunivant

Dear Commissioners:

I live on the Central Coast and frequent its beaches often. Hollister Ranch has some of the only remaining CA beaches that are exceptionally pristine and have a varied and well preserved ecosystem. It provides an undisturbed habitat for shoreline sea life, birds, fauna and native plants. Public access would disrupt this delicate ecosystem and bring in trash, vandalism to the cabañas, wear and tear on small dirt roads and noise.

Please consider keeping these Hollister Ranch beaches private. Our wildlife depends on it!

Sincerely, Shiela Schraub
Sent from my iPhone
Dear Members of the California Coastal Commission,

I am writing you to oppose the recent settlement agreed to between the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch Association. It neither provides sufficient public-access, nor distributes the money collected from taxpayers in a way that is most useful to the public. As a longtime resident of Santa Barbara and one who frequently uses the public beaches at Refugio and El Capitan, but one who is incapable of kayaking 2 miles through rough seas, I hope you will reconsider and find a solution that is truly providing access to Hollister Ranch public beach areas.

Dr. June Gill  
3639 San Remo Drive, number 10  
Santa Barbara California 93105
Commissioners,

I am writing to support the legal settlement made this Spring 2018 with regard to the Hollister Ranch. While I understand and support the intent of coastal access to the California coast, there also needs to be a reasonable implementation of its purpose. It appears a compromise has been reached allowing increased public access to the area while at the same time accepting the physical limitations of access to the rest of the Hollister Ranch. Until the public road system gains access to that area, there is no viable access by land to the area.

Please adhere to your decision. Thank you.

Barbara Lee
Sonoma, CA
Dear Coastal Commission,

I am in favor of the settlement between the Hollister Ranch and the Coastal Commission because I do not want to see the Gaviota coastline destroyed. The coastline is currently in pristine condition because it is privately held. If given to the public the coastline will turn into something resembling Rincon or San Onofre. The marine ecosystems in these areas have been decimated by public interference, so the Gaviota coastline should remain private to preserve the delicate ecosystems that this area supports.

-Nick
Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to express my support for the agreement that the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch have reached regarding public access. It seems that the terms of allowing day beach access above the mean high tide line combined with an eventual 20 groups per year of managed public access balance the rights of the public while minimizing the impact on the beach. I strongly hope you support the agreement that has been achieved.

Many thanks,

Dr Gary Groth-Marnat
Dear Commission,

I am a regular surfer and 17 year resident of this pristine coastline, and I have only once visited the Hollister Ranch, and that one time was by boat. I feel privileged to have visited once, but I would like to be able to visit this incredible part of the coast more often. After all, doesn't the Coastal Act allow access for everyone? Why has this part of the coast (like Malibu and other properties in Half Moon Bay) been restricted to public access? It's really unfair that only a rich few can access properties like the Hollister Ranch.

Yes, I can understand that it's important to keep its rural, pristine quality, but there are ways to do this and allow regular access for the taxpaying public. State parks do an excellent job of stewardship for our beaches; why not extend this opportunity to Hollister Ranch?

Also, the proposal to allow limited access through public funds is an inappropriate use of public money. As taxpayers, we have a right and responsibility to see that funds go to the appropriate projects, ones that benefit all and not just a few.

Thank you for considering my comments. I hope you will vote to open the Hollister Ranch to the general public in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jozwiak
200 South Burton Street
Nipomo, CA 93444

Sent from Outlook
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to protect California’s coast.

This letter is intended to express support for the settlement you have entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

The need to preserve the Hollister Ranch’s near pristine environmental state via minimal impact is paramount. It doesn’t take an expert to see our intact coastal ecosystems throughout California are more and more scarce. The Hollister Ranch is clearly unique in its current state as one of the last large-scale undeveloped coastal areas we have left; it should certainly remain as intact as possible with as limited access as possible.

Furthermore, the Settlement was carefully developed, employed substantial resources over a significant amount of time and with broad expertise. The Settlement provides a clear solution and best-case scenario for all stakeholders and particularly for the State. Most importantly, the Settlement helps to ensure one of California’s last remaining coastal treasures remains environmentally intact or at least helps to minimize degradation for the immediate future.

Sincerely,

Chris Evans
Laguna Beach, California
Dear Coastal Commission,

How very clever of the Hollister Homeowners to graciously allow the public to access their area ONLY by water. What will they think of next, GLIDER ACCESS ONLY? If is unconscionable behavior by wealthy landowners to restrict access to established public paths and would set a very harsh precedent for future cases of this nature.

SHAME, SHAME SHAME on them.

Sincerely yours,

Patti Hall
Venice, CA
Commissioners:

The law is clear - Up to the mean high tide line, the beaches belong to all of us. We enacted the State Coastal Act in 1976 for the purpose of keeping access to the 1100 miles of California coastline open. No one person should "own" the coastline or any part of it. Please keep this in mind when you rule on the Hollister Ranch - we are counting on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of all of us to our beautiful coast.

Thank you.

Heidi Weisbaum
Commissioners,

I have been a lover of the beach and our ocean since my early experiences at Hollister Ranch back in elementary school. I am writing you now to let you know I am in support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch.

It is a fair deal and offers the best solution to preserve this beautiful coastline. The access required will be managed carefully. The increased access includes buses of school children getting a wonderful opportunity to study the environment and many veterans/wounded warriors having the opportunity to experience the ocean with experienced help.

This settlement was worked on for over three years and carefully agreed on by the State Attorney General, the Commission Executive Director and the State Conservancy Director.

The commission has the obligation to stand by this agreement and to support it.

Please honor this settlement agreement. It has already been seen as a fair agreement and decided to be the right choice by all parties involved.

Thank you for your help and work in California.

Yours truly,
Cara Johnson
Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Santa Barbara County and regularly spend time at our beaches as well as beaches all along our coast. I am an ocean lover. My kids have been raised swimming, tide pool exploring, and surfing in our coastal waters. We believe in the enjoyment and protection of our coastal resources. So, I thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast.

I am writing to let you know that I strongly support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch for a number of reasons:

First and foremost, my support of protecting land and wildlife where possible. Hollister Ranch is a place where land wildlife are protected. This settlement seems to provide the best option to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected while still allowing for carefully managed public access.

The Commission should continue to support their staff’s advice and support the settlement. This settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court. This settlement was agreed to and signed by the Commission’s Executive Director, the State Conservancy’s Executive Director and the State Attorney General’s Office, all of whom weighed and understood the very complicated issues at hand.

Lastly, I believe the Commission needs to honor its commitments.

Most Sincerely,
Jessica Risko Smith
California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to let you know that I am vehemently opposed to the Hollister Ranch Limited Access Settlement. This settlement, which has been negotiated behind closed doors runs counter to the entire idea of the Coastal Commission itself. Allowing wealthy landowners to restrict public access to Hollister Ranch beaches is an outrage. It also prevents the possibility of a Coastal Trail, which would be of huge benefit to the people of California.

I urge you to reconsider this settlement, and allow the public unfettered access to Hollister Ranch beaches.

Thank you,

Andrea Kaufman
14529 Redwood Lane
Guerneville, CA 95446
To whom it may concern,
I am a US citizen and lifelong California resident who would like to voice my concern after reading about the Hollister Ranch Limited Access Settlement. My dream has been to have access to the CA coastline via the California Coastal Trail and this settlement would endanger the completion of the Coastal Trail.
Please consider that one of our greatest public resources is the coast and access to it. If you take that away from the public, you devalue an entire area for the sake of a handful of private landowners.
Let's reconsider our options here.
Please and thank you,
Travis Vail
Bodega Bay, Northern California
What a terrible deal the Coastal Commission is making with the Ranch!! I have walked most of the California Coastal Trail, but can only glimpse the Hollister Ranch from the window of a train. It is the Commission's mandate to preserve public access and to complete the California Coastal Trail. Why should a few wealthy landowners be allowed to block off miles of California Coast for their private use? I urge the Commissioners to reject this "deal" that is no deal at all.

Michael Minky
16321 Pacific Coast Highway
Space 162
Pacific Palisades CA 90272
P) 310-230-2221
F) 310-460-0275

California Coastwalk, The California Coastal Trail Association
https://coastwalk.org/
I am writing to express my opposition to the Hollister Ranch Limited Access Settlement. The Coastal Commission has a mandate to preserve coastal access and complete the California Coastal trail at Hollister Ranch. This action is contrary to the sprit of the Coastal Commission to provide coastal access to all.
Please do not allow a limited access stipulation for this beach. No one person or group of persons should have exclusive access to any California beach. Our beaches are so precious; too precious to be commodified for pleasure of a few.

Sent from my iPhone
PLEASE do not allow the beach to be closed. It is where the great ocean meets up with people like me who do not have boats nor great water skills. Coastal Commission, you represent me too. Please allow all of us to enjoy the beach.

Thank you,
Deborah Little
Dear Director Ainsworth,

The proposed settlement fails to achieve any meaningful public benefits, and threatens to hamper future efforts to secure the public access at the Hollister Ranch subdivision guaranteed by the California Constitution and the Coastal Act. It doesn’t merit the dignity of your support. On the contrary, it should be seen as an utter failure to achieve any meaningful benefits.

The single proposed benefit of a public easement on the beach above the high tide line is only accessible to those who approach the beach from offshore. This so limits the benefit to the general public as to become illusory. The proposal may benefit a few boat-in surfers from time to time, but even those individuals may not achieve the comforts of that benefit due to the long history of hostility towards visitors by the Hollister Ranch residents. The ongoing and unlawful conduct by the Hollister Ranch Owners Association is disgraceful, but worse yet is the failure of the Coastal Conservancy to fulfill the affirmative duty the Coastal Act requires of them to implement the Adopted Coastal Access Program.

I urge you to support a more robust effort to achieve the intended benefits to the general public inherent in the Commission’s initial requirement for this OTD. Whatever you do, be certain it does not hamper future efforts to achieve implementation of the Adopted Coastal Access Program for the Hollister Ranch approved by the Commission 37 years ago.

Mike Lunsford
President Emeritus
Gaviota Coast Conservancy
Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for helping to protect California’s coast. I grew up in Southern California, live in Santa Barbara County, and love our coastline. I spend a lot of time outdoors, and am a kayaker, surfer, and hiker.

I support the settlement the Commission entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for numerous reasons, including:

1. The lawsuit with Hollister Ranch had an uncertain outcome for the State, and the Coastal Commission and after many years of litigation the State Coastal Conservancy did the correct thing by settling, providing access to Hollister Ranch via the beach and ocean in perpetuity,
2. The Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy staff, and Attorney General’s office were diligent and produced a carefully negotiated the settlement,
3. The Commission should continue to support their staff’s advice and support the settlement. The settlement provides the best option, and public access will be carefully managed to preserve and protect sensitive coastal habitats, and
4. The settlement committed the State to the agreement and, imposes a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it. The settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court, and the Commission should honor its commitments.

Thank you very much for reading my comments and hopefully taking these factors into consideration in the decision-making process going forward

Sincerely,

Dr. Phillip J. Hogan
30 Miramar Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
(805) 969-1862
Dear Commissioners,

I support the settlement the Commission entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

It was thoroughly researched and thoughtfully considered.

Unfortunately there have been media reports that are very misleading to the public. For example, due to an article published recently in the LA Times, people are lead to believe that there previously was public beach access on a Hollister Ranch Road that has now been taken away from the public due to the settlement. This is false; there has never been public beach access on a Hollister Ranch Road. What is true is that there has always been public beach access along the beach, and that has remained the same. It is unfortunate that some news writers are publishing incorrect information. Hollister Ranch permits numerous educational groups, research groups, disabled groups, and many other groups to enter in vehicles through the gate, use the private roads and private beach facilities, and access the common beach areas. Right now public access is carefully managed so as to preserve and protect sensitive coastal habitats.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Liz Hogan
30 Miramar Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA
93108
805-969-1862
July 1, 2018

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Regarding Hollister Ranch Access

I appreciate all the hard work your body does on a regular basis to protect our coasts. Having been born, raised, and lived my whole life in Southern California, and being a life-long surfer, hiker, backpacker, and a lover of our beautiful coastline, your body of work is important and meaningful to me.

With this in mind, it seems like the state and the public are getting a very fair and reasonable deal under the proposed settlement agreement between HR and the State of California, which I feel obligated to support for the following reasons:

1) I am a Real Estate Broker (for over 40 years) and that along with my training in basic property law causes me to wonder about the state’s legal position of claiming public access rights in Hollister Ranch on the basis of a neighbor who holds only an appurtenant easement over his neighbor’s property which based on my understanding gives them no legal power to give away a public access easement (or license) on his neighbor’s property

2) I feel very positive about the managed public access the state was able to achieve which will allow the public to arrange trips to the HR through proper channels as well as access it along the coast.

3) As I understand it, if this agreement is not agreed to by all parties, it will be torn up and a court trial will ensue that if lost, will prohibit any form of public access and all our gains will be lost. In my opinion, this is not worth the risk in the face of a very favorable agreement to all parties.

For these and other reasons I fully support the settlement agreement that has been negotiated between the parties. Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Rory Shevin
Roryshevin@gmail.com

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Please note my new email address.
RoryShevin@gmail.com

Rory Shevin
Broker Associate
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Dear Commissioners,

I was very disappointed to learn the details of a proposed agreement to grant limited public access to the Hollister Ranch. Beach access by water only is just a bad joke and would create a disastrous precedent for restricting any coastal access on other private properties.

Please give this issue your most serious consideration to allow for some land-based access to this part of the coast as well as continuing the coastal trail.

Thank you,

Tom Ballinger
333 Old Mill Rd. #216
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
805 453 0242
Dear Coastal Commission,

The proposed settlement for public access to portions of Hollister Ranch is a sham. Requiring entrance via ocean excludes 99% of the people who would like that access.

Please insist on an agreement that includes access via land. Maybe not by car, but by bicycle and foot on a trail that is useable at high tide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Doyle
4733 Ashdale St.
Santa Barbara, CA
93110
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

The California coastline belongs to the public, the people of California. We have the right to enjoy the beaches of our state and the right to access those beaches by bluff and shoreline without unreasonable limitations.

The property owners of Hollister Ranch can enjoy the coastline along with the rest of us, but should not be allowed to arrange any restrictions to other members of the public. The Coastal Commission also does not have the right to give away or sell our rights or restrict them.

Hollister Ranch property owners may wish to have their own private enclave along the Gaviota Shoreline and keep out the rest of the people of California, but that just is not right or legal. I oppose the recent agreement allowing this exclusionary situation.

These kinds of deals have been attempted by numerous people who are lucky enough to own a coastal property (e.g., Geffen, McCaw) but they also had to give up their attempt to cut off access to their “private” beaches because it is illegal and unethical.

The Coastal Act must be honored and followed. Don’t allow the Hollister Ranch homeowners to control our access to our beaches.

M Christine Gallery  
1323 Olive St., #E  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-698-9444  
chrisgallery@gmail.com

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Chris Gallery  
chrisgallery@gmail.com  
Santa Barbara, California  
(805) 698-9444
Is public access to any beach, anywhere, a fundamental human right?

Is easy access to a specific beach for the public more important than the rights of private property owners?

If conservation is our greatest priority, wouldn’t it follow that easier access would lead to heavier use, and be more damaging to this pristine coast?

95% of beaches from Pt. Conception to the US/Mexico boarder are easily accessible to the public, as is most of the Gaviota Coast. Why do we need more people on more beaches? Why not leave the few secluded pieces of coastline we have left as - is?

Lastly, coastal access to the hollister ranch is not impossible, nor is it illegal. For those willing to take a boat, kayak or walk on the beach are treated to an incredibly beautiful solitary experience in nature on this secluded, preserved, remote coastline.

I believe we should keep wild places wild, & remote places remote.

Thank you for your time,

Nole Cossart
Commissioners,

I am a long standing Santa Barbara resident and I already have easy access to many area beaches. Public access to every beach is not necessary.

Cuerta Beach has remained pure and unblemished without human alteration, and that is a testament to those who see the need to protect Cuerta Beach.

If the public wishes to go to the beach, or Susan Jordan’s idea of having children, under served youths and disabled vets go ‘tide pooling’ there are three State Park beaches just a stones throw away that they can use anytime they like.

The commission ought to leave Cuerta Beach alone therefore protecting the wildlife and marine life. School children and others would certainly disrupt the sensitive ecosystem if allowed to gather and play on Cuerta Beach.

There already has been four years of litigation costing thousands of dollars. Let’s not reopen things and spend more. The State’s legal position claiming public access rights was contrary to 100 years of California property law. But then there was months of negotiation finally leading to a settlement that provided the best option for everyone concerned.

I hope the Commission continues to support their staff’s advice and support the settlement. The settlement was signed by the Commission Executive Director, the State Conservancy Executive Director and the State Attorney General’s office.

Hollister’s model gives protection to Cuerta Beach so that wildlife can roam freely and marine life is left untouched. As David Levine so aptly writes, “Hollister Ranch is a world-class example of ‘private conservation.”

Please don’t listen to those opposing this hard fought settlement. I ask you to honor your commitment and do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Mark Kofler
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

I strongly urge you to support the recently announced settlement between the California Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch, that gives the public access to part of the Hollister Ranch beach.

The following arguments are offered in support of this request.

1) The recently announced settlement benefits the public by allowing increased access to the Hollister Ranch, a win for the general public.

2) I am unaware of all the legal issues related in the quest for public access through private Hollister Ranch land. However, I believe the State’s legal team has done the best they can to obtain some sort of increased public access. If the settlement is overturned the public would risk losing the public access that the Commission’s legal team has spent many years working to obtain. At best, the public would lose the increased access just granted while the legal battle continues (at a cost to taxpayers). At worst, the outcome after additional legal battle could be less desirable. Remember, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

3) In all the articles I have read about lack of public access it is never mentioned that the beach below the mean high tide line is public, and that anyone can simply walk on the beach to the newly designated public beach that extends above the high tide line. Southern California is full of beaches with adjacent concrete parking lots. Having one that requires a bit of a walk will add diversity to California’s beaches.

4) Finally and perhaps most significantly, a number of recent peer-reviewed scientific articles point to shortcomings in government’s efforts toward protecting valuable natural resources (see https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/09/opinion/protected-area-myth.html, and references within that article). Let the Hollister Ranch take the role in preserving their own land. From what I read, they are doing a fine job of this and without expense to the taxpayers. The settlement offers increased public access to private land through an enhanced managed access program. The public will have an opportunity to observe private efforts toward land/resource preservation.

I look forward to accessing the newly designated public beach at Hollister Ranch. With your support of the recently announced settlement I am guaranteed this opportunity.

Thank you for considering my request and your service to our state.

-Carter Ohlmann

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Carter Ohlmann
Earth Research Institute
Dear Commissioners,

We appreciate the work you do as members of the Coastal Commission to protect the coastline.

I currently live in Calabasas, just 20 minutes from the Malibu coast and previously lived in Costa Mesa, about 30 minutes from the Orange County beaches, where I grew up.

I have boogie boarded and kayaked and paddled outrigger canoes for much of my life on the beaches and water ways of the California Coast. I have enjoyed them and want them protected.

I have read the numerous articles about the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to dedicate and I support the settlement agreement 100%.

My reasons for supporting the settlement agreement are based on my understanding of the Offer to Dedicate and California Property law-simply, the Offer to Dedicate offered access via an easement across property that the YMCA did not own, which is not legal based on California property law.

Further to that, it is my understanding that the current settlement agreement does give some public access and increases the controlled public access and if the settlement agreement were not in place and the Offer to Dedicate litigation was continued, it would be very costly to the state in terms of legal fees, and might not result in the public access that is desired, with additional (unfunded) access costs and dangerous crossing areas.

I feel the settlement agreement is an excellent option for the State and members of the public as well. It is an agreement that has been worked on for several years, with input and advice from a variety of different organizations and opinions and does a good job of meeting in the middle to resolve a difficult situation.

Thank you very much for reading and taking my opinions into consideration.

Beth Kimme Shevin
3150 Mountain Park Drive,
Calabasas CA 91302
Dear Coastal Commission,
I write with regarding the settlement on public access at Hollister Ranch. I would like to see public access on the main ranch road to Cuarta Beach using the easement recorded back in 1982.

Sincerely,
Paula Schaefer
Santa Barbara
Dear Commissioners,

I have run a free Tidepool School at Hollister Ranch for the children of Santa Barbara County for 20 years. Hollister Ranch’s owners are unpaid volunteers. Docents, who teach the students in the tide pools are hired from UCSB’s Marine Reef Program, SBCC ‘s Marine Biology Program and the Santa Barbara Sea Center. To maximize the students’ learning, the individual groups number not more than 4 to 5 students per Docent and allow classes up to 35 students per Tidepool School

As years go by, it has become increasingly obvious and important to be able to show and to teach students the importance of healthy marine animals living in our ocean’s tide pools and for them to realize how delicate that balance is.

It seems there is a conflict between the concepts of conservation and recreation. Of Hollister Ranch’s own volition, 2.2 miles of its 8 miles of beach was set aside in 1990 as a Marine Preserve. The tide pools at Hollister Ranch today are teeming with healthy marine life as much as they were 20 years ago.

State and Federal beach parks cannot maintain that their beaches look the same as 20 years before. Their tide pools are not teeming with healthy life. Most have been picked clean of marine animals and habitat by uninformed and unrestricted public access over the years. Where is the conservation with the recreation?

For those who have observed the changes to shoreline ecosystems over the years, it is clear that recreational activities can and do defeat conservation efforts and overwhelm the efforts of those who work to preserve what is left.

With that in mind, the settlement was hammered out over months and was agreed upon by both sides. For those people who have not been involved in the long process of negotiations, it’s easy to make uninformed & incorrect conclusions.

Please honor the time & work put in by the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy staff and the Attorney General’s office by supporting the settlement.

Most Sincerely,

Wendie Kruthers
Coordinator
Hollister Ranch Tidepool School
805-567-1008
I support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding public access. It seems like a wise compromise that will satisfy the need to preserve the pristine quality of this area and to provide access by the public.

Sent from my iPad
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to California’s coast. I live in Los Angeles county and love the beaches and ocean. I am writing to you today to express my support for the settlement between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch for the main reason of supporting California property law. The YMCA did not have the right to give away public access easement over a neighbor’s private property without consent. Although I support public access to the states’ beaches I do not support taking away private property rights as a result.

Thank you,

Brooke Kawana
Dear Commissioners:

I’m writing to voice my opposition to the proposed settlement regarding access to Hollister Ranch. Any settlement must include public access to the coast through either a road and/or a foot trail, for which, I understand, public funds have already been collected.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Bernstein
222 S Figueroa St Apt 1211
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Commissioners,
I am writing to thank you for your commitment to protect the California coastline. It is my understanding that the lawsuit with the Hollister ranch is a very difficult one and had much uncertainty for the state. I grew up surfing, fishing, and enjoying the beaches of the Santa Barbara area since I was 4 years old. I am fortunate enough to have turned my passion of surfing into a career and now travel the world on the world tour representing Santa Barbara on a world stage. I owe much of my success to the amazing coastline that I was raised on and the people that I shared it with, both of which constantly inspire me.

I am in support of the settlement that you entered into with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer. As you know, the Gaviota Coastline is an amazingly rich stretch of coastline rivaling the beauty of anywhere in the whole world. I have traveled all over the world now as a professional surfer and I have seen many beautiful stretches of coastline and waves tarnished by developments and/or the public not taking care of these places. It is heartbreaking to see mother nature’s beauty damaged like this. I think that the settlement that has been made appropriately addresses the access issues of the Hollister ranch while hopefully protecting the beauty and magic that the coastline embodies. I hope that the state stands by the agreement that it has made and avoids damaging the commission’s public image for future cases.

Thank you for your service to California,
Conner Coffin
Hello Commissioners,

Thank you very much for your commitment to preserving and protecting California's coast. I live in Los Angeles and am an avid waterman. I spend many hours each weekend in the ocean and thoroughly enjoy everything it has to offer.

While I enjoy the beaches and ocean around LA, the coastline near Hollister Ranch remains a gem that we must protect and preserve -- it is one of the few that remains relatively untouched.

It is with the sincerest hope that this section of the coast be preserved for generations to come and, in doing so, having public access be carefully managed so that the sensitive coastal resources are not degraded. I want my kids to see it like I do now!

I am writing this letter to let you know that I am in full support of the settlement entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

From the bottom of my heart I appreciate your service to California. Thank you.

Charley Hambleton
To whom it may concern:

Thank you to the commissioners for all of your efforts to protect our coasts and aid in the preservation of our ecosystem.

As an owner at the Hollister Ranch, I share that aim. I am not a surfer. I am not a rich and famous actor. I’m simply a person who’s family has owned property there for thirty years and deeply believes in both the importance of keeping the natural area unspoiled and acting as a habitat for many species as well as the importance of upholding the laws of our great state.

Obviously I’ve followed this closely through the whole process. I believe that the settlement made with the state is generous and creates the best of both worlds scenario. The expanded visitation program will enhance the public’s experience while ensuring the protection of the area’s ecosystem that we have invested much time and money into.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I believe it is time to move past this by completing the agreement you entered into with the ranch.

Thank you for your service to our state and our coast.

Respectfully,

Grant Fowlie
Commissioners:

I reside in San Francisco and am an avid hiker and surfer. I regularly visit beaches and coastal areas all over the State of California for recreation and exercise.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed settlement agreement between Hollister Ranch and the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

The agreement was reached after years of careful negotiation between the two parties, and it would be absurd to allow the uninformed opinion of a few outspoken activists who have media access to derail this lengthy process.

In any event, the State's position is contrary to California property law, and contrary to common sense. No property owner should have the right to grant to the general public access to (or license over) his neighbors's property.

Surely you can understand the mayhem that would result if this legal position were established across the land. Would you want your neighbor to unilaterally grant open access to your property to any and all who may want to come visit?

I trust you will uphold the painstakingly negotiated settlement so that both parties can put their resources to work in more productive endeavors.

Sincerely,
Allen C. Benello
Commissioners,

Please reconsider your plan for Hollister Ranch beach access. The present plan is too limited. There should be an easy to use, land based access route. This is an important resource for nature and the public. This beach should be enjoyed and respected by the public just like the remainder of the pristine Gaviota Coast.

respectfully,

Sandra Schaal

Santa Barbara, CA
Dear Commissioners, I am a real estate attorney who has practiced land use law in California for over 34 years. I represent no one in the pending matter, but did want to express my views on the above topic as I care deeply about coastal access and preservation of coastal habitat. I read with dismay the numerous articles and public comments suggesting the Commission should not approve the proposed settlement agreement resolving access issues at Hollister Ranch.

The reason why settlement agreements make sense is that neither side is assured of a good outcome in litigation. As I understand the State’s position in the underlying litigation, the supposed public access rights to Hollister Ranch are derived from an Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA. But, the YMCA didn’t have the right to grant such an easement to anyone else. The YMCA only held an easement over an existing road. An owner who only has an easement over his neighbor’s property has no legal power to give away any additional rights to third party’s over his neighbor’s property. The YMCA gave away something that they didn’t own. Therefore, by approving the settlement the Commission isn’t restricting public access. In settlement of uncertain claims, it is gaining public access that might never otherwise be achieved.

Please don’t let uninformed hysteria destroy a win-win result. Support the settlement as proposed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Amy R. Forbes

323 South Irving Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90020

This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and then immediately delete this message.
Dear California Coastal Commission,

As you know, most of Southern California’s coast has been negatively impacted by man. Freeways run along the side of the ocean, with dumped boulders into the ocean to hold the roadway up, where before perfect surf spots used to exist. Harbors have been made, destroying other surf spots and beautiful beaches. Wetlands have been turned into airports and shopping malls. Seawalls protect multi-million dollar homes, and cause beach erosion. Parks have paved parking lots and structures right up to the edge of the beach, even though the California coast is receding each year. The Southern California that existed before humans came along and made all these “improvements” has almost completely been decimated. Yet, amazingly enough, just below Point Conception, along the Gaviota Coast, the magical preserved gem of the Hollister Ranch coast still exists much as it did during the Spanish land grant days of California. Beautiful ranch land will rolling grassy hills and California native oak groves, natural estuaries and creeks, unpolluted seas and reefs, native flora and fauna, roadrunners, bobcats, herons, this stretch of coast as remained natural and preserved, through the good management of the Hollister Ranch and it’s Board of Directors. Strict development rules, and tight access, have been able to save and preserve this little piece of heaven.

I have been going up to this stretch of coast all my life, for over fifty years. I have lived on the Ranch, boated into it, kayaked into it, and driven into the Ranch. If you are motivated to get to this spot, you can find many ways to visit. Each time I go there, I thank God for that day, and marvel at how beautiful the place is, and how somehow humans have not wrecked it yet.

Please keep your commitment to the Hollister Ranch and continue forward with the settlement you have made with the Hollister Ranch. It is the right balance between public access and preservation. It is within scope of the YMCA Offer to Dedicate, and a fair deal.

Sincerely,
Blair Whitney
Hello,

I am a concerned Southern California resident. One of the reasons I love and stay in Southern California, versus moving to other cheaper states, is access to unparalleled natural splendors including California's remarkable beaches.

The wealth in this state is great, and we know that the wealthy like exclusivity.

They should not be allowed to claim public beaches as private and restrict access to our great shared resources. We need to learn how to manage our shared natural spaces as a collective, and we need to defend collective access to beneficial spaces where peoples of all class and background can share and enjoy together.

Do not further divide the people of California. The wealth gap is only increasing. Shared places like our beaches and mountains are some of the few public resources that keep us together.

Allowing this deal to proceed will only encourage more greed and the segmentation of the state's great natural assets into private enclaves that only the wealthy and connected can enjoy.

Thanks,

Matthew Hegedus
Dear Commissioners-

The settlement reached by the Commissioners was after a long and lengthy period of time. I believe it was a decision made with serious consideration. I am in agreement with the settlement, as the legal intricacies of the case are much more complex than many likely understand. I can see how it would be easy for people to simplify and to assume that the option was either to drive down a road to the beach via car or to boat to the beach, and boating was the decided upon route by the Commission. I believe you sought the best possible outcome given the circumstances in the case (dangerous storm drainage tunnel, an easement granted across others private property, shuttle services and so on)

The public access will be carefully managed to enhance preservation. The Commissioners need to stand by their agreement that was signed and accepted. I cannot imagine what it would be like if every decision the Commission made was vetted by the general public with an option to be reconsidered, especially given all the complexities of this settlement and 4 years of legal proceedings many people likely have very little understanding or knowledge of.

The Coastal Commission is an organization that makes decisions for the public on a weekly basis and should continue to stand by their decisions. Imagine the precedence this would set for any later decisions the Commission makes. It would also only lead to more lengthy legal action based on an idea of a license that violates common real estate law.

Thank you for your time and involvement in an organization that carries with it enhanced public scrutiny.

Sincerely,

Justin
I’m writing to express my opposition to the Hollister Ranch settlement with the California Coastal Commission. From what I can tell, access for the general public is by water only. Given how dangerous those ocean currents can become, that amounts to no public access. I do understand there are a limited number of tour groups and school groups allowed, but seems to me to be only a public relations gesture.
This is a very bad precedent for California citizens and our future coastal access.

James W. Semick

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
To Whom It May Concern...

First of all, thank you Commissioners for your ongoing great work in protecting and preserving our wonderful California coastline.

I live in Laguna Beach and I have surfed my whole live up and down the California coast for the past 50 years. I have been the CEO for forty years of one of the biggest surf apparel brands in the world. I am a lifetime water person.

My note today is in support and satisfaction with the recent settlement you have made with the Hollister Ranch about the limited access plan. This settlement of former YMCA claims is by far the best option. The now public access will be carefully planned, executed and managed to make sure the access is safe and that the sensitive parts of the coastline are protected. This settlement was negotiated over years of lawyers and money, and now after many months of guidance by the courts and signed by all fiduciaries of the state, this decision should be honored by all parties. The opposing views are short-sighted and should not be taken seriously after all the time has already be spent vetting the best way to give some limited access to Hollister Ranch.

Again, thanks for your service to the State.

Bob McKnight
Dear Commissioners,

My name is Josh Bradbury and I am writing you in support of the settlement reached with Hollister Ranch re the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. My understanding is that the settlement took many months/years to reach and that it is a fair agreement to all parties. As both a taxpayer and an environmentalist I believe this agreement was the best that could be reached. It will preserve thousands of acres of hills and coastal property while still providing some public access. It will also save all sides a lot of money from continuous litigation. Seems like a win/win to me.

So I urge you to honor the agreement that has already been worked out.

Thank you for your service.

Josh Bradbury
Laguna Beach, CA
Please reject the current settlement and find a way to increase public access to the coastal portion of the Ranch.
Commissioners: I am a resident of Aptos, California in Santa Cruz County & have been so since 1976. I have spent many days along the coastline surfing, playing beach volleyball, hiking & biking. Over that 40+ year period I have watched just how much has changed and have seen the impact we have all had on the coastal environment.

My hope is that you folks will continue to support your commitment to keeping the coast as pristine as is possible. To that end, I was heartened to hear that a recent agreement had been reached on public access at the Hollister Ranch that provided a reasonable solution to all the parties involved.

Now, I understand that there seems to be a change of position on the settlement that has already been deliberated on for quite some time. My hope is that you folks will see the benefits of that which has been adjudicated.

The area from Gaviota State Park running west towards Point Conception is a place that might remind one of coastal California from decades ago. It would be wonderful if that could remain as wild & remote as it has been.

Thanks to all of you for what you do preserve & protect a special place.

Sincerely, Kent Kitchel.
Dear Commissioners,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara County since 1969. I genuinely love our local natural environment, and am active in sports and activities in both the ocean and mountains. I am writing in support of the settlement that was recently entered into between the Hollister Ranch, the California Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy. No doubt, the settlement is the culmination of the conscientious and reasonable efforts on the part of all the concerned parties to come to a resolution to the issues involved. The settlement provides access rights to the State that are likely better than what could have resulted from ongoing and expensive litigation. I am confident the parties negotiated the settlement in good faith, and it is important that the settlement now be honored.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

D. Theodore Zinke
Hello

I support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding public access.

The Commission needs to honor its commitments. The settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court and was signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General’s office.

By this agreement, the Coastal Commission has achieved an environmentally sensitive balanced public access that is now under attack by uninformed media for apparently not tearing down the fences and opening the gates of public access to the Point Conception area via buses, shuttles, parking lots and pedestrian traffic tunnels on these pristine lands and beaches.

Thank you.

Craig Warriner
Howdy Commissioners,

I want to thank you for all you do in protecting the California’s coast.

I’ve been following this situation – that I think it commonly referred to as YMCA’s Offer to Dedicate - for several years. I felt the Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy was smart to settle as the situation seemed very risky: someone offering access to a neighbor’s property? That didn’t seem logical and certainly not winnable in a court of law. It appears to me that the State comes away with accesses, and access that still protects the coast. That seems very positive.

I support this settlement, and again, thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Ian

Ian Murray
Triathlon Training Systems
1411 Palisades Dr
Pacific Palisades, CA. 90272
310-924-7362
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the matter of the YMCA Offer to Dedicate settlement with the Hollister Ranch.

I applaud you on your settlement!

As a Marine biologist that frequents the area 1-3 times per year, it is clear that this stretch of coastline has a unique but fragile ecosystem that must be preserved if not for its function as a part of a greater whole that governs the health of the western Pacific Ocean, then for the overall health and beauty of the state of California! Imagine the alternative. Population densities that compete for resources lower the quality of life for all who believe in the richness and pristine land/oceanscapes that define our state and make it truly a paradise on Earth.

Please consider moving forward with the current, agreed-upon settlement with Hollister Ranch in the YMCA Offer to Dedicate case.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,
Brian Price
To: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION & STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

I wanted to thank you for all your efforts the coastal commission and the conservancy spent to make the settlement happen with Hollister Ranch. I believe that the agreement with Hollister Ranch is best for everyone that lives in the vicinity or would like to visit the area. Let’s not ruin all the time and energy that was entailed over 4 years by extremely knowledgeable and caring professional people. Every detail of this case has been thoroughly covered ending up with a great solution that benefits the general public, coastal commission and the conservancy. The settlement allows for managed public access while maintaining coastal resources. Please don’t disregard years of hard work and a detailed settlement by our coastal commission and Conservancy.

--
All The Best,
Carl Clavin
Commissioners,

As local Southern California beach residents, my wife and I appreciate the recent ruling to protect the pristine California coastline.

I have spent most of my life, enjoying the Pacific coast from Big Sur to the Mexican border, and feel that the recent ruling was something that took considerable thought and diligence, on behalf of the Commission. I also believe that the ruling reflects a balance related to the sensitive issues at hand, and the outcome to manage public access is positive to all sides.

It is important to protect and preserve the precious resources of the Point Conception landscape for as long as possible.

My wife and I applaud the the work that has taken place to protect the fragile coastline, and I wanted you to know that your decision to create a balanced settlement should stand.

Regards,

Hugh & Mary Anne Penton

Commissioners,

Thank you for your dedication to protect the California coast. I live in Westlake Village and have spent sixty years enjoying California beaches and believe the complex and challenging settlement that was reached was in the best interest of all parties. The solution of managed public access will help protect and preserve the sensitive coastal resources of Pt Conception.

The time and effort that went to get all the parties to agree to the settlement speaks to the result. Not to honor the commitments reached would be a setback to the process and negatively impact negotiations in the future. The Commission has done a great job and the settlement should stand.

Thanks for your efforts,

Packy Jones

Sent from my iPhone
Sent from my iPhone
Dear Costal Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the Settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch. I am an owner of a technology-driven surfboard manufacturing company in Ventura. I've been surfing since I was little and I've been fortunate to have surfed some of the breaks at Hollister over the years.

What makes the Hollister Ranch area so special is how secluded and untouched it remains. It is a gem of a stretch of coastline because it has been preserved so well. I truly believe that land-based public access would overcrowd and destroy the beautiful and isolated essence of the Hollister Ranch. This Settlement seems ideal because it allows us to land on the beach and enjoy a part of the land while accessing the waves that we already have the right to surf. The fact that the beach in the Settlement is a little difficult to get to will keep it uncrowded and allow us to experience that part of the coast in its pristine and uncrowded state.

If this Settlement does not happen I worry that we could lose the access that we've been given. I also believe that any type of wide-scale land access for the general public would most certainly destroy the very nature of this magical place. Therefore, I strongly support the Settlement that the Costal Commission has entered into.

Sincerely,
Edison Conner
Dear Commissioners,

I have been a surfer for over fifty years and have been fortunate to experience the great beaches of southern California including the Gaviota coastline. I have followed the public access issue at Hollister Ranch for many years. I wanted to express my support on the settlement you reached with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to dedicate for several reasons.

The settlement provides reasonable public access while at the same time ensuring that sensitive coastal resources are protected and preserved. This is very important as many areas of the Southern California coastline have been damaged. Furthermore, the settlement commits the State to stand by the agreement and places a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it. Basically those against the approved agreement are asking the state to walk away from its commitments.

Sincerely,
David Hilton
To: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION & STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Regarding the Hollister Ranch Settlement

I appreciate the settlement you made with Hollister Ranch. You spent many years evaluating all aspects of this case. You made the best decision that benefited the state and its constituents. The public have limited information on all the details that have been hashed out over 4 years by extremely knowledgeable caring professional people. Every detail of this case has been thoroughly covered ending up with a great solution that benefits the coastal commission and the conservancy. The settlement allows for managed public access while maintaining coastal resources. Please don’t disregard 4 years of hard work and a detailed settlement by our coastal commission and Conservancy.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Clavin
Commissioners:

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live at the Beach in Orange County and regularly spend time at the beaches all over California. Our family members are surfers, junior lifeguards, sailors, beach runners and ocean environmentalists.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.

The proposed settlement makes good sense for the state of California. The Settlement reached will protect the environment and the property rights of the owners of Hollister Ranch who are good stewards of the environment. the settlement will best protect the fragile coastal environment.

The State's legal position is in contradiction to over 100 years of property law. A neighbor who has a appurtenant easement over another's property has not legal power to give away public license on his neighbor's property.

Those opposing settlement are asking the State to walk away from their commitments under the agreement. Even if the state were to prevail in a costly legal battle, it would not have gained as much as it does under the terms of the settlement. The contemplated beach access under the suit is dangerous and unsuitable for passage and would depend on unfunded state transit. Under the current terms of settlement, public access will be carefully managed to protect the public safety as well as the sensitive coastal resources.

This was a well thought out, diligently negotiated settlement plan which put forth a risky and uncertain outcome for the State. The agreement reached by the Costal Conservancy and Costal Commission and Attorney General's office -- the people most familiar with the intricacies --should be followed. The Commission Executive Director, State Conservancy Executive Director and State AG's office have signed this settlement and need to back their commitments. The settlement commits the State to honor the agreement as well as oppose attempts to invalidate it.

In summary, the settlement reached is the best option for the State, the environment and the property owners and must be followed.

Thank you for your service to California.

Jill Hunt
I oppose the current settlement agreement with Hollister Ranch. It does virtually nothing to provide real access.

Steve Forsell

Sent from my iPad
To Whom it May Concern,

I am a resident of Goleta California. I've been reading a lot about the Hollister Ranch and the litigation with the state. I've been fortunate enough to visit the ranch a few times by boat. Although it pains me I want the Ranch to stay as is. There isn't anywhere like it - untouched and beautiful.

I look at the public parks with beach access near Goleta and I see them loved to death. We need to preserve a few areas as they were hundreds of years ago and if it takes a bunch of rich jerks to do it then thats how it is.

Although it is against my personal interests I see the settlement as a positive step in protecting the coast.

Also I don't think that we should be fighting a losing battle legally. With this Supreme Court this case is lost already.

Thank You,

Allen
Hi commissioners:

The beaches of California are special places that we should certainly protect. My husband and I live in Carpinteria. We love the outdoors and the Southern California beaches especially.

I wanted to let you know that I support the settlement you reached with Hollister Ranch for these reasons:
- First, the Ranch is *extremely* protected by its residents, as I've seen firsthand working in real estate and seeing all of the Rules and Regulations that the Ranch abides by, all of which protect and preserve the coast's natural beauty. The State gaining access would hurt, not help, that preservation.
- Second, the Attorney General's office, the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy all worked very hard for over four years on this case, and hashed out a settlement over the course of a year. The top legal minds carefully made the best decision they could based on facts. All of that time, energy (and money) spent should not be swept away by the ignorant public. It would be a tragic waste, not to mention a disservice not to listen to the professionals who know the most about this case. The public appears to have many of the facts mistaken.

Please consider these points and considering honoring the settlement, which was a sound decision and smart outcome for everyone involved.

Thanks so much for protecting California!

Sincerely,

Brooke Speakman
Members of the Commission:

As I long time resident of Santa Barbara and environmentalist, I am writing in favor of the proposed settlement with the Hollister Ranch Owners’ Association.

The Hollister Ranch beaches are pristine because access to them is limited. The Hollister Ranch was founded on the principle that its greatest asset is its unspoiled resources and that only by limiting access to all could those resources be protected. Thus the Hollister Ranch severely limits access of its owners and their guests in strictly enforced numbers. By limiting its own use, the Hollister Ranch has preserved its resources.

Yet the Ranch also conducts a managed access program for school children, disabled persons, bird watchers, researchers and others.

The Coastal Act provides that while public access to the beaches is a very high objective, when access and protection of resources conflict, the protection of resources shall prevail. The Hollister Ranch provides a very significant public benefit by controlling access of its owners and others, for as the result of the limited access, the resources are protected and in exceptional condition for public to study and preserve under the managed access program. This is entirely consistent with the Coastal Act.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Kimbell
As a biologist that monitors sensitive nesting birds on public beaches, I have to agree with
the settlement to keep the majority of the public off some wild beaches. Allowing unguided
access always results in native species declines. I think it's fair that scheduled groups are
allowed to visit, as that is the best (and only) way to keep people from destroying the things
they claim they love. Just today, I was documenting where people went into a fenced
nesting area on a State Beach and tampered with endangered species' nests, where several
nests were missing eggs. Tough to tell if the people took them or their tell-tale signs (sticks
they left) pointed out the eggs to natural predators. A sad and frustrating result either
way.

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy website stated it themselves: Hollister Ranch
occupies an extraordinary location on the California coast, with substantial
biological, cultural, agricultural and recreational resources and opportunities
present.

The only way to maintain these values is to carefully monitor people's access. They
have shown time and again, they cannot follow rules that protect resources.

Debra Barringer
Ventura, CA

Sent from Outlook
Coastal Commission,

I live in Los Angeles, and I surf and camp at SB county parks and beaches all the time: I support this agreement, and the beach access we will finally have at the Ranch. I have followed the process with great interest, and it has gone on forever... and if we lose this agreement, I suspect that we will wait more years for access, (and maybe never get it). I know as much as can be known about the deal, and the press reporting on the legal issues, and it seems like we got as good a deal as we can hope for under the circumstances...It is not perfect, but it is beach access, right now, and forever...Please don't make us wait through another 5 year fight, to end up at the same place, or worse... A lot of us only have 5 or 10 healthy years left to enjoy it!
Hi commissioners,

I've been following the Hollister Ranch some time now after being able to go there multiple times by boat and by car as a guest. It is the most well-preserved place. In fact one of the last best places left on our coast that is undisturbed by the public and preserved in its natural state. I've been reading some of the articles in the newspapers that discuss how unfair the settlement is. There seems to be an ignorance of the litigation issues and the reason why the state agreed to this settlement. The public truly does not know the facts of the case and are ill-informed of the true legal rights that are involved here. The YMCA never had the rights to give an easement through properties they did not own or have rights to grant easements through. That's very clear. The California law has been in place for many, many decades concerning this legal right. There are many other issues that have been not well portrayed. Many people get to enjoy and use this area already, and it is pretty clear to see what happens when the public gets into protected environmentally sensitive areas. They tend to wear them out, and disturb the natural environment and not show their appreciation of it.

This settlement is a great deal and needs to be agreed upon. I understand that the state, the conservancy director, the attorney general and the coastal commission have all agreed to this in writing and have agreed to follow through with it. This is a good settlement and needs to be upheld and protected. Support this settlement as the true professionals are recommending you do.

Thank you for your consideration,

Don Jackson
I object to the proposed Hollister Ranch settlement. Reasonable public access should be implemented so that the general public can use the beach. And an easement for the California Coastal Trail is a must!

Gerry Ching
462 S. San Marcos Rd.
Santa Barbara  CA  93111
Dear Coastal Commission – Thank you for your dedication and work to help preserve the delicate coastline of California. I live in Orange County and frequent the ocean and beaches up and down the California Coast. During my college years, at UCSB, I was fortunate to experience surfing along the Hollister Ranch coastline and respected the serenity and beauty of the coastline. It was nice to see a dedicated area where there was limited public access to preserve the flora and fauna natural to this piece of coast.

I support the decision to settle with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate due to the points below:

1. Preserve the natural beauty of this section of coast.
2. Less impact on the wild animals that live within the entire Hollister Ranch
3. Maintain a balanced ecosystem

Thank you again for your continued work on saving the California Coast.

Tom Balding
Commissioners,

The settlement you have approved regarding Hollister Ranch access is horrible.

It provides the public with few benefits and potentially forecloses appropriate public access at Hollister Ranch forever. You have created this settlement in private and that is a breach of the public’s trust.

The Hollister Ranch has stonewalled the Commission and the public for decades on the issue of Ranch access. The settlement is a near-total capitulation to this egregious behavior that will establish a horrible precedent.

The Commission needs to do everything possible to secure the Coastal Trail through the Ranch. That is your job; do it!

Phil McKenna
Commissioners:

My name is Glen Jonas. I have surfed almost every single day since I learned to surf while attending college at U.C. Irvine, 33 years ago.

As a surfer and an attorney I think I am in a somewhat unique position to comment on the settlement. I have lived in Manhattan Beach for the past 20 years. I do not own property at Hollister Ranch. Nor do I have access to Hollister Ranch. I am one of those surfers denied the opportunity to surf there but I am ok with that for the following reasons:

1. The coastal commission needs to protect the coast. I think of Hollister Ranch as a "Preserve". Because of the HOA restrictions and zero access, that portion of the coast is not polluted, trashed, and otherwise destroyed by the public. If in fact the public had full access, a very special part of California will be ruined. Look at the creeks and water ways near any local national forest. The public has full access and it ends up full of trash, diapers and mini-damns destroying the fisheries.

2. My understanding is that both sides worked long and hard to reach a fair and reasonable resolution. When litigation goes the full distance everyone loses in the end. Money, time and energy is wasted.

3. I believe in private property rights. I don't like the idea of the public trampling through other persons private property via an easement that never existed. To take a private property owners ranch and tell them "sorry you spent $5-10 million but we are going to let the public trample through" strikes me as unfair.

4. The settlement offers a compromise that allows enjoyment of the area while protecting it.

Regards,

Glen T. Jonas
Jonas & Driscoll L.L.P.
1108 Sartori Avenue, Unit 320
Torrance, CA 90501
T-213-683-2033
F-310-218-4980
Sent from AOL Desktop
To: Commissioners

From: James Fox

I was recently made aware that the settlement that you had agreed to regarding the Hollister Ranch and the YMCA, is being challenged. I have personally had the privilege to visit the Hollister Ranch. I was amazed to see the apparent care that the owners take to maintain the land and protect the diverse wildlife. The owners have an association that acts as a conservancy to keep the land and the wildlife in an undamaged condition. It would be devastating to see this last bit of pristine and protected coastal land in California turned into an unprotected public dumping ground. I urge you to uphold your original decision regarding the Hollister Ranch and the YMCA settlement.

Thank you,

James Fox
Commissioners

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast and preserving the natural habitat. I live in Goleta and have been enjoying the entire Gaviota Coast for the last 42 years. I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. I understand that this lawsuit is very complicated and has been reviewed by counsel for both sides for the last 4 years. I think it is a fair settlement and will allow this coastal resource to continue to be protected for years to come. I don’t think that it makes sense for the public nor the landowners to continue to pour additional resources into this negotiation. The Hollister Ranch has been protected in its current model better than any other mechanism in the history of conservation.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

David Prichard
Dear Commissioners,

First let me begin by saying I appreciate all your efforts to protect the beautiful coast of California. I've spent all but 6 months of my 47 years on various parts of the California coast, and I cannot imagine living anywhere else in the world. As an avid (or more accurately, "addicted") surfer, I've spent the vast majority of the past 35+ years exploring various surf spots from the Mexican border to Seaside Reef in Oregon. We are very lucky to live where we live.

As an owner of a small piece of one of the last stretches of virtually untouched California coast, I want to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. As I wrote above, I've scoured the coast over the last three and a half decades, and I've seen countless beautiful beach environments be destroyed by traffic, over population, or simply innocent ignorance. Hollister Ranch is more than just a place to go surfing; it's also a working cattle ranch as well as home to innumerable agricultural projects. On my drives through The Ranch, I regularly have to slow down for cows, rabbits, snakes, quail, roadrunners, wild pigs and various other animals living in their natural environment. Every time I visit The Ranch, I realize I'm visiting THEIR land, not the other way around. This natural environment needs to be carefully protected so that their homes and resources are secure and plentiful.

Another thing I've noticed in my many years of surfing is how the human element destroys the natural beauty of the beaches. When humans start trafficking areas they haven't previously mapped out, particularly in large numbers, it can quickly destroy what nature intended. I've seen it so many times in other locations, and I don't want to see The Ranch fall victim as well.

I'm writing because it is my understanding you are taking comments from the public and potentially reconsidering the settlement agreement. This settlement was many, many years in the making, and walking away from this agreement will not bode well for the Commission's future. Even if it's seen as a "victory" from some on the outside, the vast majority of whom are uninformed, it will limit the Commission's ability to reach settlements in the future and damage its reputation.

I know the goals of the Commission are always good. It's not about "winning"; it's about doing what's right. I feel the settlement we reached and you agreed upon was the best result for all parties, and I look forward to it being formalized. Thank you for hearing me out, and thank you for all that you do for California.

Sincerely,
Danny Siudara
805-697-7351
Commissioners,

I am writing to let you know that I fully support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate, and want to share my thoughts and reasons.

I grew up in Santa Barbara. I am a hiker, surfer, plant nerd and nature lover. At the age of 29, I can already see how much the California coast has changed in my lifetime, and I see how important it is to try to preserve it. I have tremendous respect for the efforts Hollister Ranch puts towards conservation. We are lucky to have this pristine piece of California preserved on this coastline.

The settlement allows for the valuable protected resources to continue to be protected and preserved. It is clear that the Hollister Ranch organization are environmental stewards first. As an environmentalist, beach lover and local resident, I support the settlement. My wish is that the Commission does not waver, and follows through on what has been committed to.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Kristen Franz Cantor
Commissioners:

I am a resident of Los Angeles County. I have been reading about the Hollister Ranch settlement. I want you to know that I support your decision to settle, and not spend tons of taxpayer dollars fighting something that would yield little for the residents of California were you to prevail in a lawsuit. California residents enjoy miles and miles of beautiful coastline, and spending a lot of money just to obtain more public access to a few miles of remote coastline is not a good use of taxpayer money.

Thank you for your service to our State.

Respectfully,

Mike Harmon
Manhattan Beach, CA
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the public on the important topic of coastal access. I grew up and live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and for as long as I can remember California’s beaches have been a place of family, friends and retreat.

I want to express that your settlement with Hollister Ranch is the right decision. The beauty of the California beaches is in the diversity. In Santa Barbara you can walk across the road and you’re there. Other parts of the California coast require skill and adventure to access. As an avid backpacker, I love that there are places like Yosemite valley that everyone can access and enjoy, but I also love that there are the forgotten mountain routes of the High Sierras that only a handful of people have the wherewithal and the inclination to visit.

It is clear to me that the settlement is reasonable. Any larger form of access would be unreasonable—putting an unfair burden on the landowners and going against California’s respect for the rights of private property.

It is okay to leave some parts of the coast wild and magical. We are lucky enough to have many versions of the coastal Yosemite valley. There’s no need to go infringe on other’s property rights to create another.

Thank you accepting my comments and for your stewardship of the California coastline.

Alex Harleen

--
Alex Harleen
Kynetic Consulting
(510) 282-6970
AlexHarleen@gmail.com
To The California Coastal Conservancy and California Coastal Commission,

I am an environmentalist, attorney and active Sierra Club member. I have no financial interest in the Hollister Ranch. I believe the HR-CC settlement is the best option to preserve and protect the Gaviota Coast. It is so special because of it being so remote. I have seen the Hollister Ranch Association be a great steward of the land and am in full support of the proposed settlement.

Don Phin, Esq.
don@donphin.com
(619) 852-4580
www.donphin.com
www.linkedin.com/in/donphin
Check out www.greathr.com
Dear Commissioners,

I appreciate the work you do to protect California’s beautiful coastline. I live in La Jolla, am a lover of nature, and I surf on pretty much a daily basis. The ocean is my happy place.

I know that a great deal of work and careful consideration went into the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate, and I support that settlement.

I was relieved to hear that you reached a settlement, and thought that the settlement would be honored. I am concerned that now the carefully negotiated settlement is being questioned. Why reach an agreement with all parties, and then stand back and allow it to be invalidated? What will that do to other settlements reached in the past, and, to those desiring to reach settlements in the future? If we cannot rely on your ability to keep your commitments, I worry that our beautiful California coastline will be at risk.

I am aware that the settlement does provide public access to areas within Hollister Ranch. I know that Hollister Ranch will be required to host & supervise an increased number of educational as well as surf/ocean oriented outings for youth and others. The areas selected for general public use are limited, but they were very carefully selected with safety in mind. By “safety” I mean physical safety for the people, and, safety for the sensitive coastline and corresponding ecological habitat.

I urge you to support the settlement.

Again, thank you for the work you do to protect the California coastline.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mulligan
Dear Commissioners,

I am extremely grateful for your work in protecting California’s beautiful coastline. I am an avid surfer, photographer, Santa Barbara Sea Center volunteer, and general ocean enthusiast. I am a 15 year old from Santa Barbara and neither my family nor I owns at Hollister Ranch so I have a relatively unbiased perspective on the settlement discussion.

I have visited the ranch a few times and I can say that as a surfer, I appreciate the experience that Hollister ranch provides. It is unique to almost anywhere else in the world and has made me realize what a negative impact surfers have on mainstream surf spots. Hollister Ranch has countless waves that either parallel or exceed California’s best public waves like Rincon or Malibu in quality and if open to the public would attract hoards of surfers from all over the world. The impact that this can have and has had at other spots is detrimental to coastal environments and marine life. The amount of pollution that the thousands of vehicles and visitors would bring, not to mention the effects of new roadways and parking lots that would be needed with such a change would shatter the pristine ecosystem that is Hollister Ranch. My personal opinion will always be to value natural ecosystems over the needs of humans. While Hollister Ranch is not a completely restricted access conservation area, the amount of human impact on the environment is miraculously small and the Hollister Ranch management and owners do an excellent job of respecting the natural environment. I honestly believe that the current settlement of Hollister Ranch is the best proposed option for California’s wildlife.

Thank you for your service to California and I hope my input helps.

Ben Sherman
Dear Commissioners,

I've lived in California my entire life and have always appreciated your efforts to protect our coastline.

I want to express my support of the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. After four years of litigation, I trust both sides diligently came to the conclusion that the settlement was in everyone's best interest.

There's been a lot of media attention that has fired up many to oppose the settlement. For example, in the LA Times article by Steve Lopez he encourages the public to "raise hell" at the next Coastal Commission hearing in Scotts Valley. This kind of emotional response fails to take into account the legalities and practicalities involved in the litigation. The staff from the Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy and Attorney General's office understood the complexities involved and produced the carefully negotiated settlement.

Do we really want to re-open the issue and continue to use taxpayer money to fund more litigation? Isn't four years long enough? I believe the California taxpayers would rather their money be spent on things like badly needed improvements/maintenance at our state beaches rather than attorney's fees.

It's time for the Commissioners to set aside emotions and respect their staff's advice. Let's move on.

Jeff Gill
Dear Commissioners:

My name is John Davey and I am a middle school history teacher in San Clemente. I am an avid beachgoer, my favorite beach activities include stand-up paddling and SCUBA diving. I have been following the Hollister Ranch case via media and friends over the last few years and felt the need to reach out regarding the latest news.

As far as I can tell, the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy staff and Attorney General’s office have been diligent negotiating a settlement which seems to be a win-win for everyone involved. The settlement was carefully crafted and passed by all parties. It seems unreasonable for the Commission to renege on the settlement now, merely based on the reactionary opinions of ignorant meddlers.

I implore you to honor the commitment made by the hard-working, knowledgeable and honest people who spent countless hours crafting a settlement that works for all.

Thank you for continuing to protect our beaches.

John Davey
Dear Commissioners,

We are writing in support of the settlement you reached with the Hollister Ranch.

We have lived in both Northern and Southern California over a span of many years. We appreciate the work you all do every day to support public beach access.

There are many reasons that we support your settlement with the Hollister Ranch. The key reasons are as follows:

- having followed the issues with the YMCA Offer to Dedicate, it is our opinion that the State's case is on very shaky ground - your settlement seems likely to be better than what the State will achieve if this issue ends up in court

- specifically, the idea that the YMCA offered an easement over land it did not own or control back in the 1980s, and that this easement, which should have been invalid from the beginning, can now be enforced seems like a very risky argument to pursue

- it also seems from the terms of the settlement that the Hollister Ranch is meaningfully expanding public access over the current situation, something you may be unable to achieve in court

- although we prize public access to beaches, we are also aware that the limited use at the Hollister Ranch has left its beaches pristine, and worry that unfettered access could be a big detriment to this valuable environmental resource

- even if you win greater public access, how will it be achieved? Who will pay for it?

- if you signed a settlement agreement, don't you have an obligation (legal and moral) to see it through, in spite of well-meaning objectors who are not familiar with the intricacies of the case? From what we understand, this issue has been argued for many months and was heavily negotiated by those in the best position to judge the risks and rewards of pursuing it further. We believe you should follow through on the agreement you made.

- if the State and the Coastal Commission renege on a hard-fought deal, what will that do to your ability to negotiate in the future? Backing down now could make future public access battles much more difficult for the State.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of all Californians.

Sincerely,

William and Pesha Wright
COMMISSIONERS:

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s beautiful and pristine coastline. I am a Santa Barbara native, and I am fortunate to visit Hollister Ranch often. It’s a little bit like going back in time. Clean beaches, no structures, usually a fox or some form of wildlife can be seen scurrying by the eucalyptus lined road. A road that lacks—litter. The ocean water is so clear you can still open your eyes underwater. You can't do that any more at Leo Carillo Beach.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. As the great great great niece of the John Muir, (yes, name dropping) I can attest to the importance of preserving such a large and important portion of California’s history and coastline. We don't have anything left like this, something many don't realize until it is too late.

So my thanks to you for your service to California.

Regards,

Mary Ahl
I support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding public access. The Hollister Ranch are excellent stewards of their environment. I’m for public access for nearly every other situation except here. Preserve and protect. Honor the settlement.

Thank you.
Steve Powell

MDPF (Marketing, Displays, Premiums, Fulfillment)
Steve Powell
c: 626.201.6687
o: 562.777.1999

mdpf.net (check out our new website)

custom displays, fixtures, marketing launch kits and fulfillment programs
Dear Commissioners

I am writing to thank you for protecting the beautiful California coast and to express my support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to dedicate. I believe that it is a great solution that achieves more access than would have been achieved if the state had prevailed in the case.

I am a professional skier and airborne sportsman from Lake Tahoe. I make a living in the outdoor industry and value nature very much.

Thank you.

--
JT Holmes
+1 530 412 1128
Coastal commission:

Thank you for your commitment in protecting California’s coastline. I live in San Diego County and regularly spend time at various beaches surfing, including at Hollister ranch.

I am writing because I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch with the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

I don’t want to see our government spend move money litigating something that will most likely have worse outcomes for the state and its people anyway. I have been involved in too many lawsuits and realized that most of the time the lawyers win, but everyone else loses.

The results that I read sound fair for all sides.

Thank you for your service to our great state,

Don Rady
To the Commissioners –

I would like to thank you for your strong commitment to protecting the California Coastline environment. I live in South Orange County and have spent a large portion of my life on the beaches of California from Santa Cruz south to the Mexican border. Having been an active beachgoer and surfer since the 1950s, I have seen the devastation of our coastline. Again thank you for your commitment to protecting this precious resource.

I wanted to lend my support to the settlement that the California Coastal Commission entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for many reasons. The two most important reasons are the continued protection of one of the very last pristine stretches of coastline in the state as well as the continued belief in the integrity of your Commission. This settlement, signed in 1982, truly is the best option because any public access required can be managed in such a way that the sensitive coastal environments and resources will be protected and preserved.

Thank you for your service and commitment to the state of California, and more importantly, to protecting our ocean!

Gary Clisby, EA, MBA, NTPI Fellow  
CFO Business and Tax Services, Inc.  
Your Personal CFO and Tax Professional  
(949) 235-9304  
www.cfohts.com

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Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your time and energy spent protecting California’s coast. I am a mother/wife in Santa Cruz County of a family of beach volleyball players, surfers and adventurers. Our time spent at beaches is frequent and cherished.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.

I believe that if someone has an easement through a neighbor’s property for their own access it is illegal for them to change the use to public. Also, I believe that the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy staff and the Attorney Generals office have been diligent to protect the rights of both property owners and the public and that significant time and funding have been invested toward that end. To reverse course would be done at too great a cost at this point in time and may result in a less desirable outcome for all involved.

Thank you for your service to California,

Elizabeth Smith
I’m an U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Master Mariner (100 tons, near coastal waters) who has been sailing and surfing Southern California since my father got me on the water in the late 1960’s. Today there are only three places in Southern California where a sailor can “drop the hook” in an isolated and mostly undeveloped setting; Catalina Island (room for just two or three boats in Little Harbor), Paradise Cove, and the Hollister & Cojo-Jalama Ranches. Paradise Cove and the two Ranches are the only spots that offer the bonus of being able to surf in a rustic anchorage.

I would therefore urge you to continue to honor the Hollister Ranch settlement so there is no further encroachment on the iconic surfable anchorages in Hollister Ranch (St Augustine, Ballitos, and Drakes).

Regards,
Eric Zoehrer
Master Mariner (100 Tons)
Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California's coast, as much a National Treasure as any other in this nation. I live in San Diego County and regularly spend time at beaches with my family all over California.

I would like you to register my support for the settlement entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. As is frequently the case for complex issues, the lawsuit with Hollister Ranch was risky and the outcome was far from certain. It was thanks to the many years of diligent work by the Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy staff and the Attorney General's office that a carefully negotiated settlement was reached. Please honor their dedication and do not overturn the settlement, which would certainly damage the Commission's public image and hinder its ability to reach successful settlements in the future.

Furthermore, the settlement bears the signatures of the Commission Executive Director, the State Conservancy Executive Director and the State Attorney General's office. Voiding a document with these signatures sets a dangerous precedent that would indicate the whims of several outspoken voices are stronger and more meaningful than carefully executed legal proceedings.

I appreciate your time and thank you for your service to California.

Regards,
Brian Orr.
To whom it may concern:

It is imperative that our government agencies respect private property rights. After years of negotiations in good faith, it is time to put this matter to rest. The agreement is well thought out, and accepted by all parties. Please help us in SB County trust our politicians/commission to support their staff recommendations and do the right thing.

As a local ranch owner, this will determine how I view the agency.

Regards,

Paul "Pablo" Schulte
Rancher SB County
Commissioners.. I believe we all benefit from your hard work. The case of Hollister v. YMCA has been a long slog for all parties. I'd like you to stick with your settlement and move on to other important cases you have. ..Eric Seale
Dear Commissioners,

We live in the Bay Area and have been going to the Ranch for 20 years. We believe the settlement the State agreed to is the best outcome for both Ranch owners and the public. The settlement balances the need to respect the owners’ property rights and to provide managed public access to ensure the protection of our fragile coast.

Our family strongly supports the settlement. We feel it was a good result after many years of litigation, expense, and uncertainty. We don’t believe opponents to the settlement understand just how uncertain the outcome of the lawsuit was and that the settlement is both fair and reasonable.

Thank you for your hard working in bringing this matter to closure.

Sincerely,
Stephanie DiMarco
Dear Commissioners,

I have followed the progress made with the Hollister Ranch access settlement. The complexities of this agreement are numerous, and, while I may not understand all of them, it does seem to be a fair outcome that represents the best interests of the state and conservationists alike. It was negotiated in good faith by all parties and with an understanding of the complex legal issues at play. It should be ratified and enforced. To allow special interests to now engage in social media campaigns to modify what was the by-product of long and thoughtful negotiations seems unwise and counter to law and good faith of all involved.

Please ratify the agreement as written.

Thank you,

Jim Harleen
Dear Commissioners:

It is simply NOT acceptable that public access by denied along any of California's beaches. The Hollister Ranch area should be no exception, however complex its legal history.

As someone who has visited El Capitan and Refugio State Parks for decades, I urge you to abandon the tentative agreement for one that ensures readily available public access.

You need to do your jobs and protect the coast, as well as public access. That fat cats have been able to keep us off public beaches up and down the coast is a scandal. It need to end and end now.

Yours,

David Beaulieu

1336 Edgecliff Drive

Los Angeles, CA  90026

dbeaulieu@earthlink.net

323-663-6419
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in Santa Barbara County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I love camping at and near our beautiful coast with my husband, three kids, and two dogs.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement that you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. The Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy staff and Attorney General’s office were diligent over four years litigating the case and in the year that produced the carefully negotiated the settlement. The Commission should continue to support their staff’s advice and support the settlement. The State’s legal position – claiming public access rights in Hollister Ranch under the Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA (a then neighbor of Hollister Ranch) – was contrary to 100 years of California property law. A neighbor who only holds an appurtenant easement over his neighbor’s property has no legal power to give away a public access easement (or license) on his neighbor’s property. The settlement seems to provide the best option. The public access required will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected. Those opposing the settlement are asking the State to walk away from its commitments, which will damage the Commission’s ability to reach settlement in the future and tarnish its public image.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Robin Serritslev
Executive Director
SYV Therapeutic Riding Program
(805) 325-1544
www.syvtherapeuticriding.org
Dear Coastal Commission,

I do not own any stake in a parcel.

My reason for writing this letter is simple. Hollister Ranch is a true treasure. As a surfer, its status is as much due to its unspoiled beauty as its wave quality.

As an ocean lifeguard from San Diego, I understand that the beach is for everyone... but Hollister Ranch is no ordinary beach. Unfortunately, as a lifeguard I see the disregard for nature many patrons have. I see trash left on a constant basis, defacement of natural bluffs, and a disrespect for animals and their habitat.

It's for this reason, that I think a place as pristine and untouched as Hollister Ranch needs public access that is monitored and supervised. That's why I am in favor of the settlement recently reached. It's the best way to make sure the public is able to responsibly enjoy this amazing resource.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Jonathan Chesner
Dear coastal commissioners,

Thank you for your time and effort in working to protect California’s coast. Having lived outside of California for four arduous years; I can very honestly say that we are all so fortunate to be able to call California home.

I, Dr. Caitlin Kelly, am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for multiple reasons.

I grew up in San Diego county, studied biology at Cal in the Bay Area, completed a veterinary medical doctorate program in Oregon, and have visited the Santa Barbara coast for the past twenty years to which I now call home. I have spent time at beaches all over California growing up in a surfing, wind surfing, camping, hiking, outdoorsy environmentally conscious family. I am not a surfer though I have immediate family members who are. As a biologist and avid beach goer, I share the desire and understanding for the preservation of the coast’s beauty and vitality. I love the serenity and cleanliness of the beaches of the Hollister Ranch. I love the way the great blue herons hunt in the tide pools with no care or fear of the one or two humans around. I love that when you walk along the beach you may not even find a piece of trash... and of all the Hollister Ranch folk I have met they would pick up that bit of stray trash rather than leave it there to wash back out to sea. The beaches are so pristine, unlike anywhere else. I greatly fear for their preservation should the lawsuit force access through an illegal easement. It would be a tragedy for the coastline.

In reference the the illegal easement in the paragraph above. The State’s legal position was an attempt to claim public access to the Hollister Ranch under the Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA (a neighbor of Hollister Ranch in that time). This is not legal according to California property law or in good conscience. It is poposterous to think that one could sell or give away rights to an easement over a neighbor’s property.

The settlement seems to provide the best option for protecting the coastline with managed public access not to share its beauty while maintaining its preservation.

It is important for the commission to proceed with the settlement and to make good on its commitment which came to term over many months under the guidance of the court and was signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General’s office. Keeping to one’s word and true to one’s self is the test of a true
honest person; to not be swayed by the loud or the ignorant.

Thank you for your time in reading my email and for your commitment to California.

Caitlin Kelly, DVM
Dear Commissioners,

As an avid surfer and user of the California coast, I have been following the proposed settlement for Hollister Ranch.

I support the settlement. The court of public opinion is twisted on the facts in this case. They have no idea about the history of the YMCA and the “easement” granted. The basic property rights of individuals is at stake here. When an average person is presented with the complete facts- the settlement makes perfect sense.

The incorrect negative press and the hyperbole can only last so long. The facts of basic property rights are clear.

It is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars to fight this.

I support the settlement.

Thank you for your service to our precious coastline

Jon Sundt
San Diego CA.
Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners:

I live in Monterey County and spend time on our local beaches daily. I am a life-long surfer and have spent time in the Santa Barbara area. I am writing to lend my support to the settlement you reached with the Hollister Ranch. I feel the settlement is fair, and due to the nature of the lawsuit this settlement reflects a reasonable conclusion.

I also feel strongly the Hollister Ranch has done an outstanding job of maintaining the property and they will continue to manage the public access responsibly with this settlement.

Thank you for your service,
Michael
From: Jon Shields
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Hollister Ranch Settlement
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2018 11:09:41 AM

Dear Commissioners,

My lifelong affinity for the Hollister Ranch began forty-five years ago when, at age 16, my brother convinced me and another young surfer to pool our resources to purchase a marginally seaworthy “ranch boat”. On weekend mornings, well before dawn, we’d trailer the boat from Santa Barbara to Gaviota, launch into the cold offshore winds, and head west. The pristine beauty of the undeveloped coastline was as much a draw as the promise of empty waves.

Usually the prevailing SW wind would kick-in by early afternoon, forcing a retreat from the surf breaks. Often, reluctant to return to civilization, we would motor down to a favorite stretch of beach, drop anchor, and swim ashore to while away the afternoon. This special stretch lies in the lee of Drake’s point, which both protects it from the wind and causes a dune to form against the cliff. This dune, angling perfectly into the noon sun, was sublime. We would loll about and share our dreams for the future (as well as other obvious thoughts on the teenage mind). One of my dreams was to one day be an owner at The Ranch.

A long hiatus ensued, beginning with college at U.C. Berkeley, leading to life unfolding in the Bay Area. There I met my wife, we raised two daughters and built a business. We both certainly worked hard, but were admittedly lucky with timing, education and other factors. And so, the dream was realized 14 years ago, when we acquired a parcel at The Hollister Ranch.

On one of our very first visits to The Ranch as a family, I took everyone to that very special stretch of beach. It did not disappoint: in fact my older daughter wrote a poem about the day for her elementary school class, featuring the sand dune.

Now it turns out that in The Settlement, the public will have full legal access to this magic stretch of beach. To me, this is somehow poetic as I enjoyed it (though not legally) as a member of the general public long ago. I also take extreme umbrage when this access is characterised as a “consolation prize” by access proponents. It is one of the most enjoyable stretches of beach in the entire area.

The other points I hope to convey in this narrative are:

1) The Ranch coastline has always been accessible to the public via boat, and it does not require extreme resources to be able to do so, just a little motivation.

2) I am not an idle millionaire who just happened into a parcel at The Ranch while casting my money about — a characterization that access proponents seem to promote. I set a goal as a young man and worked hard to achieve it. A big part of what I paid for was the exclusive road access, and I am prepared to fight on in order to preserve what I believe are my legal property rights.

Sincerely,

Jon Shields, HR Parcel 136
1430 Masonic Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94117
Commissioners - thank you for your commitment to supporting the protection of California’s coast. I am a resident of Los Angeles and a frequent user of the state's beaches. I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. I think that the settlement is the best solution to the litigation as it promotes the appropriate balance of carefully managed public access to this sensitive coastal resource. This result is far superior to an unnecessary and costly litigation, and the parties were right in coming to this settlement.

Your truly

Jordon Kruse

Jordon L. Kruse
312-925-6040
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in Santa Barbara County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I am an avid surfer, fisherman, and hiker.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.

Hollister Ranch is first and foremost about conservation. The money and care the owners and association pour into preserving one of the last sacred, pristine swaths of southern California coast is remarkable and necessary. That school children are taken there for education and biological studies are performed on the property speaks to the success of the conservation efforts.

Considering the complexity of the issues, the expense and burden of further protracted litigation, and the fairness of the settlement, it seems clear that the Commission was wise to agree to this settlement.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Zach Cantor
Commissioners:
Thank you for your commitment to protecting the California coast. And you should continue to support your staff's advice on the settlement to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.
As an example, we have one of the few nesting areas for the endangered Snowy Plover. Just North of Hollister Ranch in the city of Lompoc, they have to close the beaches for months as the public has disturbed and/or destroyed the Plover's habitat.
Please don't let this happen here.
Thank you for your service to California.

Kathleen Mitchell
kathygardens@verizon.net
The idea of a settlement to move past the extremely complex set of entangled legal issues is compelling. However, the specific terms of this settlement are cynically unfavorable to the public.

A motion to intervene appears to be the only recourse to stopping this travesty. It continues to be very unclear how comments to the Commission will have any legal weight at this point, since the extensive body of public comments does not comprise a motion of intervene. Hopefully, an interested and capable third-party can compile and curate these comments in support of a motion to intervene.

Sincerely yours,

Jan
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Thank you for your outgoing concern to protect our California Coastline. I live in Arroyo Grande, California. I enjoy spending time both on and in the ocean; swimming, diving, hiking, camping, etc.

I am writing in SUPPORT for the settlement you entered with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate for the following reasons:

1) Upholding California Property Law: YMCA as a neighbor to HR had no right to grant an easement over neighboring property. As a property owner this is outrageous to think that just because I allow my neighbor to walk her dog across my property, that future neighbors, or the entire neighborhood has the right to do so, and that this could be declared an easement in perpetuity.

2) My Family has boated out to the Channel Islands as well as Hollister Ranch for both diving and surfing. There has always been the right to access these beaches in this way. This preserved the mystic and purity of these areas. The journey is PART of the adventure! Opening up beaches with public access trails or access roads is like demanding trails or roads up every significant mountain peak so that EVERYONE can partake in the views. We can all agree that this sounds ridiculous. The beauty of Mountain peaks is the journey and difficulty it takes to get to the top. I feel the same regarding our coastline. Hike beaches at Low tide or boat up.

Please continue to uphold our California Property Laws and preserve our coastline by upholding the settlement for the state.

Thank you,
Danielle
Thank you for allowing public access as well as preserving the coastline along the Hollister Ranch.
Clive Soden
Corona del Mar, CA
Commissioners:

Thank you for your efforts to protect the California coast. I live in Santa Barbara and love to walk the beaches throughout Santa Barbara County. I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement that has been entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for several reasons. The settlement seems to provide the best option. In this way the public access will be carefully managed to oversee and protect this area of the coast. I believe the settlement is fair and the Commission was correct to agree to this settlement.

Sincerely,
Barbara Franz
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

Thank you for protecting California’s coasts. I live in Malibu and I surf and dive across the great California coast.

I support the recent agreed settlement between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. This settlement took 4 years of diligent work on the part of the Coastal Commission, Attorney General and Coastal Conservancy staff. The outcome of all this time, energy and money is the settlement that both parties agreed including the presiding judge.

Please do not allow the media to misrepresent the soundness of settlement. The coastline along the Hollister Ranch is very special and would be forever changed for the worse with public access.

Best,

--
Cole Kawana
USC '20
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

The proposed access agreement for Hollister Ranch beaches is inadequate and does not meet the requirements of the Coastal Act. Limiting public access will negatively impact completion of the Coastal Trail. You can do better than this.

Carol Sklenicka
P O Box 21
Duncans Mills CA 95430
Hello,
I’m a native Californian and have lived in Santa Barbara county for the past 19 years. I’ve been lucky to have my life enriched through the Channel Islands and surrounding area. The sand and the sea are in my veins. Due to my work I’ve mingled with celebrities, yet never once did I get that coveted invitation to get a glimpse of Hollister Ranch. Is it because I’m in the service industry? Is this a “class” issue. I’m so tired of land being scooped up and held for ransom. Whatever happened to “This land is our land, this land is your land, from California to the...”Seems that song was written right around the time some rich white guys stole some public land and made it private.
Let’s get our community on track and boldly embrace an honest attempt at sharing what is truly already ours. Elitism is way outa fashion these days.
Sincerely,
Elizabeth Gorman
Active Land Steward

Make Art
As usual, it seems the coastal commission is working for special interests instead of doing the job they were appointed to do. Why can't we get people on that commission that will work for the people of California?
I believe that access to the coast is a public right. I don't think it should be reserved for just a few. My children and my grandchildren should be allowed access to the Pacific Coast. Just because we don't have a lot of money doesn't mean we should be denied access to a wonderful part of California. Please be considerate of the greater good for all.

John Davis
I am emailing to express my concerns over the lack of access to the beach at Hollister Ranch. I am of Chumash descent and also from one of the oldest founding families in the Santa Barbara area. My Chumash ancestors have been in this area for tens of thousands of years. The Hollister Ranch is rich with our Chumash cultural resources. The Chumash community in the area already struggles to have access to places that we consider sacred. To disallow access completely is a great travesty to our Community. It would be my hope that Hollister Ranch would seek to work with our local Chumash community rather than exclude our community from access. We have traditional ecological knowledge that can be shared which can be rich, educational not only for those residing at the Hollister Ranches but also for our entire local community.

Respectfully,

Teresa Romero

"The Ancestors are alive and their vision lives through us" - Ingrid Washinawatok
I am writing to express my support for the settlement entered into between the Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. This settlement was a good deal for all parties, and balanced the public interest with private property rights. I was very surprised to learn that the Coastal Commission may be reconsidering this settlement. A deal is a deal, and the Coastal Commission should not succumb to misinformed pressure from journalists and others on this matter. Thank you.

Michael Jennings
Bolar Hirsch & Jennings LLP
18101 Von Karman Ave., 14th Floor
Irvine, California 92612
I am writing to express my thoughts on the settlement between Hollister Ranch and the Coastal Commission. The settlement reached between the parties is the best scenario. It allows for managed access for the public but also allows for the continued protection of the land by the Hollister Ranch. This is such beautiful land and it is because it has been well cared for by the Hollister Ranch. In addition, the easement was unlawfully given through property the YMCA did not own.

Thank you,
Lauren Holsted
I have watched the Hollister Ranch for a long time. I first walked into "the ranch" forty five years ago and it is the same today as on my first encounter. Though the times have changed Hollister Ranch still exists for all of us to enjoy.

I support the current agreement that the YMCA and the Hollister Ranch owners have for its public use and pleasure. Please allow this to be maintained. Thank you for your commitment in saving the California coast.

Thank you,
Ron Fisher
San Diego, California
To the Commissioners:

I live in Washington State now, but have for many years enjoyed the solitude and unspoiled beauty of the Hollister Ranch beaches, either through boating during my college years, or as a guest of one of the residences.

I fully support the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to Dedicate. The main reason is that public access would now be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected and that the coastal area will be free from commercial development.

Thanks so much for your service!

Howard C Wright
685 Spring St., #164
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
I live oceanside in Hermosa Beach and for years have followed with disgust what goes in at the Hollister Ranch. I believe you folks must be on the take. How the hell can you continue to support the rich but not the average citizen.

Open up the beaches!!! They were never meant just for rich people to hog them. Come to your senses.

DO THE RIGHT THING!!!

Richard F. Roe, Sr.

Sent from my iPhone
Hello Commissioners!

My note to you is to show my positive support of the Hollister Ranch settlement.

-I've spent most of life in California, I'm 63 and the beach life culture has been a part of my life almost daily.

I appreciate what we have and don't have. Here in California we have plenty of beach access.
- There was a huge amount of time and effort put into determining a fair settlement for access into Hollister.

I don't think the public has been informed of the litigation issues and why the state agreed to the settlement.
- The ranch in itself is a preserve, its unlike any other in California and deserves to be protected and preserved. I think few know how sensitive this part of the coastline is and it wouldn't take much to destroy it.

It's not Malibu.
- It's crazy to think if the State would have won this case, open access would have put people at risk!

My bottom line is to thank you for protecting our coastline. Please standby the settlement with integrity and know this is the absolute best thought out access option to protect Hollister Ranch beaches.

Best,
Pat D.
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing today to support the settlement that was entered into with the owners of Hollister Ranch recently.

As a resident of Santa Barbara and an attorney, I followed the case closely and felt that the Coastal Commission did a really good job with a relatively poor quality claim.

The biggest concern I have is that the quality of the case isn't one that pro-access advocates would want to take up into a strong property rights federal judiciary and lose. A lot more could be lost than the case itself with the current swing towards right wing activism in the federal judiciary.

Lets take this win and then see what comes next.

Sincerely,

Chris Ottinger
55 Chase Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA  93108
This email is written in opposition to the settlement reach between the Hollister Ranch Owners' Association and the California Coastal Commission. It does nothing to enhance public access to this large, stunningly beautiful section of the Coast.

The only way to access the 3,880 foot section of dry coastal sand (already allowed for public use by the Coastal Act) by sea after a dangerous, two mile voyage from Gaviota State Park, making it virtually inaccessible.
Dear Commissioners,

I'm 4th generation Coastal Californian and want to protect our coast. I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.

The settlement seems to provide the best option. The public access required will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.

Thank you for your service to California.

Kind Regards, Robin

Robin Newman
Founder & Director
Robin@GlobalEggDonors.com

Please click on this link to schedule a time we can speak together. It will show my available times in your time zone. - http://meetme.so/globaleggdonors

"Let the beauty of what you love, be what you do." - Rumi
"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." – egg donor
Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate as it properly balances public right to access with private land rights. This carefully crafted and thoroughly negotiated agreement was arrived at after many months of close study and I support the outcome.

Thank you for your service to the great state of California.

Kind regards,

John Grossman
The current proposal is a good deal... the state has a tenuous case at best and the settlement is solid. The HR owners don't need to expand their tide pool program or increase access for veterans. Look at the neighboring ranches, this isn't even a remote possibility. Take the good offer on the table. Don't mess it up by playing politics!
Dear Commissioners

The mission statement on the California Coastal Commission's website states that you are "Committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast." I think that your agreement with HROA does just that. I have been to many coastal places in my life, and the level of conservation on Hollister Ranch is unparalleled anywhere else in California. The biodiversity I have witnessed on both land and the water is special. There are few places (if any) in California that have so little pressure on wildlife.

Growing up in California - it is easy to take for granted the great work you folks do. When I travel to other states or countries, and see what has happened to their coastline due to poor management it really drives home how important your mission is.

Thanks so much!

Mark Frank
These comments are written in opposition to the settlement reached between the Hollister Ranch Homeowners’ Association and the California Coastal Commission. The agreement does not reflect the intent of the original agreement required as a condition of approval of the Ranch subdivision in the 1980’s. In addition, it does not provide public access and enjoyment of this large stretch of stunningly beautiful coastline commensurate with the intent of the Coastal Act for the following reasons:

- The only access to a 3,880 foot section of dry coastal sand (the use of wet sand is already allowed under the Coastal Act) is by sea after a dangerous, two mile voyage from Gaviota State Park.

- Voids potential road access for up to 50 people/day to 3.5 miles of the Ranch access road.

- It uses public money collected over decades that is intended to be spent on the Coastal Trail and coastal access, for Hollister Ranch expenses in bringing 480 school children and 400 underserved or disabled individuals per year onto the Ranch in a managed access program.

- Creates a “poison pill” that eliminates the modest benefits of the settlement if condemnation is ever undertaken to secure an easement for the trail.

Having had the opportunity to visit the Ranch, I know the value of its resources and amenities. It is a shame that more people, other than the wealthy owners of the Ranch itself, cannot enjoy them. I lead a group of school children on a tide pool field trip in the late 1980’s/early 1990’s. The tide pools are unlike any others on the Santa Barbara Central Coast and are a great education resource for children.

Please go back to the drawing board to strengthen this agreement in favor of public access.

Sincerely,

Karen Feeney
4754 Camino del Rey
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Please add my name to those objecting to the “secret” agreement severely limiting public access to the beach. The public should have been notified in advance and given ample and meaningful opportunity to be involved. The agreement violates the long held CA mandate for public access to the coast. It creates a terrible precedent that will likely be exploited by others seeking to limit coastal access. The agreement makes it virtually impossible for most of the public to access even the very small section of beach “made available.”

This is bad public policy deceptively instituted, and an insult and a denial of rights to the public.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commissioners:

I want to first thank you for your dedication to protecting our beloved California coast. I live in Ventura County and my young family are avid beachgoers, surfers, paddlers and care very much for the preservation of our coastline and its health. My family spends nearly every weekend in or around the Pacific ocean.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. You did the right thing by settling. You spent nearly 4 years litigating the case and that time produced what we all feel is fair with the negotiated settlement. I feel you should continue that support as agreed upon. I feel that this settlement provides the absolute best option. The public access required will be carefully managed to ensure that our sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected. Further, I feel that if you are asked to walk away from your commitments at this time, it will damage the Commission's ability to reach a settlement in the future and tarnish your public image. Please do what is right and stand by your commitment set forth.

Thank you for your service to California and work at protecting our coastline.

Griffin Barkley
To Whom It may concern:
The Hollister Ranch has protected this coastline for over 50 years. Managed access and boating access would continue to preserve this pristine environment. The agreement reached should proceed.
Thank you,
Robert F. Curtis
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your tireless efforts in protecting our natural resources.

The ocean is a gift and needs to be treated as such.

My wife and I live in Orange County with our three daughters; 7, 5 and 3.

We frequent the Ranch and have as a family since 2011. I can honestly say there is nothing like it and I feel that way every time I step foot on the land.

On the contrary, when I visit Orange County beaches they are all the same with massive damage to the marine life and ecosystem.

The most recent vote/settlement agreed upon by both parties is extremely equitable while maintaining the very few pristine coastlines left in the Unites States.

This is not about rich people being selfish with 'their' land...this is about allowing naturally occurring terrains the ability to dictate limited public access while respecting nature and people's rights. Opening the Ranch to public access (outside of what was agreed upon) would be a massive mistake and one that could not be undone.

I do not envy your responsibility in this decision but please stay on the facts - our country was founded on such and every time we drift from the fundamentals mankind and nature suffers.

Thank you for your time!!!

Regards,

Mark Coon
Orange County, CA
See attached document
Dear Commissioners,

Average, hard-working Americans - the foundation for what has been a model nation until recently - are under assault from all sides. Global wealth and resources have become privatized within an ever-shrinking percentage of the populace at an alarming rate. We have a unique opportunity to counter that - to make a change for what is right and good.

Please reconsider your plan to restrict access to the gorgeous stretch of Gaviota coast at Hollister Ranch.

I write as a 60-yr-old native Southern Californian - born and raised on the beaches here - the last 45 years in Santa Barbara. The beaches should be available to all those who love and protect them. I encourage you to creatively find a way to protect and preserve this coastal area, without permanently depriving those so deserving of the sustenance it provides.

The large majority of my fellow Californians are trying to do their jobs and live responsibly. Just that can be stressful. The opportunity to be outside in a beautiful natural setting is proven to be one of the best tools for helping balance stress. Please don’t take that opportunity from us.

Respectfully,

Jodi Simpson, Professor Emeritus
Santa Barbara City College
721 Cliff Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA
Hi there,
I feel compelled to write a note to express my position on the HR-CCC Settlement. I am in support of this settlement. The reason I support it is because the Hollister Ranch has done a great job of preserving the land at the Hollister Ranch and keeping this part of California pristine. Protecting and Preserving the Coastline is the duty of the Commission. This settlement does just that.
Sincerely,
Kerri Holsted
Dear Commissioners,

Thank-you very much for your service.
I am writing to request you r support in the maintaining of the YMo.

Sent from my iPhone
To Whom It May Concern:

I have been an internationally known waterfront writer and photographer for many decades. Now I'm an historian dedicated to saving what once was, what can no longer exist in our world.

I have spent my life celebrating our waterfronts and coastal areas. One of the most beautiful areas I've ever experienced is Hollister Ranch.

I'm 66 years of age and have lived my entire life in California. As Californians it is our duty not just to enjoy this unique coastline, but to be watchdogs and constantly stay vigilant in the ongoing task of protecting it.

I understand the original intentions and goals of the Coastal Act, however, our state and federal government representatives have not succeeded in preserving any significant portion of our coastline in its pristine and natural condition.

Endangered species? How about endangered wilderness? Endangered coastline?

The last of these endangered lands, the California coastline, is alive and well due to the stewardship and preservation of a handful of owners in the Point Conception area.

This settlement, accomplished by our Coastal Commission, should be supported in the preservation of these lands.

If being an historian has taught me anything, it is that it is far easier to preserve than to re-create. The latter is an impossible feat. The former is something we should all be working together to accomplish.

Yours,
JOSEPH DITLER
CORONADO STORYTELLER
(Writer/Publicist/Historian)

1135 Loma Avenue,
Coronado, CA 92118-USA

Office Phone: (619) 435-0767
Mobile Phone: (619) 742-1034
E-mail: joeditler@gmail.com
I support the public access agreement that was settled between the Hollister ranch and the California coastal commission December 2017. The Hollister ranch has done a good job preserving the natural coastal environment of this part of the point of conception.

Mike Leason

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident of San Luis Obispo county. I am an avid beachgoer, fisherman, diver, surfer and windsurfer. I know the central coast like the back of my hand. I spend a lot of time at Montana del Oro, hike into Pt Sal regularly, camp at Jalama and enjoy the Gaviota coast. I am a father too and bring my kids along now.

I have been following current events regarding the Hollister Ranch. I have been boating in there for over 30 years. I have a friend who has been kind enough to drive me in there for about 15 years. I actually met him while surfing there off my boat. There is a mutual respect in the community of watermen. Even though I am not an owner there I have enjoyed the Hollister ranch for a long time. It is so peaceful, quiet and unspoiled there. The people who live take their role of stewardship very seriously and do a good job.

From my understanding you signed off on a deal with them and got the best you could considering the circumstances. I’d cringe to see that area opened to the public and witness the ensuing inevitable consequences. Just because the land is held in private hands I don’t think it should be violated by the masses. Let it be...please do not consider reneging on your word and the signed settlement.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, Peter Daniels
A deadline looms to express opposition and outrage over a settlement State lawyers have quietly negotiated to allow wealthy landowners to restrict public access to Hollister Ranch beaches to a token number of visitors and prevent the possibility of Coastal Trail...Forever.
Dear Commissioners and staff:

I live in Los Angeles County (near Malibu), and I have always appreciated your dedication to protecting the coast, and for the public having reasonable access to it.

I am writing to you as I wanted to add my comments to the many I'm sure you are receiving pertaining to the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to dedicate. I do support this settlement for a number of reasons.

To begin, on a personal level, I started boating into the Ranch when I was 16 years old. I'm now 65, and the beaches there are as pristine now, as they were 50 years ago. The sea life is abundant, there is no trash on the beaches, there are nesting birds, resting mammals, tidepools filled with starfish and other sea creatures, beaches covered with sea shells, wonderful snorkeling, and a real feeling of unspoiled peace and solitude. To allow the public unfettered access to this area would irrevocably change this dynamic and I feel, harm the area forever. I believe there should be some places left that take a little extra effort to get to, and enjoy. The extra effort is then worth the rewards found at the end of that journey. That's how I see the Hollister Ranch today.

In specific, with regards to the YMCA Offer to dedicate, I have read some of the arguments and I think I understand them. As a successful California Real Estate Broker of many years, what I don't understand is how the YMCA could dedicate something they simply didn't own, and therefore, had no right to dedicate to someone else. That is contrary to any real estate law I am aware of. As well, as I understand they were asked to give this dedication to get a permit for something that was never built. I do like that the settlement does give the public a managed access program that protects this area and environment for future generations to enjoy. I think that those opposing the settlement truly are not versed in why it was made, or the background behind it. If they were, I feel the objections would not be so strenuous.

I urge the commissioners and State to stand behind the agreement made as I believe that is the appropriate and proper thing to do, and one that will protect this pristine area for generations to come.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Marc Shevin
I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.
As a long time resident of Santa Barbara since 1984, I have always dreamed of spending beach days in Hollister Ranch. I have been up there only twice in over 30 years, only because of lack of access. I have two young girls who would really like to visit the area as well. ...Unfortunately I believe they will be robbed of the experience as well.

The current ‘agreement’ for access to a small strip of beach that is part of Hollister, by boat/SUP/kayak, is not only ludicrous. It is downright dangerous. I am an experience waterman: I windsurf Jalama beach in gale conditions, and I will surf large surf when it presents. I would never consider “paddling” on an SUP into Hollister. To suggest to the Public that this is how the layperson should try to access this area is irresponsible. In fact it is a suggestion that is negligent.

The California Coastal Commission should be ashamed of their ‘service’ to the public which formed this group.

Respectfully,

Tem Gronquist
drgronquist@live.com
Dear Commissioners, I am writing in support of the settlement that you have agreed to with the Hollister Ranch owners. I currently live in Australia but always look forward to visiting my friends as Hollister parcel owners to enjoy the last essences of the California I remember when growing up and frequenting the Ranch since 1970.

Sincerely, Clark Smock
Christian
Husband
Father
Grandfather
Friend
Surfer
diver
coastal lover
I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons.

Thank you for your service to California.

Elizabeth Coon

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners:

My name is Stacey Fell and my family holds a property interest in Hollister Ranch, Santa Barbara County.

I am writing this email in support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. I believe the settlement is the best option for allowing public access to Hollister Ranch. The settlement ensures that public access is safe, suitable and protective of the sensitive coastal ecosystem.

As a parent, my children have enjoyed Hollister Ranch as students with their classmates to learn about tidepools and the shoreline’s ecosystem. I am thrilled that the settlement will continue to allow local school children access to the Ranch. However, I feel that unlimited or uncontrolled access will only destroy the precious nature of the Ranch as an outdoor classroom.

I truly believe the proposed Settlement does a thorough job of maintaining the special qualities of Hollister Ranch while also allowing for the right amount of increased access for the public.

I have lived in Santa Barbara County for 17 years. During those years, the Coastal Commission has found a fair balance in its commitment to the California coastline. Therefore, I ask you to hold firm and continue forward with the proposed settlement. Thank you for your dedication to the State of California.

Stacey Fell

805-252-8461
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Your reason for existence is to allow good access to the coast. and to restrict over development in the coastal zone. As you know there is a California Coastal trail going from Mexico to Oregon. You are considering to eliminate eight and one half miles on that trail. Shame on you! The Costal Commission came into existence when the Sea Ranch tried to eliminate coastal access along several miles of their development. Respect your heritage. The public deserves reasonable access and a coastal trail.

Sincerely,
Jim Finn
3455 Creighton Ridge Road
Cazadero, Ca 95421
Commissioners:

I agree with the settlement you entered into over the YMCA offer.

I have enjoyed the wonderful tide pools. There are animals in these tide pools not found in any other area that is "Public Access" in Santa Barbara vicinity.

Keep Hollister Ranch pristine!

Thank you,

Joyce Pettersen
As a life long resident of Santa Barbara and wife of an old surfer, I would appreciate better access to not only the beach below Hollister Ranch, but all the California Coast.

A Coastal Trail should be developed along the whole coast of California, border to border for all Californians to enjoy.

Not much of our coast is undeveloped so the remainder, hopefully will stay wild for the public to enjoy.

Our coast is spectacular especially the view from our beaches.

You have the power. Hopefully you will step up to the plate and make this happen.

Judy B. Miller
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Judyberalf@verizon.net
To whom it may concern:

I can't begin to express how upset and concerned I am for the Hollister Ranch settlement. Reaching the beach by water rules out the handicapped, the elderly, and children. It is unsafe to require only water access. If someone drowns trying to reach the beach I believe the Coastal Commission should be held responsible.

The homeowners have only been here since 1971. I was born here in 1951 and I believe that the Coastal Commission just gave away a part of "my California" to a small group of very wealthy and determined homeowners. I feel that the commission gave in to "big money" and corruption.

It's not fair and just. The beach belongs to all of us. Please don't give our beach away to the wealthy home owners. It is anti-democratic and fails to protect the public and our rights as Californians.

From a concerned California citizen.

Kathryn Anderson
944 Congress St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92527
949-722-6649
kathyandromeo@gmail.com
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for all the time and effort you have put into crafting a reasonable and fair settlement between Hollister Ranch and the YMCA. What has been proposed would be a good and equitable step forward for everyone. I have not lived at Hollister Ranch for very long - about one year - but in that short time I have been extremely impressed by the respect the ranch has shown for preserving its natural environment.

I helped out with the Tide Pool School this year. I heard praise, repeatedly, not only for the program itself - and especially Wendie Kruthers who runs it - but the tide pools themselves. The docents - marine biologists from several schools - were unanimous in their marvel at how exceptional these tide pools are.

"The best preserved tide pools I've seen anywhere in the world..." "... certainly among the finest and healthiest I've seen along the Ca. coastline..."

This year, hundreds of kids, their teachers, and some parents were given an intimate glimpse into the natural world... perhaps almost as it was before man arrived.

The kids were given a talk before they entered the dedicated tract of tidal pool shoreline that Hollister Ranch has mandated remain as a preserve. The talk was about not only what might be seen, but of the importance of respecting these delicate interwoven ecosystems. If plant or animal life was picked up to be studied, it was to be returned shortly to its original location.

We are at a crucial time in our human development. Thousands of species are dying out. Our shared natural heritage is being bombarded and ruined all over the world. So far this little stretch of coastline still appears healthy, in very large part because of the safeguards of the ranch.

Because of the ranch's oversight - and fewer, monitored people - this protected nature is given a chance.

I hope you will decide to keep your original decisions.

Thank you,

Kappy Wells
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you very much for all the hard work you do to preserve our beautiful California coastline. We who live in this great state are very fortunate. I have been a beach girl all my life growing up in Corona del Mar, California and have enjoyed many wonderful beaches up and down the coast, playing volleyball, and surfing with my friends and family. I now reside in Costa Mesa, California.

I feel confident that you all were very diligent with examining the facts of this very sensitive case and put lots of time and consideration for the benefit of all when you came up with the final verdict. It is easy for the public with lack of knowledge of the case to criticize the decision that was made through due process.

I also value personal property rights and preserving sensitive coastal habitats. My husband and I have worked very hard to be able to raise our family in Newport Beach and give the coastal lifestyle for our children to enjoy. I know from my days at the beach the public does not always take care of the sensitive coastline.

Thank you again,

Karen Farmer
466 East 18th Street
Costa Mesa CA 92627
To the Coastal Commission:

I am very opposed to constricting beach usage for the general public. The beach is a natural draw for those many numbers who yearn for the solace and enjoyment of nature's gift. Please consider expanding access to this resource not constricting it.

 Regards,

Hilde Menrad
Dear CCC,

I strongly support walk in access to Hollister Ranch beaches.

Thank you
Steve Sorich
Goleta, CA
Dear Commissioners;

My name is Mark Wilkinson and I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Trails Council. The Trails Council is a 50-year old nonprofit that advocates for trail access to all habitats in Santa Barbara County. Our mission is to protect public trail access and promote public engagement in land stewardship and trail use for all types of outdoor recreation. This includes ensuring the right of all people to reach and responsibly enjoy the California coast.

The 8-mile segment of the Gaviota Coast through Hollister Ranch presents one of the most significant opportunities for planning and obtaining high quality coastal access in the entire state. The natural beauty of the Gaviota Coast is a unique treasure that we must share with all. Decisions made by the Coastal Commission will not only impact coastal access for the rest of our lives, but also those of our children's children.

Considering that the California Coastal Act has been in place for over 40 years it seems strange that today we should be faced with a pending settlement that is not in the interest of all Californians. The California Coastal Act does not identify who should and should not have access to our beaches. It does not discriminate for or against any one group. Selecting winners and losers for coastal access sets a precedent that can only have adverse consequences. The settlement agreement before you sets the stage for coastal access issues to be resolved by granting access to narrowly defined "preferred" groups as a way to exclude the general public. This is bad policy and encourages institutionalized discrimination.

We respectfully request that the Commissioners give the strongest consideration to rejecting the proposed settlement for two basic reasons:

First, it would set a precedent that could be used to deny access to more beaches and bluff tops along the coast. *When protection of the coast is relinquished it will be impossible to reverse.*

Second, it would be a dead end to our aspirations for the California Coastal Trail to connect through Hollister Ranch and the North Coast of Santa Barbara County—the longest and wildest reach left in the state.

Thank you for considering our request.

Regards,
Mark Wilkinson
Executive Director
Santa Barbara County Trails Council
805.708.6173
Commissioners:

As a retired 30-year elementary teacher in Santa Barbara County, I urge you to to uphold the long-negotiated settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.....I support it! For many years elementary school classes (including my own) made excursions to explore the tidepools and marine environment under the Hollister Ranch Conservancy Tidepool Guide Program. My own high school daughters were able to conduct research on the owl limpet shoreline population at Hollister Ranch Marine Preserve with the UCSB Marine Biology Departments as part of their high school science courses. I always told my classes how fortunate they were to experience the beach and tidepools at Hollister Ranch because it was a marine space that was still protected. It is my understanding that programs such as these would be expanded under the settlement, allowing even more access for education and research.

The public will also have never-before access to a precious stretch of shoreline that should be kept protected. Persons arriving by boat and water vehicles to this pristine beach, will more likely, in my view, think of it as unique and "special", much as we think of the Channel Islands as a treasured place to visit, accessible also by boat. The access by water is a good thing! Here's why:

It saddens me that just down the road south of Gaviota State Beach where anyone can park their cars in numerous places on the side of the highway and walk down to the shore, there is trash thrown everywhere at several beach access trails and on the beaches themselves. (I recently checked this out for myself, and I was horrified at the garbage and messes I saw!) Let's keep the shoreline of Hollister Ranch protected from this type of abuse, yet open it further to managed public usage that will go a long way toward preserving the California coastline and marine environment for future generations to enjoy.

Uphold the settlement agreement--everyone wins!

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this issue,

Catherine Kendall
Retired Teacher
Beach Enthusiast
I support the settlement reached between Hollister Ranch and YMCA. I have been an owner at Hollister Ranch for 34 years. There are many issues involved but I will discuss only one.

Most of the owners at Hollister Ranch are strong advocates of privacy and maintaining the natural state of the environment. Many owners have paid much more than they ordinarily would have to attain the privileges but also the responsibilities that go with an ownership interest.

It’s constitutionally unjust to force a ranch that has been private for as long as I can remember to allow public access. We need to uphold the right to private ownership as an important value in any free country.

Thanks,

Aaron Clavin, CPA
Commissioners -

First of all, I want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to protecting California's coast. I know your efforts are appreciated by most all Californian's.

I currently live in Santa Barbara, and I have enjoyed local beaches for all of my life. I am particularly fond of the Gaviota Coast area, and I support the CCC efforts to protect this beautiful stretch of beach. I'm writing to let you know I support the settlement you've reached concerning the YMCA's Offer to Dedicate. There are a number of reasons for my opinion:

1. The protection of coastal resources is a primary responsibility of the CCC. The settlement presents the best option, as public access to this sensitive area will be managed, thereby ensuring that coastal resources will be protected.

2. The CCC, Coastal Conservancy, Attorney General's office, and others have worked over four years to produce a carefully negotiated settlement. It doesn't make sense to ignore these efforts, and in fact, it seems risky for the State to throw out all that work without carefully considering the consequences.

3. The State's legal position doesn't make sense to me....the old YMCA access translates to current public access? That is a huge stretch. The YMCA had no legal power or right to grant a public access easement over their neighbor's property. I think the State would be taking a big risk by not settling the case as proposed. I think the Commission and the Conservancy did the right thing by settling.

4. The objections I've seen appear to be emotionally-based and miss the mark about the basic issues of the litigation. I believe it's important that the Commissioners uphold the settlement that all parties have agreed to in good faith.

Again, I want to thank you for your service to California.

Best regards,

Cliff Scholle
Dear California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy,

I am writing this letter to voice my strong support for the settlement between Hollister Ranch and the YMCA.

The settlement provides for fair access to the public, provides a certain outcome, and allows the issue to be resolved rather quickly. These are all important factors for me and indeed for the general public.

Thank you for your interest,

Daniel Ebroon MD
Dear Commissioners,

I am an owner of property and pay taxes in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. I want to let you know your decision to settle the suit between the HOLLISTER RANCH and the YMCA was the right decision. Any type of public access would ruin the beaches there. The Hollister Ranch hosts many schools and oceanography departments with their supervised access programs. As a lover of children and animals, I appreciate their work in these endeavors. As a conservancy the Hollister Ranch pays their own expenses without any funds from the county or the state so I believe you made the right decision.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Mary Tesoro
Dear Sir/Madame,

We are deeply disturbed and distraught over the agreement the California Coastal Commission has made with Hollister Ranch which will prevent people from traveling through the ranch area to an 8 1/2 mile stretch of beach on the Central Coast. This is totally counter to the intent of the State Coastal Act of 1976 which gives people the right to access all of California’s shoreline.

ALL people should be able to enjoy California's beaches. People who own property along the beaches must be required to share this beautiful natural resource and must give people access through their property to the beaches.

PLEASE DO NOT RESTRICT the right of ALL people to enjoy California's beaches. PLEASE give ALL people the right to SAFELY access all of California's beaches (including those beaches in the Hollister Ranch area) via a land route and not through dangerous ocean waters.

Sincerely yours,

Milli and Tom Maddux
Thousand Oaks, California
Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to express my very serious concerns over the Hollister Ranch settlement. I am a resident of Goleta and deeply value our surrounding landscape, and so I am necessarily troubled by the precedent this deal is setting. The natural beauty of our California coast should not be privatized in this way, which curtails public access in the extreme. The settlement's terms of granting access only via sea is hard to comprehend, as that would mean a risky voyage for anyone attempting it, due to the high winds. Rather than forcing the public to endanger themselves to experience this natural beauty, I believe the terms should be renegotiated to allow all of us to safely share our coastline, in the spirit of community.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Ronan O'Brien
I strongly urge the Court to affirm and finalize the settlement agreement previously approved after years of efforts to arrive at the most practical and beneficial way to compromise this unique case. The Settlement Agreement will allow reasonable access to the public while continuing to protect and preserve some of the most sensitive and pristine coastal ecosystems and estuaries in this remote and delicate location. With limited roads and facilities for public use the Agreement in place is an appropriate balance between serving the public right of use and benefit of limited access. This Settlement agreement will protect and preserve overuse and destruction of this small section of coastline that cannot tolerate or support vehicle access or large numbers of visitors without being destroyed or permanently and irreversibly denigrated and environmentally polluted by overuse caused by inadequate security, clean up, restrooms, roads and sensitive habitats. Please understand that I am not an owner and have no connection to either side in the litigation. I am only a lawyer, with 39 years of experience and an environmentalist who seeks to find the best, and most practical and feasible solution to this issue that will not irreversibly destroy a unique coastal property. There is an abundance of public access both to the south and the north of Hollister that is much better suited for Coastal improvements for public access and public funds would be far more efficiently utilized if devoted to those areas, including but not limited to Gaviota, Bixby Ranch, El Capitan, Jalama and Refugio Parks nearby.

Howard C. Kornberg, J.D.
10880 Wilshire, 18th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90024
“AV” Martindale Hubbell
Member/ Commissioner California State Bar
ABOTA Member
Environmentalist, Cofounder of Citizens for a Clean Ocean 1982
Commissioner,

As both a California resident and a surfer, I truly appreciate the efforts of the California Coastal Commission to protect and conserve our precious coastline and the sensitive environments that surround it. I strongly support the previously approved Hollister Ranch settlement that has been carefully negotiated over the course of many years.

By allowing unrestricted public access to the Hollister Ranch, the Coastal Commission would be abandoning its underlying mission to protect and enhance our coast for present and future generations. I simply ask that you please base your decision on minimizing environmental consequences and protecting the longevity of this unique coastal zone.

Thank You,
Dylan Markus
Dear Commissioners,

Let me start with a sincere thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in Santa Barbara and have a small fishing boat in the harbor and my family and I regularly enjoy beaches and the ocean all around Southern and Central California. I am an avid surfer, fisherman and hiker.

I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. I own a real estate company that has purchased 118 properties in California over the past 10 years. Obviously, property rights and real estate law are one of the foundations of my business.

The State’s legal position (claiming public access rights in Hollister Ranch under the Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA) was contrary to 100 years of California real estate law. A neighbor who only holds an appurtenant easement over his neighbor’s property has no legal power to give away a public access easement on his neighbor’s property.

The settlement that was reached seems to provide the best option for moving forward. The public access required will be carefully managed to ensure that coastal resources are preserved and protected.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your service to California.

Deyl Kearin
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

I appreciate your commitment to protecting our coastline. I am a third generation Californian and have had the opportunity to surf the coastline along Hollister Ranch. It is truly a special place. I am in full support of the settlement that was agreed upon between the Hollister Ranch and the California Coastal Commission for the following reasons:

1) Although I support public access to beaches I am a firm believer in private property rights. A neighbor who only holds an appurtenant easement over his neighbor's property has no legal power to give away a public access easement on his neighbor's property.

2) The settlement provides public access and new public space that will be managed to protect and preserve this precious coastline. The current settlement is a win for the public. If the public were allowed un-managed access the result will be detrimental to the coastline in which we all wish to protect.

3) The settlement was signed in good faith by the Commission Executive Director, the State Conservancy Executive Director as well as the State Attorney General after many months of negotiation under the guidance of the Court. To renege on a signed agreement will damage the Commission's ability to reach settlement in the future. What if at trial the State loses the case?

Because of the above reasons I strongly support the settlement and thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Yuji Kawana
President
Commissioners:

I am writing to you in support of the settlement that you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate.

Let me begin by saying that as a lifelong California resident, avid surfer and beachgoer, I truly appreciate and respect your commitment to protecting and preserving our California beaches and coast.

I support efforts to protect these beaches that I love so much. When I retire (and I hope this is soon!) my goal will be to dedicate my time and resources to California environmental issues. In the meantime I will applaud you efforts and offer you any support that I can practically provide to you.

The issue of Hollister Ranch is an interesting one. The homeowners there have worked long and hard to preserve and protect this beautiful slice of California beach life; in fact going there is like going back in time. And of course there is ALREADY public access, the same as any other beach in California; anyone can access the beach up to the mean high tide line.

I see this whenever I go surf there – on a good swell, there are many boaters who come in to enjoy the surf. A good friend of mine attended UCSB, and while he was not an owner, he has shared with me that he had many lovely “walk-in” sessions, wherein he walked up on the low tide to enjoy a surf.

Some of the ranch surfers will at times be protective of their break, but this is no different than ANY break – surfing can be territorial. I don’t like this, and I support any legal efforts to eliminate this hazing/bullying, but it happens, and no more in Hollister Ranch than any other place like Pipeline in Hawaii or other good surfing spot; in fact Hollister is much mellower!

There is also LOTS of open public beach access very near there – for example, Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Park, El Capitan.

So, I was very happy to hear of the settlement of the YMCA lawsuit. The
The state’s legal position was not supported by California property law – the YMCA did not have legal power to transfer their easement; there is simply no legal basis for the State to take it.

The settlement agreement was wise and fair and well done by both the commission and the state. It has been signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director, and the State Attorney General’s office. My understanding is that the settlement commits the state to stand by the agreement and impose a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it.

So to walk away from these signed agreements and commitments will be injurious to ALL parties. Rather than using my resources to pursue many valid environmental concerns along the California coast, I will be compelled once again to dedicated significant time and money to fighting.

So I beseech you, rather than pursuing a now even more difficult legal battle over the nuances of public access to this most beautiful and pristine spot, please let us move forward to resolve other meaningful issues, and coastal areas that truly need help.

I can understand the pressures you face as elected officials in dealing with the public. However, I must point out that I think such objection are based on a lack of understanding of legal and property rights issues and the reasons why the State chose to settle, and in this case, it would be damaging to renege on the agreement and submit to these uninformed if aggressive voices.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters, and for you continued service to this great state of California.

Sincerely

David Edington
Dear Commissioners:

I have been a property owner at Hollister Ranch for over 20 years and feel that it is a jewel on the California coast. I truly do hope the Coastal Commission will uphold the settlement that all agreed upon. It seems that all the negative responses are from people that don’t understand the rights of property ownership regarding easements and have a fantasy about public access thru the Ranch. The settlement was well crafted and a WIN WIN for both parties.

Hollister Ranch is a very responsible steward of the land and without spending any of the state’s tax dollars. The Ranch is not a walled castle. We regularly host supervised outings to the schools for educational tide pool study, Birding clubs, as well as escorted surfing for the physically and mentally challenged. Hollister Ranch doesn’t mind sharing its precious coastline but it is private property and any access must be closely monitored.

Thank you Coastal Commission, I know you will protect us!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Wilson
Parcel 112
Dear coastal commission:

I have lived in Ventura county for over 40 years and my family and I are boaters and divers. We love California and are ocean people - we especially enjoy the pristine coastline areas that are protected and not over-built with commercial and retail enterprise. We have been lucky enough to enjoy Hollister ranch on several occasion and understand what a special place this is.

I was happy to hear about the settlement at Hollister. This has been a long and complex process, and I believe this settlement appears to provide the best possible option as public access will continue to be carefully managed to protect the sensitive coastal.

I heard that people are trying to overturn this settlement. It seems to me the Commission needs to stand by its commitments, especially in light of the fact that the complex settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court and was signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General’s office.

We hope that the Coastal Commission holds onto its decision.

Sincerely

Greg and Lori Sayles

Sent from my iPhone

Lori Sayles
Director of Construction, Ventura
Staples Construction
lori@staplesconstruction.com
www.staplesconstruction.com
direct +1 (805) 535-7463 | cell +1 (805) 729-3084
main +1 (805) 658-8786 | fax +1 (805) 658-8785
When we voted for the Coastal Zone Conservation Act in 1972, it was both to preserve the coast and ensure public access.

Surely there is a way to allow overland public access to parts of the Hollister Ranch beaches for non-boat-owning citizens without unduly affecting the property rights of the residents and owners.

Thank you.

Jim Deacon
Rancho Embarcadero, west of Goleta
From: Mark Zitelli
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Hollister Settlement
Date: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:23:56 AM

California Coastal Commission,

First I want to thank you for your time and dedication to conservation, climate change, education, water quality and overall ocean and coastal ecosystem health. Your work is very important to maintaining a resource that is vital to many of us who love our oceans.

I am concerned however with your decision to revisit the long and complex settlement process and the implications for property rights involving the Hollister Ranch settlement. While there is seemingly little legal ground to stand on, by claiming public easement or access on a neighbor’s property; the ramifications of granting such access for property right advocates up and down California is hugely detrimental.

The initial concessions that were agreed upon by both the Hollister Ranch and the Coastal Commission seemed like a win win, with upholding property rights and maintaining trust and good faith with the arbitration process that was so ardently pursued with the Commission, the Conservancy and the AG.

In a world where good faith, consistent, and fair negotiations seem to have taken a backseat to politicking and clickbait, it would be reassuring to see commonsense and fair compromises from both sides be upheld and honored.

Thank you for all that you do,

Sincerely,

Mark Zitelli
Commission
Remember you have an obligation to protect the coastal trail and preserve it for the public. Please fulfill that obligation and protect this precious resource. Thank you
Hillary Kambour

Sent from my iPhone
I am in support of the proposed settlement between these two groups. It allows restricted access to deserving groups while still maintaining a relatively undisturbed stretch of California coastline. I also believe that it upholds certain rights regarding private property and the protection thereof. Access is currently granted to those who are willing to go to the effort of getting themselves there. This settlement will open it even farther. If it is opened any more widely, I believe it will ruin the fairly wild and unpopulated stretch of coastline that acts as a refuge for certain intertidal, marine and beach fauna. If it is opened any farther, it will ruin the very aspect that makes it remarkable.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Janss
312 East Pedregosa, Santa Barbara
Dear Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy,

The State and the Public are the real winners in this agreement. Many school children, Veterans, handicap people, and other Nonprofits, will get to experience and enjoy this well preserved piece of our California coast.

I consider the Public, very lucky, though they may not know or understand this agreement. It is in their favor.

Thank you so much, for your time and hard work for making this happen,

Sincerely, A Native Californian,
   A Wife
   A Mother
   A Grandmother
   A Nature Lover, Melissa Wall
Commissioners, thank you for your decision on the settlement you entered with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA. I've lived in Goleta for 50 years. I enjoy that part of the coastline just the way it is. You can still catch fish and waves. Thank You, for protecting our coast.

Carlton B. Pettersen III

Sent from my iPhone
I am resending my letter. Please disregard previous letter email yesterday July 1, 2018, as I erroneously emailed you a draft. Sylvia Aleman
As a surfer, architect, and environmental steward, I speak for myself and those many others who applaud the Coastal Commission’s agreed settlement with the Hollister Ranch authorities as preserving the correct balance of public access and environmental protection.

Sincerely,

Brett Ettinger

Ferguson-Ettinger Architects, Inc.
1120 Coast Village Circle
Santa Barbara, CA  93108
June 30, 2018

Re: The Hollister Ranch agreed settlement with the California Coastal Commission and California State Coastal Conservancy

I am a surfer, architect, and retired conservation professor, and enthusiastically support the Coastal Commission / Coastal Conservancy’s agreed settlement of limited coastal access to, and with Hollister Ranch stewardship of, a remnant pristine landscape.

The settlement acts to withdraw a portion of pristine coastline from development, such that it may be passed forward as a heritage site. Gifford Pinchot, the father of American conservation, strongly suggested this withholding alternative status as insurance against future unknowns.

The agreement is a remarkable balance between conservation and development.

Bravo!

Robert Hotten

--

Robert Hotten, Architect
Office for Sustainable Architecture
PO BOX 626, Lawai, HI 96765
(831)229-5976
As Californians, we must take a good serious look up and down our Southern California coast. Despite the original intentions of the Coastal Act, neither our state, nor our federal government, has succeeded in preserving any significant portion our coastline in its natural state. The few remaining beautiful natural lands of the California coast are now our current endangered species. The last of these lands is still alive and well due to the stewardship and preservation of the historical owners of the Point Conception area. The settlement accomplished by our Coastal Commission should be supported in preservation of those lands.

With due respect,

Roger Odiorne
Coronado, Ca
To Whom This Concerns - I stoutly support the current HR-CCC Settlement. This settlement preserves a beautiful piece of California as well as the rights of its landowners.

Ken Graulich
Dear Commissioners,

The term "public access" does not mean "unlimited access". The Coastal Act has a parallel mandate to protect and preserve the natural environments along our coastline. The proper balance between preservation and thoughtful limited public access has been struck in this settlement. I urge you to support the settlement.

Deborah Warriner
dswarriner.sd@gmail.com
As a surfer of many years, I speak for myself and those many others who applaud the Coastal Commission’s agreed settlement with the Hollister Ranch authorities as preserving the correct balance of public access and environmental protection.

Personally, if I had a choice between never surfing the Ranch again, or having it made open to the public, I would choose the former. I have seen too many things get destroyed by the "public" (graffiti, trash, paving paradise etc). There are plenty of other beaches the public can access.

Regards,

Simone Reddingius

simone reddingius
http://beachgirlmaui.blogspot.com/
http://www.etsy.com/shop/photobysimone
http://www.etsy.com/shop/beachgirlmaui

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I am writing to support the recent settlement regarding public access to the Hollister Ranch. The pristine nature of this stretch of coastline cannot be overstated.

This seems like a good balance between public access and protecting the coastline.

I am a 61 year old native Californian, and have seen unrestricted access destroy the coastal environment.

Kelly Cannon

Cambria Ca.
As Californians, we must take a good serious look up and down our Southern California coast. Despite the original intentions of the Coastal Act, neither our state, nor our federal government, has succeeded in preserving any significant portion our coastline in its natural state. The few remaining beautiful natural lands of the California coast are now our current endangered species. The last of these lands is still alive and well due to the stewardship and preservation of the historical owners of the Point Conception area. The settlement accomplished by our Coastal Commission should be supported in preservation of those lands. This is not a settlement that allows the bulldozers to wreak more development on our coastline. This is a settlement that preserves the last piece our coastline in its natural state.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Shealy Stump
Coronado, CA 92118
As a native Californian, and a beach lover, I am in support of the HROA & California Coastal Commission settlement.

Thank you,

Candice Woodward, PT, CIE, CPE, CSCS
Woodward Ergonomics Consulting, Inc./Wedge-Ease
1835 Newport Blvd, Suite A-109-247
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
T. 949-903-5272  F. 949-515-3569
candice@wecergonomics.com
California Coastal Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the settlement between the Hollister Ranch Owners Association and the CCC. As was recently made public in May of this year, this settlement severely restricts public access to the Hollister Ranch property, leaving only a tiny sliver of open to less than 900 visitors annually, whose sole access is unconscionably restricted to an often treacherous sea corridor!

As a 53 year resident of Santa Barbara who over the years has been lucky enough to witness many of the splendors of this unique coastal property, I implore you to amend this unfairly restrictive agreement to allow instead a land trail along the beach bluffs that would permit public access to the many beaches of this unique 8.5 mile long coastal strip.

In short, the general public should not be denied access to any part of California's 1100 mile coastline, especially in this case a huge property of over 22 square miles that is held as the exclusive domain of a small number of wealthy property owners.

On the eve of our 242nd Independence Day celebration, please take to heart the egalitarian spirit of the Woody Guthrie song refrain below, which patriotically reminds us of our nation's innumerable natural wonders that are rightfully the domain for all of us to enjoy:

"This land is your land, this land is my land
From the California to the New York Island,
From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me."

Sincerely,
Lee R. Cox
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Honorable California Coastal Commission:

Please do not accept/ratify the proposed Hollister Ranch Settlement Agreement that is before your Commission this month.

The proposed agreement is way too restrictive in that it does not provide anything resembling reasonable public access to the Hollister Ranch Beach.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Laponis
1212 High Ridge Lane
Santa Barbara, Ca
93103
jlaponis@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in San Diego County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I am an avid surfer, kite surfer, hiker, backpacker, retired science teacher and environmentalist.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. Hollister Ranch represents the last unspoiled stretch of California coastline. At all costs, we need to leave the working cattle ranch well enough alone. Allowing more public access than the current settlement would be the beginning of the end of this endangered treasure. The existing infrastructure could not afford safe public access. The roads are extremely narrow and twisty; certainly not appropriate for public access. The beaches are often unsafe, overgrown with kelp and without lifeguards. The kelp forests are extremely fragile while providing superior reproductive habitat for a wide variety of marine species. The coastal vegetation and sandstone bluffs are very fragile and dangerous due to constant coastal erosion in the form of landslides. Many innocent lives could be lost. There would be too much liability both in the water and on land. Far too many special coastal riparian environments in our state have gone the route of precoastal commission thoughtlessness in the form of concrete flood control basins, rip rap jetties and yacht harbors i.e. Oceanside, Dana Point, etc. Due to this shortsightedness, we are suffering from loss of natural beach sand replenishment that evolves from cliff and bluff erosion. Leave this important sand replenishment resource alone so beaches south can benefit as well. The existing settlement provides more than enough limited access with appropriate supervision. The legal battles and finger pointing continue...The existing Hollister Ranch Owners Association have done an excellent job in preserving this resource. Let them continue without all this ridiculous litigation that threatens to undermine their efforts. There are already enough ways for the public to have the adventure of the feral experience i.e.buy in, boat in, kayak in or paddle in but stay below the mean high tide line. The California Coastal Commission and other proponents of the settlement need to stand tall and stick by their previous decision in the face of adversity brought on by the LA Times articles.

Thank you for your service to California.

Jim Kverno
Leucadia, CA
Dear Commissioners

I’m writing as a concerned citizen and property tax payer to urge you to accept the settlement agreement with Hollister Ranch. As a property owner in Santa Barbara county, I am very concerned with the possibility of setting out on a dangerous path towards eroding decades worth of private property rights. Allowing even the conversation of legally accepting an easement for public access placed on another citizen’s legally held real estate is nothing short of annexation of private property by government. This sort of thing is what’s done in totalitarian governments, not in civilized democracies. Shall we just all surrender our yard to whomever wishes to use it simply because some yards happen to be deemed more desirable than others by public consent? The HROA has been very effective for decades in managing and preserving the coastline it overseas. It’s simply hubris to think that government administration, without the personal investment, will provide the same level of care and protection.

The most effective way of ruining a delicate resource is to allow the public free access to it. The Gaviota coast has plenty of public access without jeopardizing the rare pristine habitat found west of Gaviota creek. Public access and protection of delicate environmental treasures are never compatible.

It’s obvious by the length of time this litigation has taken that the proposed settlement has been carefully considered and negotiated by the appointed representatives of the state as the best option for all concerned. The Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission have already committed to the negotiated settlement, and to back out now would drastically damage the legitimacy of any future commitments these organizations might endeavor to enter into. The HROA will likely fight very hard to defeat any further public access that isn’t already offered in the settlement the Coastal Commission and Conservancy have committed to. Please accept the offer of access as is, so as not to lose any public access in a protracted legal fight with very uncertain outcome. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely
Brian and Sue Kelly
4178 Cresta Ave
Santa Barbara
ATTENTION CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION & STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE SETTLEMENT YOU MADE WITH HOLLISTER RANCH OVER THE YMCA OFFER TO DEDICATE. BELOW ARE MY THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER:

1. THE STATE (COASTAL COMMISSION & COASTAL CONSERVANCY STAFF, ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE) SPENT THOUSANDS OF MAN HOURS AND FOUR YEARS EVALUATING ALL ASPECTS OF THIS CASE AND THEY PRODUCED A VERY FAIR, THOUGHT OUT SETTLEMENT. THEY MADE THE BEST DECISION THAT BENEFITED THE STATE AND ITS POPULUS. PUBLIC COMMENT, EVEN THOUGH WELL MEANING, HAS LIMITED INFORMATION ON ALL THE EXTREME DETAILS IN THIS CASE. THEY HAVE NOT THOUGHT THROUGH ALL OF THE CONSEQUENCES AND THE RAMIFICATIONS THAT WOULD TAKE PLACE IF THE SETTLEMENT WAS VOIDED. I GIVE GREAT CREDIT TO THE STATE OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH THIS CASE FROM THE BEGINNING. THEY COVERED ALL POTENTIAL PITFALLS, AND WITH THAT INFORMATION, NAVIGATED A THOUGHTFUL AND WELL MASTERED SETTLEMENT FOR THE STATE.

2. THE LAWSUIT WAS VERY COMPLICATED WITH AN UNCERTAIN OUTCOME FOR THE STATE. THE SETTLEMENT WAS THE CORRECT DECISION.

3. THE SETTLEMENT ALLOWS FOR MANAGED PUBLIC ACCESS WHILE MAINTAINING SENSITIVE COASTAL RESOURCES. THE COURT GUIDED A VERY LONG AND DETAILED SETTLEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED BY THE COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE STATE CONSERVANCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE.

THANK YOU COMMISSIONERS FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN PROTECTING OUR GREAT STATE RESOURCES. MY FATHER WAS BORN IN CALIFORNIA IN 1914. I FOLLOWED 30 YEARS LATER WITH ALL MY THREE CHILDREN AND 7 GRANDCHILDREN. WE LOVE THE OUTDOORS, OUR COAST, AND
WISH TO PRESERVE IT ALL FOR GENERATIONS TO COME-----

SINCERELY,

HAROLD CLAVIN MD
ATTENTION CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION & STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE SETTLEMENT YOU MADE WITH HOLLISTER RANCH OVER THE YMCA OFFER TO DEDICATE. BELOW ARE MY THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER:

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SINCERELY,

HAROLD CLAVIN  MD
Kathryn "Kate" Hecht
San Francisco/Bodega Bay
I have lived in Santa Barbara for 27 years, and I believe strongly in public access for all California beaches.

The current agreement that allows access only from the ocean is ridiculous, in my opinion. That is definitely not public access.

I urge you to allow true PUBLIC ACCESS to the beach of Hollister Ranch.

Sarah Hearon
93103
I strongly oppose the pending settlement of the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch Owners Assn.. I don't have time to write a detailed angry letter but I can't sit silent. I protest this in the strongest possible terms.

Karen Bowland
North Hollywood, CA
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

I would like to provide supporting input for your upcoming informational hearing regarding the settlement between your agency, the State Coastal Conservancy and the Hollister Ranch.

I applaud your efforts to protect our coastline while balancing this protection with the rights of the citizens of our state. I support the settlement that your agency entered into and believe that the diligent efforts put forth by your agency, the Coastal Conservancy and the Attorney General’s Office over the past four years of this litigation have resulted in a thoughtful and carefully negotiated settlement that fully benefits the citizens of California. The public access provided as part of the settlement will be carefully managed and will ensure continued protection of this sensitive coastal area.

I have lived in Long Beach for over 30 years and am a strong supporter of your commitment to protecting our coastline. I believe you have successfully done this by entering into this agreement and I ask that you honor it and oppose any proceedings after the fact to invalidate it.

Thank you for your continued service to California.

Sincerely,

Caryl Collins
carylacollins@aol.com
M: 562.547.4145
Dear Commissioners,

I want to thank you for working so diligently to protect our beautiful California coastlines and for your recognition of the rapidly diminishing areas that still preserve and protect both wildlife and wild lands in their original state. I FULLY support the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch over the easement litigation.

I have been so very fortunate and grateful to sit as a member of the Hollister Ranch Design Committee for over a decade. As stewards of the Hollister Ranch environment we work to uphold the collective responsibility of all ranch owners to protect and preserve the natural resources of the Hollister Ranch. Plant and wildlife thrive and are preserved because of these protections. As a 68 year old native Californian I have seen the devastation of so many parts of the California Coast due to over populated areas and misuse and disregard for the preservation of nature's bounty and wildlife habitats. I am proud to be part of the efforts to protect one of the ever decreasing areas of such wonder.

Thank you again for all you do in the continuing mission to protect and enhance California's coastal lands.

Sincerely,

Julie Schaefer0219
Ladies and Gentlemen,
As a visitor to the Hollister Ranch, both on land and also boating in over the years, I want to share my thoughts and support for the current settlement proposal.

Having been there, I am grateful that this is one of the true remaining areas of the California coast that has been allowed to stay in it's natural state. The area been well taken care of by the Hollister Ranch owners, acting as great steward's for the environment.

My personal experience is that I am awestruck by it’s still pristine state. I think if buses are allowed to come in and also camping, it will change the area irreparably for future generations.

The proposal to allow access to the beach area up to the Razor Blades, seems like a good compromise and helps retain the uniqueness and beauty of the area for future generations.

I 'm asking that you allow the current Hollister Ranch settlement proposal to go through.

Regards,
Mark Freeman
200 Calle Cuervo
San Clemente. California
714.270.0666
Hi, I’m writing to give my support for the settlement reached between Hollister Ranch and the Coastal Commission/Conservancy.

I’m a surfer and waterman, and I appreciate the efforts of your agencies. Hollister Ranch is a unique place. When the lawsuit first came up, I studied the issues and quickly came to the conclusion that the government was unlikely to prevail, either on the merits or on the technicalities. Property ownership is a basic right, and moreover in California, over a century of law stands in the way of the idea that a neighbor could “give away” a public easement to a bordering property, which was the case here.

The negotiated settlement is a sensible resolution. I appreciate you bringing this long fight to a close so you can turn your attention to other more pressing issues.

Thank you,

Sky Dayton
Commissioners,

Thank you for your dedication to protect the California coast. I live in Westlake Village and have spent sixty years enjoying California beaches and believe the complex and challenging settlement that was reached was in the best interest of all parties. The solution of managed public access will help protect and preserve the sensitive coastal resources of Pt Conception.

The time and effort that went to get all the parties to agree to the settlement speaks to the result. Not to honor the commitments reached would be a setback to the process and negatively impact negotiations in the future. The Commission has done a great job and the settlement should stand.

Thanks for your efforts,

Packy Jones
"Unsubscribe"
Dear Commissioners,

I live in Santa Barbara and have surfed the Southern and Central Californian coasts for 25 years. Thank you for your protection of those beaches and waters.

I am in support of the current settlement between Hollister Ranch and the Coastal Commission for the following reasons:

- The stretch between Gaviota and Point Conception is absolutely pristine. Any opening of those beaches to the general public will result in the crowds and trash that come with it.

- Surfing that coastline does take some effort, but that's why people like it. If it's easy, the place loses some of its wildness, isolation, and ultimately, experience for those that are motivated to go beyond stepping off the back of their car onto the sand for a more natural and pristine experience.

- There are tons of beaches that the public can not reach easily. Look at all the houses in Malibu that make beach access impossible.

- I can't understand how the case that argues for the easement set up by the LA YMCA is at all legal. I can't just create an easement through my neighbors yard without their consent. If that were possible, mayhem would result.

Thank you for reading and considering,

Jesse Wooten
Coastal Commission:

As a resident of Santa Barbara and someone who treasures the beauty of our coast, I am very concerned about preserving our coastal resources. I've fished, surfed, dove, sailed, biked and hiked the Santa Barbara coast for more than 30 years and have raised my children here.

I fully SUPPORT the settlement recently entered into with Hollister Ranch (HR) concerning the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. The HR had a very strong legal case, and I assume that the commission's understanding of the legal facts of the case was the primary reason they chose to settle. Why waste money on litigation that had a poor chance of success? How could the YMCA give the Coastal Commission an easement across property that the YMCA did not own?

Most importantly, public access to the ranch via a road or trail would spoil the natural resources and beauty that have been protected by the very limited development that has occurred at the ranch. Unrestricted public access would make the ranch just another super crowded, developed southern California beach with little semblance of its natural beauty.

The public currently has access to most that the ranch has to offer, it just takes more of an effort to get there- it is accessible by boat and walking on the beach. People who really appreciate the beauty of the ranch make that extra effort and get the reward of enjoying one of the very few places in southern California that resembles what it used to look like.

Douglas Imperato, Ph.D.
Santa Barbara
Commissioners:

I write to express my strong opposition to the Hollister Ranch Limited Access Settlement.

This is a complete travesty and affront to the public and a complete abrogation and repudiation of the Commissioners’ responsibilities under the Coastal Act to ensure maximum public access to the California coast.

It flies in the face of and is totally in opposition to the tenants of the Coastal Act to "......maximize public access to and along the coast..."

I cannot comprehend how members of the Commission and the Conservancy could even consider this limited access ONLY FROM THE OCEAN is in any way, shape or form in furtherance of the Coastal Act mandate to the Commission.

For the record, limited access solely from the ocean is NOT public access! Few members of the public will ever be able to get to this beach from the ocean. Even if they own or could rent a kayak or other soft bottom boat, the ocean conditions in this specific location are notoriously dangerous. Thus, even the most skilled boater of any kind rarely can access the area. Ergo access to the majority of the public would be impossible = for all intents and purposes > THERE IS NO PUBLIC ACCESS!

Further, this settlement in no way comports with the Commission's responsibility to uphold, not only the obligations of the Act, but also those of the California Constitution, which grants the public the right to use the beaches of the state up to the mean high tide line. Compromised, unsafe/dangerous, limited access is not aligned with the meaning of the Act or the Constitutional rights.

Neither does this settlement allow the California Coastal Trail to be implemented here, as originally planned, thus jeopardizing this important means of public access to our coast.

The proposed limited access by a limited number of escorted groups of school kids/non-profit education programs on an annual basis does nothing to obviate this abdication of the Commission's responsibilities.

One of the strongest elements of the Coastal Act is its balance of private and public equities - private property rights balanced with public access ensured and promised as long ago as when California joined the Union in 1850. This alleged settlement in no way balances those equities! In fact, it sets an absolutely negative; dangerous precedent with major repercussions for current and future public access
to the coast.

The coast is a public treasure, not a private place or playground that this misguided alleged settlement allows to rise to senior importance.

Obviously, those who sought to keep the settlement under wraps from the public knew what they were doing - secretly screw the public out of the promise of the Coastal Act for maximum public access. No transparency exhibited in this regard in any way, just cut the deal under cover of darkness; behind closed doors. Fait accompli at its worst. For shame!

Kudos to the judge who thought better to halt such behavior.

The Commissioners should in no way consider accepting this travesty.

They must stand for maximum public access to the coast, everywhere along its 1100 miles of coastline for ALL; not a select few!

The Coastal Act demands it, all of the citizens of California are due it. Not just those who can afford to pay millions for it.

If the Commission does not stand up on the side of the public for public access to this section of the coast, as is their duty under the Coastal Act, then I sincerely hope Superior Judge Colleen Sterne will intervene to set this listing ship upright. Citizens and non profits should not have to challenge this matter. Their monies are better spent providing actual public access to the coast, especially for those challenged to get there.

Californians hold the coast as a commons and those entrusted with ensuring access must stand for the public and the public access they are entrusted to defend.

Thank you for doing the right thing for true public access for all.

Norma
Norma Jellison
Coastal Advocate
Coastal Resident
P O BOX 1636
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

A new ethic for the ocean where the ocean is not seen as a commodity we own but as a community of which we are a part.
The sea is worth saving for its own sake. Bill Ballantine NZ
And take this to the land as well.
Costal Commissioners,

The proposed settlement with the Hollister Ranch Owners Association is something you’d expect to come out of the Trump Administration. Yeah it provides access to a few grains of dry sand, but only if you challenge the Santa Barbara Channel and paddle in from 2 miles away, which amounts to a 4 mile round trip. What kind of access is that?

This is not a settlement, it is a capitulation, whose remedy is to allow public access via land.

Bob Jordan
Hollister is one of the most amazing stretches of beach in the world. It is special because it has not been ruined. I do not think it should just be opened up 100%. However, it would be nice for those that want to access the shore to do so. Perhaps this means by boat or being able to walk in along the beach. Many will not venture that far and there are many barriers to entry easily. For those willing to walk or boat, they should have access the way we do everywhere else. Owners can own the land and protect access but they cannot own the beaches. Beaches are for everyone. Let’s not spoil the place but also, let’s not have the wealthy controlling whether we can or cannot go to a beach. Thank you,
Marc

We have moved to our new design studio in Downtown Santa Barbara. Our new address is 216 E. Cota Street | Santa Barbara | CA 93101

Marc TAPPEINER
President & Principal Designer

216 E. Cota Street | Santa Barbara | CA 93101
Studio 805 967 0700 ext.100 | Mobile 805 886 3966
email: marc@lifestyledesign.com
Please keep Hollister Beach public!
As Californians, we must take a good serious look up and down our Southern California coast. Despite the original intentions of the Coastal Act, neither our state, nor our federal government, has succeeded in preserving any significant portion our coastline in its natural state. The few remaining beautiful natural lands of the California coast are now our current endangered species. The last of these lands is still alive and well due to the stewardship and preservation of the historical owners of the Point Conception area. The settlement accomplished by our Coastal Commission should be supported in preservation of those lands.

Preserve adventure access to this pristine coastal area. Don't put up another parking lot. Don't pave this paradise. Support the settlement.

The Commission needs to honor its commitments. The settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court and was signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General's office.

Thank you,
Carolyn Mitchell

Concerned citizen
Sent from my iPhone
Sirs,

It has come to my attention that you may be considering relinquishing the existing public easement to the coast on the Hollister Ranch and allowing only access by boat.

I am VERY MUCH AGAINST that and request that before you consider relinquishing the public easement, minimally require non-motorized public access to the beaches via that easement. If the easement were relinquished, the proposed Coastal Trail up and down the California coast could not cross the Hollister Ranch. There is a future opportunity for this trail to exist and you, the commission entrusted with coastal access for all must do the right thing.

Keep the public easement intact.

Linda J. Clarke
1190 Deer Canyon Road
Arroyo Grande, California 93420
As a concerned local, I want to add my voice to the discussion re beach access at Hollister Ranch. The intent of the 1976 Coastal Act is clear: to protect beach access for everyone. I don’t question the intentions of the property owners at Hollister Ranch – I’m sure they want to be good stewards of the land. But the problem with an exclusive sanctuary like this is that “exclusive”, by definition, is meant to “exclude” and goes against the very essence of the Coastal Act. Please save our California beaches for EVERYONE, not just for the most fortunate among us.

Sincerely,
Alan Kuhn
Santa Barbara, CA
alankuhn@msn.com
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

As a native Californian who has lived in other states and the District of Columbia and eventually returned to California over 40 years ago I can state that our beautiful coastline and access to it is one of the primary reasons California is a great place to live. I now reside in a coastal community and access to the beach is very important to me. I have surfed many years ago at Hollister Ranch (through the courtesy of a property owner) and know its charms.

Please do not stop fighting to maintain beach access for all with reasonable protection of private property rights. It seems to me that the currently proposed solution to access at Hollister is in the best interests of only the privileged few. The last time I drove by The Ranch it was still part of the State of California. Land access to that portion of our coastline should remain available to all.

Sincerely,
Robert Davidson
600 High Point Dr.
Ventura, Ca. 93003
310-975-9031
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in support of the settlement agreement between the California Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, and Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA’s 1982 Offer to Dedicate.

My family lives in Los Gatos, California in Santa Clara County. We live four hours driving time from the Hollister Ranch and have been owners since 2005. We love the coast and appreciate all that the California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy does to protect our coastline.

I support the settlement for two main reasons:

1. The State’s Legal Position is contrary to California law.

I am an attorney by training although I chose to stay at home to raise our children when our second child was born. I have been interested in this litigation and have followed the parties’ arguments and procedural developments throughout the years.

The most important thing I learned in law school is to always apply a “common sense test” in a legal situation. Justice requires grounding in common sense. To me, the “common sense test” application in this case is that you cannot give away something you do not own. Therefore, the State’s position to assert public assess to the Hollister Ranch under the YMCA’s 1982 Offer to Dedicate does not pass a “common sense test” and also contradicts well-established California property law. Because the State’s position depends upon this argument, the case fails on the merits.

2. The terms of the Settlement Agreement are fair.

The settlement agreement provides for public managed access and is consistent with efforts already in place, although largely unknown, at the Hollister Ranch.

My husband Michael and I are participants in an expanding managed access program at the Hollister Ranch. Our long-time friend Brent Edwards is on the Board of Directors of Amazing Surf Adventures which runs a healing program for wounded active duty military personnel called Operation Surf. Operation Surf provides week-long surf programs giving veterans an opportunity to bond through surfing and keep each other motivated and encouraged. These events take place along the California coast in April in Santa Cruz (our home-town area where we volunteer), June in Huntington Beach, and October in the Central Coast (San Luis Obispo area). (For additional information regarding Operation Surf, please watch the recent Emmy nominated documentary on Netflix called Resurface.)

In 2014, Brent asked Michael and I if the Hollister Ranch would be interested in hosting one day of their Central Coast week in October. Michael presented the idea to the ranch board of directors who supported the opportunity. In October 2014,
2015, 2016, and 2017, approximately 50 members of the public (Operation Surf participants and their support personnel) have enjoyed a full day of surfing and camaraderie at a common area at the Hollister Ranch. Michael and I feel thrilled to organize and host this special opportunity for healing and community involvement.

The Operation Surf event is the highlight of my time at the ranch. Michael and I are currently planning the October 12, 2018 Operation Surf Day at the Hollister Ranch with Amazing Surf Adventures founder Van Curaza and his staff. We are committed to help expand this program and others at the ranch. Service to others is a core value of mine and many other ranch owners. The ranch community is full of good, hard-working people doing good things for the coastline well beyond the Hollister Ranch. The settlement will re-enforce managed access efforts that are already underway. (I do not have the numbers on the ranch’s educational tide pool program but know that many hundreds have participated over the years.)

Thank you for considering my main reasons that the well-negotiated settlement agreement with the State is fair and reasonable, especially considering the unprecedented legal basis underlying the litigation.

Please feel free to contact me if I can offer any further information.

Sincerely,

Anne Parsons
408.858.4907 mobile
I support HR-CCC ...
Please work on public access to the Hollister beach by means in addition by sea. Thank you. Joyce Ball
As a native of California and an avid surfer, I want to voice my support for the proposed final settlement between the California Coastal Commission, California State Coastal Conservancy and the Hollister Ranch Owners Association. I am all in favor of protecting the beautiful natural lands of the California Coast and I feel that this can be achieved by supporting this settlement. I feel that this settlement provides the correct balance of public access and environmental protection.

Sincerely,
Todd Van Dussen

Sent from my iPhone
The proposed settlement concerning Hollister Ranch is so outrageous, it's not surprising that the commission did not actively invite public input. I am not one of the very few lucky schoolkids who will be allowed access to the beach, nor am I an expert paddleboarder who can navigate treacherous waters. I AM a citizen who cherishes the California Coastal Trail, and I beg you to require some kind of easement to allow the public to access and walk along the beachfront of that huge property. Do not, with one decision, brought about by greed or exhaustion or corruption, destroy any chance we have to enjoy a walk along a beautiful stretch of "our" beloved coast.
Linda Georgianna Newsom, 20201 Bayview ave, Newport Beach, CA. 92660
It has come to my attention that the California Coastal Commission is considering to renege on a legal obligation regarding the Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara county. I am strongly urging you NOT to do so. Following years of legal input, the Coastal Commission has agreed to and signed your names to a settlement. Not to honor your legally binding commitment would be morally wrong and would set a bad president with regard to the commissions reputation and integrity. I am a California taxpayer, it is the taxpayers that bear the cost of your litigation whether it is merited or otherwise. With regard to this particular issue now is not the time to be swayed by uninformed and whimsical public opinion.

Sincerely, Mark A. Ziemba
I agree with the settlement between the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch
Dear Commissioners:

We appreciate your efforts over the years to protect the California coast.

However, we are extremely disappointed and alarmed that the access settlement re Hollister Ranch coast is a very bad (unprecedentedly bad) deal for the public. We fail to see why a group of privileged property owners should receive CCC approval to bar satisfactory access to what is a public resource. Kindly consider your mission statement and review and revise this awful decision..

Yours truly,
Antonia Robertson J.D.
Laurence Dworet M.D.
I am against this settlement.

The public should be provided full access to the beach. This is a right provided by the California law. The Coastal Commission should be prohibited from relinquishing citizen's rights. Also, the way the settlement is structured violates the Americans with Disabilities Act because disabled persons are not provided the same access as others.

Hollister Ranch should recognize the easement in full and provide access. It has received benefits and is bound to the associated burdens.

It is not equitable to allow some access to the beach and not others.
Dear Coastal Commission,

It is your mandate to preserve public access to the California Coast. Please help complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. Hold the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association to previously agreed upon alignments.

Thank you,
Priscilla Fife
Alameda, California
Please, please, please DO NOT SHUT OFF PUBLIC ACCESS.

So many of us members and volunteers of organizations like Coastwalk and others, work hard educate people in this and many more access points. Excluding public access is catering to the wealthy and willingly excluding generations of interested participants who will shepherd this land into the future.

Please do no deny public access.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Teri Mahler
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

My first vote at age 21 was for Prop 20 establishing the Coastal Commission to keep our beaches free and open for all. I grew up on The beach at Balboa and Newport and Encinitas, where there was always access even after I moved inland.

I am shocked that after 45 years, the Commission is ready to grant private ownership of the coast to the wealthy, because honestly I can walk 2 miles to a beach, but I cannot kayak or swim to it.

We demand public access for all Americans! Do we want coastlines like France and other countries where the coastline has been walled off for the wealthy for generations? HELL NO! This is America, and access to the coast should be free to all.

Sincerely,
Mary M Renaker
1237 1/4-18th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(323) 518-3075

Sent from my iPhone
(323) 518-3075
Please do not support the HR CCC settlement for access to the Hollister Ranch. How in the world is a 2 mile water entry access to "the people" access for all? Seriously? Enough said. How about handicapped access?
Alfredo Zavala
Dear Coastal Commission-
Limiting access to the beach- any beach at any time, is illegal and unethical. We do t care how rich these folks are, the 1% should not be allowed to prevail in every way they wish.

Please do not set this precedent and disallow public access to the public beach.

Thank you,
Sydney Croskery

****SYDNEY CROSKERY*****
www.SydneyCroskery.com***
********+++++++************
To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my strong objections to the proposed settlement between the California Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch Owners' Association regarding future public access to the Hollister Ranch coastline. Specifically, the proposal limiting public access only to individuals having boats, or the physical capability to paddle or swim the two miles to the permissible beach, seems unduly restrictive, and certainly not "maximizing public access" as stipulated in Section 30001.5(c) as a "goal" of the California Coastal Act. The proposed agreement essentially approves nearly a status quo situation, which, for anybody who lives near the area, as I do, recognizes it will still render the entire area essentially inaccessible to the vast majority of the public. This is not even to mention the harassment that non-resident individuals currently legally boating or paddling in to the area for surfing, diving or swimming, receive from "local Ranch owners", that include incidents of vandalism, verbal, and even physical abuse. I am not aware that this issue has been addressed, and I imagine such intimidation will continue even if the proposed agreement is approved.

I wholly approve of providing public access to Hollister Ranch beaches in accordance with "sound conservation principles and respecting rights of private property owners", but believe in this case that much greater public access can be provided in ways that do not unreasonably abridge either of these concerns. Certainly some limited number of first-come/first-serve access could be allowed, such as at Jalama Beach County Park that addresses considerations of both owner privacy and sound conservation.

The proposed agreement also sets a terrible precedent if allowed to go through. If approved, one can imagine rich and privileged individuals asserting their "private property rights" to argue for similar or even more restrictive access to coastal property on which they own frontage. One can see a slippery slope towards many areas of the California coastline becoming completely off-limits to the general public. This would be a very sad state of affairs, in my opinion.

I have lived in Southern California for over fifty years, and am proud of California's commitment through the California Coastal Act, of providing assurance that the public have "maximized" access to our incredibly beautiful and precious coastal beaches and shorelines.

I hope and believe a far more equitable solution can be reached regarding the multi-decadal discussions with the vast Hollister Ranch coastline becoming in greater compliance with the spirit if not letter of the California Coastal Act.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Schildhauer
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to **object to the proposed class action settlement with property owners at Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County.**

This settlement effectively destroys the public's access to this part of the California coast, which the Coastal Commission is empowered to protect.

Why has the Coastal Commission agreed to relinquish the existing public accessway? This is inexplicable, unacceptable, and contrary to the mission of the Coastal Commission.

Public access by water only is a joke, and is not acceptable. This means that only people who are wealthy enough to have boats can access this part of the coast.

Finally, requirements to "obtain leave of Court to intervene" are so burdensome as to effectively shut out members of the public from commenting.

I protest in the strongest possible terms, and urge you to reject this settlement. It is unacceptable and contrary to the mission of the Coastal Commission.

We rely on you to protect and preserve our access to our beautiful coast. Please do your job.

Thank you.

Alex Ward
Santa Monica, CA
Dear California Costal Commission,

California has long contended that public beach access is the allowed right of residents and visitors of the state. Hollister Ranch is a rare exception to this philosophy allowing reserved access to a select few with the financial means to own property on this stretch of coast.

As an avid outdoorsmen, environmentalist, and water sports enthusiast I have always wanted the opportunity to enjoy this stretch of beach whilst being respectful to those that call it home. I also understand and support the need to protect our coast lines from over development and exploitation. We should not pursue a future that would subtract from the natural beauty and compromise the wildlife and ecosystems of this area. In this spirit I welcome some limiting of access to Hollister Ranch.

What I do not agree with, is that those with the financial means to afford the price of entry be allowed sole access to this land. This is a generalization, as there are likely some of varied economic means that are allowed access to Hollister Ranch, but by and large it seems that the wealthy have secured this land for their private use in contrast to California's stance on public beach access. Furthermore, if any taxpayer funds are provided by the state to support the infrastructure and well being of the roads, beaches, or other resources on Hollister ranch it is only fair that other tax paying California's, and their guests, be allowed access to the land that benefits from this.

I do not feel that the current settlement goes far enough to provide a better distribution of access rights to those of various income brackets and from different parts of California. This settlement also fails to address a large enough area of Hollister Ranch to challenge the issue of private access overall.

My suggestion would be to allow California to treat the Hollister Ranch beaches as a state park providing indiscriminatory access to a limited number of visitors daily while charging a small fee for access/parking much like other protected area's such as El Capitan State Beach. It would be desirable that current residence of Hollister Ranch maintain their access free of charge and the ability to come and go from the property without any impact to them by the newly allowed traffic. I would also stipulate that funds raised by the fee's for entry be allocated to publicly disclosed efforts to counter balance the environmental impact of increased visitors and the required maintenance and wages of facilities and personnel required to support this new access model.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and efforts to maintain the equal and environmentally responsible use of our California coast.

Sincerely, Cary Clark

--
Cary Clark
...is preserving access to our spectacular coastline for ALL Californians, not just a privileged few. Please make public access to this precious piece of coastline a priority.

Thank you.

Debra's on the Go!
Dear Coastal Commission,

Seems that beach access is just a right. I’m happy that some people can afford beautiful ocean view property at Hollister Ranch, good for them. Yet that doesn’t include the right to exclude the rest of us from the beach. A California trail connecting the entire coast would be a gift to everyone. It is something you can do. If you side with the property owners who want the rest of us excluded, shame on you.

Debbie Murphy
MurphyKingReal Estate
5441 Carpinteria Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
805.684.4101
805.689.9696 Cell
debbiemurphy1@mac.com
DRE License # 00580025
California law requires that all beaches belong to the public up to the mean high tide line. Please enforce this law at beautiful Hollister Ranch and provide access to the beach. This lovely area belongs to everyone, not just to rich people who want to live a secluded life. I may never go there, but I want to be able to should I be in the area. Please obey the law!!

Patricia Zeider
Pasadena CA 91104
Why has access to the coast at Hollister Ranch been shut down to the public?

I'm a California native that has camped, swam, surfed, and played, on our beautiful coastline since I was a toddler. I now share these activities with my children several times a week. Now that my kids are exploring surfing and enjoying our natural California water features, we’ve talked many times about surfing at Hollister Ranch. I told them that they may never have the pleasure of even viewing the surf at the Ranch, and they were confused. “How can someone stop another person from visiting the beach?” my 12-year old asked.

The Coastal Act was put into place to protect our beautiful coastline from such things.

The Commission needs to act quickly to open up this section of our California coastline, and make our beaches accessible to the public without requiring them to approach by ocean which is dangerous and life-threatening. Rights to the beach should not be controlled by the few people with wealth in that area.

Respectfully,
/Bradley Pirman

Bradley Pirman
To whom it may concern:

I've been reading about the settlement on the YMCA/Hollister Ranch case. I am a coastal resident and frequent visitor to the area.

Understanding a bit about the law, I think the settlement is a far better outcome than would have been possible if the case had been finished. It is totally unrealistic to expect the state or county to fund a public transportation solution through a drainage tunnel to the beach. The CCC should declare victory and continue with the settlement.

Bryan Schreier
The settlement is inadequate, and does not provide proper access to this stretch of coast.

Charles Warner
882 N Holliston Ave
Pasadena, CA 91104

Sent from my iPad
We are writing to voice our opposition to the Hollister Ranch Limited Access Settlement.

The public access is needed to complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. We consider that it is important to hold the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association to previously agreed upon alignment of public access to Hollister Ranch beaches.

We appreciate your considering our position regarding this important issue.

Thank you.

Paul and Betty Sharps
7251 Via Mimosa
San Jose, CA 95135
To Whom It May Concern,

I’m writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed agreement for public access—such as it is—to the beach at Hollister Ranch.

I believe the agreement violates both the spirit of California’s open coast, but also in all practical terms, the letter of California Coastal Act.

As a fortunate resident of a coastal city, this agreement sets a dangerous precedent that threatens to erode the public’s access to beaches up and down the California coast.

I urge you to reconsider this unfair and ill-conceived settlement.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,
Drew Traglia
Coastal Commission,

I am writing to express my disappointment and opposition to the Hollister Ranch Settlement which will restrict coastal access to the public. It is your duty to endure the provision of such access on behalf of the public — indeed what our taxes pay for.

Please do not proceed with this settlement, which will permanently deny citizens their rights, restrict access and set a dangerous precedent.

Sarah Perry
Dear Member of the Coastal Commission, I feel you are setting a dangerous precedent that will open the door to restricting further access to our beautiful coast. Please rethink your actions before it is too late and the wealthy 1% weaken our ability to preserve access to our coast. Please vote against the "Limited Access Settlement" and do complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. Sincerely, Susan Nelson, Pt. Reyes Station, CA
I am 60 years old, and have always dreamed of exploring the coast west of Gaviota, never understanding why I've never been allowed. I'd always thought that California beaches were public and that landowners have to allow access by some sort of easement.
I guess I was wrong.
It appears that if you have enough political and financial clout, you can ignore rules and laws that other landowners have been compelled to honor. That doesn't sit well with me.
I, as a lifelong California resident, and taxpayer, am hereby demanding the Coastal Commission scrap this "compromise", worked out in secret that permanently outlaws overland access to and from OUR beaches.
I understand and support the stated aim to protect the rural, untouched beauty of the area, and there are lots of possibilities.
You could ban motorized vehicles or you might limit the number of visitors. But permanently outlawing overland access to OUR beach is in no way, a "compromise".

This decision won't stand. It's all over the news now (thank you Steve Lopez!).
Bob Joyce

PS: "Nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come".

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commissioners,

I am a renter along the Malibu Coast and a lifelong enthusiast of our coastline. I have seen the results of the public mis-use of our coastal lands via pollution, plastics, human waste, and the F ratings along our local beaches. Educated use of our coastline is critical to its well being and the settlement achieved recently with the Hollister Ranch insures this educational process in this pristine area. Please honor your commitment to the agreement and continue your work as stewards of our coast.

Sincerely,

John Hanley
The planned agreement is an outrage and a scandal. It goes against the historical California philosophy that the beach belongs to everyone. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!

Roberta Grant

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commissioners,

I am a native Californian and VALUE the natural areas and spaces we have in our amazing state. Therefore, I implore you to HONOR the Hollister Ranch Settlement and PROTECT OUR COAST. Opening this area of the coast to the public would be ruinous and damaging. We have far too little natural coastline left and none that is as environmentally important or interesting as that at Hollister Ranch. Limited public access, as provided in the agreement already reached, is the answer. Let's not waste more energy, time and money on this issue.

Respectfully,

Marty Davis
Santa Barbara California
Please vote to keep CA coastline accessible to the public. Private developers should not get to decide who get to access the coast and from what direction. Please remember this could transform how ALL citizens access CA beaches, which is a right all members of the public have.

Thank you.

--

Kate Katz
www.katekatz.com
203-249-6817
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

We the public depend upon all of you to uphold the mandate of your position, for which we are deeply grateful, to maintain the environmental and commons integrity of our coastline.

It is inconsistent with the basic tenets of the Coastal Act to allow private interests to limit public access to our coastline. Furthermore, the California Coastal Trail completion through the area of Hollister Ranch is a key component of the intended access.

Please continue to maintain public access to our California coastline by opposing private deals made in the interest of the wealthy few.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura Morgan, MD
510-926-0351
Dear Commissioners,

I appreciate the work that the California Coastal Commission does. I think the coast needs to be preserved and you are the people who do that.

I am asking that you not renege on the settlement you have made with the Hollister Ranch. This was many years in the making, and I have watched the case closely. I am an interested surfer/beach hiker/environmentalist who wants California beaches to remain clean and uncrowded but still accessible.

This is what the current settlement offers. There are many ins and outs to this case that the people who are now raising an outcry do not understand, but that you and the attorney general do. What I see is that
1. the public is now getting access to the beaches, but it will be with the conservation of this coast in mind.
2. Lots of money has been spent and really the only people who will benefit in the end are the lawyers, which is so sad. As a taxpayer it's infuriating, frankly. If this settlement is chucked there are no guarantees that the case will be won by CCC; thus, more and more money spent for no progress.
3. The naysayers, while their hearts are in the right place, don't really understand the legal aspects of the case.
4. My fellow surfers and the fishers who boat in to the beaches here can see that keeping this coast regulated is vital to its health.

Please don't let those years and all that money go to waste. Keep the hard fought settlement as is.

Thank you,

Caroline Paul
To the Coastal Commission,

I was unable to join my son's kindergarten class on a field trip to Hollister Ranch in 1994. Ever since, I have been trying to find an opportunity to visit. About 15 years ago, I signed up for an excursion led by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. I got the family ready, with lunches packed and our young sons dressed in rain gear. We arrived at the Gaviota meeting point on time, and waited what seemed a very long time before the outing was cancelled on account of rain. After that, I kept my eye out for an opportunity to sign up for a similar trip. When I did not see one announced after several years of checking, I called the museum and learned that this program had been discontinued.

I completely support the goal of minimizing human disruption to a well-preserved natural treasure. However, there must be a way to allot each individual a single, once-in-a-lifetime permit to walk in from Gaviota and visit the fabled land.

Sincerely, Catherine J. Weinberger, Ph.D.
Institute for Social, Behavioral and Economic Research
University of California, Santa Barbara, 93106
Dear People,

I am writing to beg you to remember your commitment to a California Coastal Trail. Please preserve the lands for my grandchildren and their children.

Please complete the CA Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch.

Your immediate attention to the preservation of access at the CA Coastal Trail is essential to the future of California.

Thank you so much,
Marsha Taylor
3616 Lurline Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Coastal Commission members,
Your mandate is to preserve public access. Keep the existing agreements in place. Do not limit and restrict coastal access. Please vote no on the proposed settlement!
Thank you,
Christine Walwyn
Concerned citizen

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California's coast. I am a native Californian, living in San Diego County and regular beach goer. I am an avid surfer, photographer, licensed Realtor and lifelong coastal resident.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. In my opinion, the settlement provides the best balance between public access and protecting significantly sensitive coastal resources. Given the uniquely fragile topography and extremely powerful coastline, regular access seems very dangerous, unsustainable and not in the best interest of protecting the beach and it's natural inhabitants.

Thank you for your service to California.

Respectfully,
Dustin Rosa
Oceanside, CA
Deal Coastal Commissioners:

I strongly urge you to withdraw approval of the Hollister Ranch settlement.

It fails to reflect the objectives of the Coastal Act, and the desires of the broad public.

Very Sincerely,
Robert Else
Santa Barbara, CA
93101
Attention Coastal Commission.
Now more than ever we need to have confidence that California Coastal Commissioners are observing their original mission.
What happened to the belief that the public should be able to access our coast. You want all the tourists to stay in homes and ruin residential neighborhoods but don't give them access to open land. How will you ever explain those decisions?
Sybil Rosen
Dear sir or madam,

I strongly disagree with the resolution to this matter which does not permit road or trail access to the public use area within Hollister Ranch. This decision will have the effect of preventing access for lower income people, who can't afford watercraft, and those with disabilities. It is essential that access be equitable for all people. Thank you.

Brian Lunardi
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support upholding the settlement between the Hollister Ranch and the Coastal Commission. I am very grateful for the work you have done to protect our California coastline throughout the years. Having grown up in Southern California, and now 39 years old with two young boys, I appreciate more than ever the importance of continuing to preserve our land and coast for future generations.

With development increasing rapidly across the California coast, there are few places that exist anymore that resemble the environment of California prior to the mass sprawl of development. One of those places is the Hollister Ranch.

I have been fortunate enough to spend time at the Hollister Ranch and the Point Conception area as a young girl and adult and believe that the work that has been done to preserve the land and environment there is not only noteworthy but invaluable for the future of our children.

I was very happy to hear of the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch over the easement litigation, and I am writing to let you know that I am in full support of this settlement. I believe the Commission needs to honor its commitments to preserve and protect the coastline of California and feel confident that you will do everything in your power to uphold this settlement. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Lara Wiseman
Safe Beauty Educator

760.712.7291 | larawiseman@gmail.com
beautycounter.com/larawiseman

Our mission is to get safe products in the hands of everyone.
Dear Commissioners,

I support the Hollister Ranch Settlement. I believe the commission came to a just decision after its nearly 4 year review of this case's facts. Limited as it was, the YMCA had no legal right to grant easement through neighboring property.

I surf, hike and fish the California coast from Ventura to Lompoc. I live with my wife and family in Santa Barbara.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,
Craig Jaffurs

Founder - Jaffurs Wine Cellars/Wine Maker Emeritus
Jaffurs Wine Consultants
We have walked this beautiful area and ask the powers that be to keep the trail open to folks like us from Minnesota and all over the country. I sincerely hope you can leave this area open to the public. I’d love for my grandchildren to be able to also walk where I had the good fortune to walk while visiting the Santa Cruz and San Obispo area.

Jack Wera
Linda Arnesen
879 Hickory Lane
Winona, MN.
55987

Sent from my iPhone
I support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the Ca Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Holder
966 I Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
Dear Coastal Commissioners:

Your role is to preserve public access and to enable the completion of the Coastal Trail.

Instead, you have decided, in confidential Executive Session, to restrict public access and to prevent the Coastal Trail’s completion.

This matter is of public concern, and therefore needs to be taken up publicly, not secretly in Executive Session.

Your vote in Executive Session was very clearly a betrayal of your mission. Your decision should be reversed, otherwise your reputation for integrity will be destroyed.

Russell Wells
Hello,

I am sending you this email to let you know that it is NOT right to give rich landowners the ability to stop us from the coast.

It is your responsibly to keep the coastal trails open to the public.

Please vote responsibly.

Ellen Peterson
I'm writing to voice my support for public access to the coast near Hollister Ranch. By limiting access by boat, or guided tour, the public will be largely excluded. This violates the intent of the Coastal Act and reserves the very best of the Santa Barbara coast for an exclusive few. I strongly support a more open public process wherein residents of the county have more say in how access will be granted moving forward.

Korey Capozza
Carpinteria, CA
One of the amazing, wonderful things about California is access to the coast. I don't understand how the Coastal Commission could enter into an agreement to block complete coastal access to this beautiful area of the California Coast. The wealth of the owners of this property should not allow them to deny access. When they purchased this property they knew the public in California has access. Please, please do not allow Hollister Ranch to be private and exclusive!
Marilyn Smart Krivanek
At Hollister and complete the Coastal Trail.
Danuta Krantz.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Coastal Commission:
Please adhere to your mandate to preserve public access and complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. The settlement there could have permanent impacts on the ability to complete the trail. The California Coast belongs to the people. Please insure that it stays that way. We're counting on you. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Marilyn Jones
Sylmar, CA
I am a resident of Los Angeles County. Because of the California Coastal trail I have been privileged to hike along the coast in Sonoma, San Mateo, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. I took my younger brother with me in the 1990's and my own children in the 2010's. My husband had backpacked the Lost Coast in Mendocino. Each trip I have explained how Sea Ranch blocked the access to the public coast and how the coastal trail would prevent such a land grab in the future.

Now with the Hollister Ranch proposal, you are allowing a similar land grab to block off a whole stretch of coast and prevent the continuity of the coastal trail from Oregon to Mexico. The alternative proposal to allow those able to walk to the beach to access the beach would preserve the biological protection of the coast along Hollister Ranch and still honor the spirit of the Coastal Act and your obligations as members of the Coastal Commission to protect the rights of all Californians to access. Please revisit your decision and do not allow a few wealthy homeowners to block off a stretch of coast. Thank you.

Nathana Lurvey
Culver City CA
Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

I am writing to grant public access for the Hollister Ranch beach to allow members of the local community to experience one of California's most magnificent coastal areas. The Coastal Act that was set forth more than 40 years ago states that public access to the state's beaches is a universal right, don't you agree? If you do agree then you must open a more practical public access to Hollister Ranch areas than the current access, which requires people to travel into the area via private boats or a dangerous 1+ mile beach walk from Jalama Beach County Park.

While land and homeowners within this prestigious area have made a significant investment for the special privilege to access Hollister Ranch's spectacular coastal playground, other members of our community are all but disallowed. Sadly, those who are less fortunate or of fewer means to purchase land or own a home in this area are robbed of exemplary California coastline to enjoy. As mentioned, the walk along the beach to these areas can be dangerous with high tides and rocks. Boat access is impractical to be considered full public access. This is about the beach being made available to the public and providing acceptable access is part of being available to the public.

Please don't let the opportunity to do what is right for the good of the broader community pass by in this Hollister Ranch case. Now is the time to make an impact. Grant public access to our beaches and continue to set the precedent made last year against Vinod Khosla at Martins Beach. Having a way to access these beaches is part of making them available to the public, it is a universal right. Beaches are for everyone.

Thank you for your time,
Reed Snider
Dear Commissioners:

I have read the details of the proposed settlement, and I can't see how it is consistent with your mission to protect the California Coast. In addition to severely limiting public access, it abandons a property right to access and blocks any effort to create a significant portion of the Coastal Trail.

Furthermore, it uses funds designated for public access to meet a private obligation of property owners, which should never happen.

Please revisit this agreement in light of your mission to protect the public's right to access the California Coast and find a more balanced solution. If none can be negotiated, please consider your legal options to obtain reasonable public access for the citizens of California.

Richard Hunt
Dear CCC members,

I am against the extremely watered down settlement as proposed. “Public” access only by sea is a joke and is dangerous for all but the very experienced kayakers, etc. Having done some amateur kayaking, I am very aware of how the wind / tides change and affect performance and can sweep one out to see, capsize, exhaust, etc. I do support access by sea and would like that to be an element of public access. Myself, and my friends (a considerable amount of outdoor recreation people and appreciators, hikers, etc) in the 60 - 70 year old but healthy and active range, would also like to enjoy access to the wonderful beaches and ocean and recreation potential of the Ranch, but are not able or have experience to access by ocean, either by boar or Kayak.

I am strongly for the access being as intended, with land access for the public. I would most strongly support a kind of primitive, but clearly marked and maintained, primitive sort of hiking trail that would support on foot access with what can be brought in by hand and daypack. Perhaps that a mountain bike could also be allowed to access (but still a primitive trail). This accomplishes the idea of low impact, has a small footprint for Hollister land owners to deal with. And also makes sure that there is no more road creation and impact on existing land, as opposed to Ranch owners that drive on beach and other environmentally sensitive habitats (which should be prohibited simply for habitat and species / beach preservation).

The money collected should only be used as designated for access support.

The agreement should in no way “void” access potential. This is laughable as is the part that would eliminate the modest benefits of the settlement if condemnation is ever undertaken to secure an easement for the trail. Neither of these points should be allowed in the agreement.

As per California law, this area of the coast, as with all other coastal areas, should have the coastal public access that is the public’s right. However, I also, being empathetic with Hollister Ranch owners, as well as a low impact recreator, would like to see primitive trail access for hiking / primitive biking access. Perhaps a campground up the coast farther. I am against large road oriented public access which historically serves to trash the areas opened up due “too much access”.

Lastly, this settlement should not be agreed and decided behind closed doors (e.g. closed to public input and information) !!

Thank you to at least opening this up to much needed public comment.

Sincerely,

Greg Karpain
805-453-1949
1053 Casitas Pass #107
Carpinteria, CA. 93013
Dear Coastal Commission,

This proposed settlement is a bad deal for the public. It does not provide real access to the public, it only provides pseudo-access, window-dressing access, that almost no one in the public will actually be able to take advantage of. The only way to provide true public access to the public resources on Hollister Ranch, is to provide a road-easement option.

For too long, this amazing treasure of the California coast has been locked up behind a pay-for-privilege gated community.

Jeff
From: Alexander Champlin
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Protect Californians' Rights to Beach Access
Date: Monday, June 25, 2018 5:08:54 PM

Dear Coastal CA,

I'm a surfer, an avid beach guy, and resident of Santa Barbara. I love the Gaviota coastline. I've camped at every campground between Goleta and Lompoc: Jalama, El Cap, Refugio, and Gaviota. I'm thankful for these spaces. Whenever Hollister ranch comes up in conversation, I tell people it's on my bucket list to surf there one day. But without a skiff or connections on the ranch, that's really just a dream. And it shouldn't be. California's coastline is a public good, and its protection from privatization is what makes it so special. The pressure to prevent public access to this stretch of coast sets a dangerous precedent that could see this treasure lost. This is a battle that is taking place across California, Vinod Khosla is trying to take this right by force of wealth in Nor-Cal, the same way wealthy landowners are leveraging their influence to bar access to Hollister Ranch. To let these people buy this right away from me and other Californians is a grave and shortsighted misstep. It is the destruction of a public good, and it's a lot harder to get those rights and those spaces back after they've been lost. Please consider the legacy and significance of this decision.

Seriously,
Alex Champlin
CCC,

Having been dedicated to that stretch of coast for over 40 years I fully support the effort to protect it from unbridled access.

Thank you,

Sam George
Please keep the Pacific California coast preserved for public access particularly the trail in Hollister Ranch. I am from Minnesota and have participated in the coast walking tours offered by Coastwalks. What a gem for ALL to experience California has and should continue to preserve and PROTECT. I understand the Coastal Commission has a mandate to preserve public access and to complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch. Please hold the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association to their previously agreed upon alignments.

Linda Arnesen
879 Hickory Lane
Winona, MN 55987
612.220.5235

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
We are writing on behalf of our son and his wife who recently bought a property on Hollister ranch mainly because of the protection of the environment enabled by it having private beaches. They pay a lot more for properties there because of these protections and it would seem very wrong to change the rules under which they bought the property. We come over from Australia quite often and can see the beauty of the pristine private beaches and hope they stay that way.

Ian and Joan Francis

Joan Francis
Because I vacation in Washington State, I am aware of the immense value of our public coast -- one of the greatest public commons remaining.

Access that is lost is most likely lost for good.

It is not edifying that you pretend to have retained access that is, in actuality, lost to almost everyone.

I hope that, at least, the protest raised by this decision has an effect going forward.

Margot
The ocean should be accessible for every Californian and visitor to our great state. I just wanted to add my name to the list of people who are opposed to your plan. I can hike, but two miles on a kayak is out of the question to reach an unspoiled spot along the coast. I may be able to get there, doubtful, but going back would be impossible. I would assume some people will die attempting to reach this spot. When one person dies on their attempt, the coastal commission will be responsible. Please keep access, via trail or road, for those of us who would not be able to see this beautiful spot.
This is the worst settlement I have ever read or heard about.

The judge should tell them to go back to the drawing board!

I just can't believe the terms of this "agreement."

It is terrible!

Reject it, judge - and tell the HROA to be more reasonable!!!
I hope I am not too late to weigh in on preserving public access to Hollister Ranch. Having this beautiful stretch of coast for just those who can afford it, that's not right. People should be able to walk onto the beach and enjoy and appreciate what God has given to all, not just wealthy. Thank you for listening.
Eileen Lynch
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

The settlement agreement doesn't give the public much of anything we didn't already have. We can already get to Hollister Ranch beaches from the water (I have a small boat), and already have the right to use the wet sand. The Coastal Commission should have taken action to prevent HR security from hassling lawful beachgoers and to prevent them from vandalizing the public boat hoist a long time ago.

***Does this settlement mean that now the Commission will sit back and let security continue to hassle lawful beachgoers at other HR beaches?
***Will the public be able to count on the Commission to enforce other illegal activity at HR? or to fight for more access there in the future?

Please answer these questions at the public hearing so we are clear on exactly what the settlement gives up.

Sincerely,
Melanie J. Henderson, Goleta CA
To whom is may concern.

I grew up in Goleta. My father was a UCSB professor and in fact my parents had an opportunity to purchase a home on Hollister Ranch in the 1960's, but felt it was too far from town. I have gone to the beach all my life and thought of it as part of my shared backyard. When I visited the east coast, it always seemed odd that some areas had private beaches with no public access. This is unfortunately seems to be the case with CA Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch Owners Association settlement over Hollister Ranch.

Along with Surfrider and the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, I question the latest settlement and ask you to answer the questions below.

Hollister Ranch beaches must be accessible to the public!

- The Commission should withdraw approval of the settlement as it fails to reflect the objectives of the Coastal Act and the desires of the broad public.
- Why has public access at Hollister Ranch, as clearly intended by the Legislature, been blocked for 35 years?
- The settlement disregards the interest of the general public. Those without the financial resources of an owner and/or the physical capacity to land on the beach from the ocean will be unable to make use of the beach.
- The settlement provides very limited access to the general public, i.e., access to the sand above the mean high tide to the bluff toe over the 3880 feet of Cuarto Beach. The public’s access to this “dry sand” is hazardous, as it is only accessible through the surf after of voyage of 2 miles from Gaviota State Park.
- The limited increase of a maximum of 480 individuals per year to Cuarto Beach through a Ranch-managed access program will be paid for by public funds earmarked for the realization of the CA Coastal Trail and beach access at the Ranch. The settlement allows for the inappropriate use of public money.
- The parties to this agreement (CA Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch Owners Association) explicitly tried to exclude the public from commenting or participating in the settlement when it was clear that the public has a strong interest in the matter.
- An important easement for access across the first 3.5 miles of the Ranch will be waived in the settlement.

Yours in peace,
Kate

Kate Connell
Coordinator, Truth in Recruitment
truthinrecruitment.org
https://www.facebook.com/TruthinRecruitment/
(805)708-8058
Dear California Coastal Commission Members:

My family and I believe that the proposed settlement regarding public access to Hollister Ranch sets a bad precedent and needs to be reworked so that it is of more benefit to the public in future.

Any action taken that endangers public easement or in any way corrupts proposals made by our local Gaviota Coast Conservancy should not be taken at this time. We believe that the Gaviota Coast Conservancy has done the research and knows what is best for our local community in regard to Hollister Ranch trail and beach access.

Please work to protect Hollister Ranch access and vote to keep reasonable access open to the public.

I, Lisa Ann Kelly, have been a visitor to Hollister Ranch many times in the past. I believe that the beaches there should be kept free from litter, free from vehicle travel and that visitors should be allowed — within reason. Those beaches remain some of the most pristine in our California coast. Too much access could jeopardize the natural habitat, the natural beauty and even the cleanliness of the beaches.

I hope that the CCC will listen to the Gaviota Coast Conservancy on this issue and vote to protect HR, meanwhile making it just a bit more accessible to the public in future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Kelly Family (five of us);

Lisa Ann
Chad
George
Geoffrey and
Tristan
Dear Members of the California Coastal Commission,

My name is Lois Capps and I was honored to represent the Central Coastal area of California in the United States House of Representatives from 1998 through 2016. I am writing you now as a private citizen who has long been a champion of the efforts of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy. I am opposed to the wildly imperfect settlement proposed by the Hollister Ranch Home Owners Association and the California Coastal Commission to resolve the long standing dispute about public access to a portion of the Hollister Ranch. Here are some of my reasons:

- It sets the very bad precedent that very little is gained by the public and much is precluded.
- It creates a poison pill which eliminates the modest benefits of the settlement if condemnation is ever undertaken to secure an easement for the trail.
- It voids potential road access for up to 50 people per day to 3.5 miles of the Ranch access road.
- It uses public money collected over decades intended to be spent on the Coastal Trail and coastal access, for Hollister Ranch expenses in bringing 480 school children and others onto the Ranch in a managed access program.
- The section of dry coastal sand to be accessed is only by sea which creates dangerous possibilities of braving the gale force winds of Gaviota Canyon and the treacherous surf of the Ranch.

I therefore humbly request that this settlement be delayed before judicial approval is granted so that public input be allowed and considered along with that of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and that the current proposed settlement be redrawn so as to include such input.

Thank you very much for your consideration!

Sincerely yours,

Lois Capps
TO: The California Coastal Commission

I oppose the public access at Hollister Ranch settlement formulated by HROA and the California Coastal Commission.

It sets a terrible precedent by only allowing the public to access the beach by sea because many people will not have the ability to enjoy the beach. Second, the agreement misuses public money that’s intended for The Coastal Trail and coastal access.

I hope you will reconsider your decision,
Vicky Blum
Dear Coastal Commission-

When the CCC was established years ago, a goal sine qua non was to protect public access to California beaches. With the historic easement that was granted, there is an opportunity to do just that at Hollister Ranch. But canceling that easement for the very limited inducements offered by the Ranch people is a really bad choice. Please take a long view here and don’t like Esau sell our birthright for a bowl of porridge.

Kalon Kelley
Santa Barbara
Hello,

The public should be able to access the concerned area by road. Boating in 2 miles to the concerned area is ludicrous. Kids, surfers, elderly and Goleta residents should be allowed to drive in through the gate and enjoy the beach.

Thanks,
Rick Hayes

--
Rick Hayes
Hello!
As a long time Santa Barbara resident, and a lover of the ocean and our beautiful coast lines. It is a sincere tragedy that Hollister Ranch is even discussed as being removed from public access!! There were laws enacted for the specific purpose of allowing residents and other's visiting this unique and pristine area of our coast to enjoy indefinitely! Please reconsider and DO NOT allow this access to be taken away from the public and the community at large!
Thank you,
Stacie Clenet
315 Meigs Rd. A196
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for spending years of meetings and effort to arrive at a wise settlement in the Hollister public access agreement. I’m sure it was quite the process. I live in Cayucos, and understand the complexities of public access to beaches. I applaud your decision and think it’s a good compromise. Certainly all the agencies involved think likewise.

Good job.

Debbie Black
DBlack Landscape Architecture
2668 Richard Avenue
Cayucos, CA 93430
mobile: (805) 748-7724
debbieblack@charter.net
Hello. Please consider allowing the public some limited access along the coastline at Hollister Ranch. This stretch of coastline should be accessible to the public like all areas of the coastline. The California Coastal Act granted this to all Californians.

I have spent 35 years along this coastline west of Goleta and it has always been a disappointment to have to stop here at the Gaviota State Park area. The next public access I believe it at Jalama beach. There will be very few people who will go here and the impact will be very minimal.

Thank you!

--

Kris
To the Commission:

Like many in my community I am strongly opposed to the notion that public access could be restricted at Hollister. If I were to learn that certain commissioners approved or permitted this disturbing policy, I would do my best to let members of the public know of their pro-business, anti-environment permissiveness. Please do the right thing and make sure the public is allowed fair access to our beautiful coastline.

Sincerely,
Emily Vizzo
Please open attached letter re: Hollister Ranch / Coastal public access
Since when did the term Public Beach became Private beach for the benefit of the few? If a person wants to have a private beach, let them buy an island and proclaim their good fortune.

When I visit California beaches, I know all of them are PUBLIC. I pay my taxes for access to all beaches in this beautiful state. The Coastal Commission needs to remember that their mandate is to preserve access for everyone to beaches, not a chosen few who think their money buys them special favor.

Please consider the impact of your decisions and keep the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Assn. to their previously agreed upon arrangement to allow the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch to continue and provide natural access to all CA residents.

Sylvia Borovay
Tustin, CA
Dear Commissioners,

Like many local citizens, I was extremely surprised to see the recent headlines regarding the proposed arrangement with the Hollister Ranch and the California Coastal Conservancy over public access. The proposed agreement is totally unacceptable from a public perspective, as it grants so little to the public. In fact, the proposed deal does nothing for the public beyond the few student visits. Any deal regarding the easement deeded to the Boy Scouts must include land access in addition to the proposed boat access.

While I appreciate the land stewardship of many Hollister Ranch owners--the area has maintained an exemplary natural beauty--their hostile attitude to any public access, even to areas seaward of the mean high tide line, is totally inappropriate, and likely illegal.

I urge you to come to a resolution only when true public beach access is granted: and this means land access in addition to the already totally legal boat access.

Sincerely,
Brandon Sparks-Gillis
Solvang, California
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am dismayed by the settlement you have formulated with the Hollister Ranch Owners' Association. While I can appreciate the protection of the coast and ecology that HROA has provided, this agreement strikes me as quite one-sided and out of keeping with the letter and spirit of the California Coastal Act. I'm sure that a reasonable and more public spirited agreement can be reached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gail Osherenko, JD
Santa Barbara, CA
The California coastline is a natural resource that should be available to all citizens and visitors. The current agreement is insufficient. Access over dry land is the only fair settlement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Ciarrocchi
Fountain Valley, CA
I strongly urge you to reject this shame settlement and retain the public access to our coast line and beaches.
Bob Preston

*Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android device*
From: ron doctors
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: public access
Date: Tuesday, July 03, 2018 4:29:23 PM

I am very, very disappointed that we do not have access to all the beaches in the USA. My special concern is the recent, very poor, deal with Hollister ranch. Access via a soft bottomed boat is an insult to our community. We need and must insist on access by the same methods as the land owners or leaseholders in the area. Nothing less is essential. Some limitations as to visitor numbers and times is reasonable to avoid damaging the ecosystem. The coast line is a public resource of great value and must not be given away to the few.
Please act responsibly, and act now.
Thank you
Ronald Doctors, resident since 1969.
Santa Barbara.
Hello,

I’m writing to express my disagreement with the proposed settlement with landowners of Hollister Ranch. Public ocean access is a great benefit for all residents of California. This settlement prioritizes the interest of a few over the greater public good.

Sincerely,

Dustin Shea
The agreement between the Hollister Ranch Homeowners association and the Coastal Commission is absolutely not acceptable. This doesn't represent real land based public access and is not comparable to the standard in place throughout the rest of the state. The coast should be available to all parties in its' entirety. Please follow the precedent that is in place elsewhere and start again.
Thank you for you time,
Shawn Martin
The public MUST have access to the public beach off HROA property by land.

That it would be accessible only by sea is not acceptable. Most people would be denied access because they could not make the journey by any type of boat. The journey can also be dangerous when the sea becomes rough because of wind or tides.

The public is entitled to access to public beaches on a safe land route and we expect this to be so at the beach off HROA property.

Anna Kokotovic, PhD
Psychologist
I was appalled and disappointed when I read about the agreement to severely limit public access to the coast through Hollister Ranch. It is completely opposite of what the Coastal Commission should be doing - at a minimum, to preserve existing access and even better, to expand it.

Please reconsider this very bad decision.

Valerie Glass
Huntington Beach, CA
To whom it may concern,

We, the public, care about protecting public access to the Hollister Ranch. This natural coastline should be enjoyed by all! Please do not pass the settlement to deny access to the public.

Sincerely,

Abby
Dear Coastal Commission,

I live in Goleta, the closest city to the stunning Gaviota coast and Hollister Ranch. Yet I have never been able to visit these beaches.

The recent settlement agreement with Hollister Ranch to give up the public access easement in exchange for boat access and expanding programs for students and non-profits is not in the public interest and not worth it.

Limited access for students and non-profits already exists and still shuts out the majority of the public from ever being able to access this theoretically public beach. The boat access is dangerous and is also out of reach of the majority of the public. I am certainly not going to risk my life to attempt it.

Beaches are public as codified in the coastal act and this right should be protected, upheld, affirmed, promoted and fought for by the coastal commission. The coastal commission should never give up a public easement without providing true public access. That means there should be some way via land for the general public to access this beach. Anything short of that is not public access and not in the public interest. Let’s keep the coastal act alive, along with the the dream of a coastal trail.

Please reconsider and revoke this settlement.

Thank you,
Katie Davis
Goleta, CA
please reconsider current access plan, it doesn't allow for overland entry which is only widely available manner as most people do not have watercraft. deleting any future consideration of this type access precludes any meaningful public access. having a type of life guard /security presence would ensure behavior respectful of privilege of access. thank you, Alex Trieger
I am approaching my 65th birthday and have been a surfer since I was 16 years old. In my youth we would look at pictures of Hollister Ranch in Surfer magazine and dream about surfing there, but we were always denied access. Surfing Hollister Ranch is still on my "bucket list" and I hope to be able to surf there some day.

I have personally known friends who have come close to drowning from boating accidents making the trip there. The best approach for beach access to this pristine area would be to allow a walking, biking and shuttle only access entry for the general public, no tour buses should be allowed.

Please do not shut this area off so only a few of the very "privileged " can enjoy want is rightfully all of ours.

Respectfully,
Bill Dobrenen
5660 Panorama Dr.
Whittier CA 90601
I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement the Coastal Conservancy, the Coastal Commission and Attorney General’s Office have entered into with the Hollister Ranch, regarding the YMCA’s Offer to Dedicate.

I have followed this lawsuit over the past MANY years, and have been perplexed by the State’s legal position claiming access rights in the Hollister Ranch based on a nearly 40 year old action accepting the YMCA giving away a public access easement on their neighbor’s property to which the YMCA had no ownership or legal power to grant. Given that this assertion seems contrary to basic California property law, the outcome of this lawsuit was risky at best and the carefully negotiated terms of settlement under the guidance of the Court, provides more than might have been achieved, or could have actually resulted even IF the State prevailed in the lawsuit. A ruling against the State’s would result in no access.

The Coastal Commission’s informational hearing on this settlement and accepting public comment is all and good, but the objections to the agreed upon settlement seems to be based on emotional misunderstandings about the basic issues of the litigation and the reasons ALL parties agreed to settle. I hope that this informational hearing would not in any way result in the Coastal Commission’s changing it’s settlement commitment that has been signed by the
Coastal Commission’s Executive Director, the State Conservancy’s Executive Director, and the State Attorney General’s Office, and approved by the Court. Where this to happen I feel it would set a harmful precedent in the ability for the Coastal Commission to negotiate in good faith and reach future settlements.

You Commissioners should recognize the benefits of and commitment to the settlement. Again, I support the settlement with the Hollister Ranch that has already been agreed to by ALL parties.

Fred Thoits

June 28, 2018
Dear Commissioners:

I am a long-time California resident, a retired educator, and a lover of the outdoors who is deeply committed to preserving and protecting our natural environment. I appreciate the Commission’s efforts to protect our precious coast, and I want you to know that I fully support the settlement you made with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA’s “offer to dedicate” public access rights. This stretch of coastline has remained relatively pristine and undisturbed precisely because it is difficult to access, and I am reassured that it will continue to be protected. I like the compromise that was struck of allowing students and other groups opportunities to see, learn, enjoy and appreciate it in limited numbers under a carefully managed access program. I understand that the agreement was negotiated under the guidance of the Court and was signed by the State Attorney General, Commission, State Conservancy, office. It seems like a wise and fair decision in which the fate of the environment and interest of the public are paramount, and I would ask that you honor the commitment you made.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Carbone
Thank you for protecting California’s precious coastal habitats. I am writing to comment on the question of the Hollister Ranch’s legal settlement with the State.

I encourage the outcome that will provide the highest degree of protection from human development and trampling of this currently well-protected 14,000 acre landscape.

I also support providing open, perpetual access to the Ranch for descendants of this place’s original Indigenous inhabitants for their gathering, hunting, fishing, residential, and ceremonial purposes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Dillon
84 Bogey Drive
Polson, MT 59860
Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to express my disappointment and disapproval with the Settlement Agreement (the Settlement) you have crafted for the HROA.

Very simply, the general public (whom you work on behalf of) has a vested right to access the coastal portion of the Hollister Ranch (the Ranch). The Settlement sets a bad precedence by limiting access to only a 3,880 foot section of dry coastal sand (we already have the right to the wet sand) that can be accessed only by sea after a 2 mile voyage from Gaviota State Park, braving the gale force winds of Gaviota Canyon and the surf of the Ranch. The Settlement voids potential road access for up to 50 people/day to 3.5 miles of the Ranch access road. The Settlement creates a “poison pill” that eliminates the modest benefits of the Settlement if condemnation is ever undertaken to secure an easement for the California Coastal Trail. Inappropriately uses public money collected over decades that is intended to be spent on the California Coastal Trail and coastal access, for Ranch expenses in bringing 480 school children and 400 underserved or disabled individuals per year onto the Ranch in a managed access program.

In summary, **Very little is gained by the public and much is precluded.**

Please reconsider, for the sake of all coastal lovers and not just for the wealthy HROA, the Settlement and require the HROA to allow public easement to the beach.

Sincerely,

Greg Sweel
I would like to register my unhappiness about the Hollister Ranch settlement that is being proposed. I am a resident of Santa Barbara county and would love to visit the beach there. But the idea that the only way to do so is from the water is ridiculous! It does away with decades of public access precedent in favor of a few landowners. Shameful.

Ellen Wolff, Goleta, CA
Hello,

My name is Andy Sywak and I live in Los Angeles. I am also a graduate of UCSB and loved visiting the incredible beaches of the Central Coast while in college.

I just wanted to take a minute to write and say how vital it is to keep public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch via land with a walking path. Having a "sea route" only to the beach is dangerous and will keep the vast majority of the public from ever attempting to make this journey. The public, those without the necessary money to rent or charter a boat, need to be able to have access. It's a shame and a disgrace that the extremely wealthy are trying to shut out the public by creating a plan that makes it difficult to impossible to access this beach.

Please ensure that the public can have access via a walking trail to the beach. There can be a shuttle system or a lottery system, just make sure that California's beaches are open to all!

Sincerely,

Andy Sywak
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Then Coastal Commission mandate is to preserve public access - please complete the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch.

----------------
In Health,

John W. Roulac

nutiva

Founder & Chief Visionary Officer
Co-producer Kiss the Ground film

www.nutiva.com | Facebook.com/Nutiva
(510) 255-2700 | john@nutiva.com

Read my most recent EcoWatch article “Spaceship Earth, Your Main Oxygen Systems Are Collapsing” here.
Hello,

I'm writing this email to submit public testimony that I disagree with the terms of the pending settlement with the HROA regarding public access to the shoreline. Please reconsider redrafting with the public's interest in mind.

Best regards,

Jessica Elliott
THE Current proposed ACCESS SETTLEMENT FOR Hollister Ranch is defective. It is illusory as it re-hashes RIGHTS and programs already in existence!

'EG tidepool ' studies.

WE the people do NOT need to be chaperoned during our Beach visits.

2. The SETTLEMENT does NOT conform with the State Constitution 'right of fishing access' for a reasonable ACCESS ACCOMMODATION....right ARTICLE 1 SECTION 25

AND;

FISH AND GAME CODE - FGC

DIVISION 2. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE [700 - 1940] ( Heading of Division 2 amended by Stats. 2015, Ch. 154, Sec. 21. )

CHAPTER 3. Other Powers and Duties [1000 - 1227] ( Chapter 3 enacted by Stats. 1957, Ch. 456. )

ARTICLE 1. Generally [1000 - 1021] ( Heading of Article 1 renumbered from Article 1.5 by Stats. 1984, Ch. 1162, Sec. 2. )

The department may obtain for the State rights of way over private lands for the purpose of furnishing access for the public to lands or waters open to public hunting or fishing whenever such rights of way are determined by the commission to be necessary for such public use. Such rights of way shall not be acquired by eminent domain proceedings.

The department may construct or cause to be constructed such fences, signs, and other structures as are necessary for the protection of any such right of way, and the cost of the construction shall be met out of the funds available to the department.

(Enacted by Stats. 1957, Ch. 456.)

3. The parties and the COURT to date have not addressed ADA disabled ACCESS.

4. Environmental concerns such as the SNOWY PLOVER protection[s] have been ignored by the State.

The Coastal Commission has grossly failed in its public duties.

paul tel 949 249 249 2
paul merritt
I have lived on the Gaviota coast for 25 years. I am 100% in favor of the proposed settlement. It protects the pristine coast and removes a potential expensive lawsuit for California. The California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy worked for many years on this case and reached an equitable and fair settlement. Any action by the commission to invalidate this long and protracted case would be counterproductive and very expensive. Please support the settlement as it has been agreed upon by all parties at the table. The YMCAs case did not recognize private property rights in the first place and was based on an easement that never existed.

Thank you

Steven Reichel
To Whom it May Concern at the California Coastal Commission,

Please, please pause before finalizing the Hollister Ranch settlement. Eliminating existing public access to a public beach is a slippery moral slope. What if Yosemite could only be reached by river? Public means public- it should not be for sale to even the most wealthy or distinguished private bidder. I hope you reconsider.

Sincerely,
Claudia Parducci
7/5/2018

Dear Honorable Coastal Commissioners:

Although I am an Executive Director of a 3,000-member environmental non-profit in Santa Barbara County, I am writing to you as a private citizen on the issue of the Proposed Settlement in the matter of Public Access at Hollister Ranch on the Gaviota Coast.

In my many years of living in Santa Barbara County, I’ve had occasion to visit Hollister Ranch, and have been on some of its back roads, and will make the following observations:

Hollister Ranch has one road in and one road out. This puts this piece of coastline in a different category than other California coastlines, where access is continuous along a public-maintained road where emergency personnel can freely access areas where people visit the ocean.

- The roads in the Ranch are winding, steep, many of them non-paved and treacherous, it is very easy to get lost (I have gotten lost, and one night nearly pulled over to spend the night in my car). If a member of the public gets in trouble on these roads, who is providing safety service?
- The roads are currently maintained by the Ranch owners. Some To open this area to the public would mean the County or the State would have to maintain these roads, provide lighting (to reduce liability) and also provide police, fire, safety personnel.
  - Subset problem: many ranch houses are remote – if the area is open to the public there has to be public safety provided, who is going to pay for that?
  - The roads do not have guard rails. Ranch owners know the roads, the public will not. The ranch owners also use 4-wheel drive vehicles, who or what is going to pull out a car that is stuck, or worse, goes over the edge of a steep road that has no guard rail?

The surf along Hollister Ranch can be huge and treacherous. (I know, I nearly drowned body-boarding at Augie’s one year). If these beaches become public, who is going to pay for lifeguards and lifeguard stations?

FINALLY, and most importantly: anyone or any group wanting to preserve a piece of pristine California coast should THANK the Ranch owners for keeping a tight rein on its preservation. There is no federal, state or County agency that has funds to ensure such preservation continues. Opening up the Ranch to the public is counter to preservation.
Hollister Ranch has been conducting guided entry to birders, school kids, underprivileged people, for some time. Cuarta Beach is close to the entry gate, so buses are not in danger of becoming lost, stuck, etc. There is a bathhouse at Cuarta Beach for the guided public to use. Hollister Ranch has been conducting guided entry to birders, school kids, underprivileged people, for some time.

The proposed settlement expands on this program, and is a good one. Please approve it. Thank you!

Very best regards,

Hillary Hauser
Santa Barbara, CA

www.hillaryhauser.com
To whom it may concern

We would like to submit our agreement with the settlement with the Commission and the Conservancy. Any other option would seem to be logistically a very complicated and difficult endeavor to achieve. From the standpoint of simplicity and public safety we hope that the Commission will stand by its findings.

Respectively yours
Ed Talbot
Parcel 61
> On Jul 7, 2018, at 12:13 AM, Greg Belt <fgbdesign3@gmail.com> wrote:
> I’m writing to advocate for a coastal trial all along the coast.
> Greg Belt
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the owner-friendy settlement proposed for access to Hollister Ranch. The coastline should be truly accessible to the public and in a safe manner. There needs to be road access within reasonable bounds. The proposed settlement allows neither and merely protects the owners exclusive access to this stretch of coastline. This sets a horrible precedent, and should be revised.

Yours sincerely,
Fred Nadis
1019 Quinientos St #3
Santa Barbara, Ca 93103
To the California Coastal Commission:

I have read quite a bit about the proposed Hollister Ranch settlement in the *Los Angeles Times* and understand the CCC and court will take the public's opinions into account when determining whether or not to approve it.

I do not think the settlement is in the best interest of the public. I think it sets a bad precedent, especially since it would preclude revisions once people figure out what a bad deal it is, as it forever ends their ability to gain appropriate public access to this beach. California's coast belongs to us all and the fact that we would only be able to get to this beautiful place by sea after a treacherous voyage from Gaviota would severely limit access to the rich Ranch residents and very fit kayakers. There is already a road; why can there not also be a hiking trail? At least then people could walk in. I am opposed to this settlement and think the CCC should continue to push for a trail easement.

Also, using public money meant for coastal trails and access to cover the landowners' expenses is unconscionable. At the very least make them pay for their ridiculously small contribution to this settlement.

Thank you,

Susan E. McTigue
1437 8th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Well that’s nice to hear for a change 😊

From: Coastal Hollitser [mailto:Hollister@coastal.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:11 AM
To: Chapman, Trish@SCC <Trish.Chapman@scc.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: Hollister Ranch/ Coastal Commision Settlement: YMCA offer

Trish
Just FYI.
A letter from someone who participated in the Tidepool program.
Linda

From: Cathy Kendall [mailto:cathykendall@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 07, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: Hollister Ranch/ Coastal Commision Settlement: YMCA offer

Commissioners:

As a retired 30-year elementary teacher in Santa Barbara County, I urge you to uphold the long-negotiated settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.....I support it!  For many years elementary school classes (including my own) made excursions to explore the tidepools and marine environment under the Hollister Ranch Conservancy Tidepool Guide Program. My own high school daughters were able to conduct research on the owl limpet shoreline population at Hollister Ranch Marine Preserve with the UCSB Marine Biology Departments as part of their high school science courses. I always told my classes how fortunate they were to experience the beach and tidepools at Hollister Ranch because it was a marine space that was still protected. It is my understanding that programs such as these would be expanded under the settlement, allowing even more access for education and research.

The public will also have never-before access to a precious stretch of shoreline that should be kept protected. Persons arriving by boat and water vehicles to this pristine beach, will more likely, in my view, think of it as unique and "special", much as we think of the Channel Islands as a treasured place to visit, accessible also by boat. The access by water is a good thing! Here's why:

It saddens me that just down the road south of Gaviota State Beach where anyone can park their cars in numerous places on the side of the highway and walk down to the shore, there is trash thrown everywhere at several beach access trails and on the beaches themselves. (I recently checked this out for myself, and I was horrified at the garbage and messes I saw!) Let's keep the shoreline of Hollister Ranch protected from this type of abuse, yet open it further to managed public usage that will go a long way toward preserving the California coastline and marine environment for future generations to enjoy.
Uphold the settlement agreement--everyone wins!

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this issue,

Catherine Kendall
Retired Teacher
Beach Enthusiast
I am writing you again to highlight a couple of facts regarding my point below about access. The last time I was there, I was enjoying a beautiful morning on the beach. A nice young man was walking down the beach with a backpack and water bottles, looked like he was on a mission.

And, I did not recognize him as an owner, so I approach him and said hello, introduced myself. I asked him where he was coming from, he said he had walked the beach from Gaviota State Park! We were all the way on the OTHER side of the ranch, so he had walked the whole beach. So, yes there currently IS access, it’s called walking, - no state sponsored buses, or dodgy expensive legal maneuvers that undermine credibility and property rights required!!!

I also, in my previous email below, had mentioned that every major swell we have a lot of boaters, who are not Hollister owners, come join us for the surf. This morning my friend Andy Neumann send me an article about a famous surfboard shaper – that included this story of boat access, a twelve year old and a fifteen year old, with a Boston Whaler, figured it out – and this happens every swell!. It is absurd to argue that there is no access. More crowded now of course – and even as an owner I will get vibed at some of the breaks.

“Tom Ortner and a couple of his contemporaries who were top surfers, were coming up the coast with their brand new Boston Whaler. They wanted Margo to help them get into The Ranch. Margo was only 12 years old and asks me about it. I said in my squeaky 15-year old voice, “Of course I can get us in. I can show ya. I know everything about The Ranch!”

We rode our bicycles with our surfboards to meet them and they picked us up. They placed me at the bow and I proceeded to guide them to all the spots at The Ranch. Of course, I only knew about them from reading my Surfing Guide to Southern California by Bill Cleary. I had memorized every single word in that book so I knew where everything was! I got us to Rights and Lefts and we surfed everything until it closed out at the low tide. There were no other surfers besides us at The
Ranch that day.
I said “It’s low tide so it’s time to go to Governments.” We headed north and somehow we got around the kelp beds at Cojo Reef and pulled into Governments’ on the best day I have ever surfed there in my entire life. It was just perfection – 4 to 6 feet and no one out. We park the boat on a big sandy cove and we proceed to surf our brains out. About an hour into it, here comes a little Renault driving up the beach with my friend Danny Hazard driving, with Greenough in the passenger seat along with his red Velo spoon atop the roof. Greenough proceeds to paddle out at the top of the point where it is 6–8 feet. Nobody surfs out there because it is nasty and rocky with hollow waves. With my own eyes, I watch George and he is firing and rocketing off the bottom, pulling up under the lip, into the barrel, and with a full figure eight cutback, rebounds into the soup seemingly without any loss in speed. He would actually gain speed in his turns – the total opposite of a longboard. I actually saw him do two complete barrel rides all on the same wave.”

From: Dave Edington [mailto:david@edington.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 3:57 PM
To: Hollister@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: hollister settlement

Commissioners:

I am writing to you in support of the settlement that you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate.

Let me begin by saying that as a lifelong California resident, avid surfer and beachgoer, I truly appreciate and respect your commitment to protecting and preserving our California beaches and coast.

I support efforts to protect these beaches that I love so much. When I retire (and I hope this is soon!) my goal will be to dedicate my time and resources to
California environmental issues. In the meantime I will applaud you efforts and offer you any support that I can practically provide to you.

The issue of Hollister Ranch is an interesting one. The homeowners there have worked long and hard to preserve and protect this beautiful slice of California beach life; in fact going there is like going back in time. And of course there is ALREADY public access, the same as any other beach in California; anyone can access the beach up to the mean high tide line.

I see this whenever I go surf there – on a good swell, there are many boaters who come in to enjoy the surf. A good friend of mine attended UCSB, and while he was not an owner, he has shared with me that he had many lovely “walk-in” sessions, wherein he walked up on the low tide to enjoy a surf.

Some of the ranch surfers will at times be protective of their break, but this is no different than ANY break – surfing can be territorial. I don’t like this, and I support any legal efforts to eliminate this hazing/bullying, but it happens, and no more in Hollister Ranch than any other place like Pipeline in Hawaii or other good surfing spot; in fact Hollister is much mellower!

There is also LOTS of open public beach access very near there – for example, Gaviota State Park, Refugio State Park, El Capitan.

So, I was very happy to hear of the settlement of the YMCA lawsuit. The state’s legal position was not supported by California property law – the YMCA did not have legal power to transfer their easement; there is simply no legal basis for the State to take it.

The settlement agreement was wise and fair and well done by both the commission and the state. It has been signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director, and the State Attorney General’s office. My understanding is that the settlement commits the state to stand by the agreement and impose a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it.

So to walk away from these signed agreements and commitments will be injurious to ALL parties. Rather than using my resources to pursue many valid environmental concerns along the California coast, I will be compelled once again to dedicated significant time and money to fighting.
So I beseech you, rather than pursuing a now even more difficult legal battle over the nuances of public access to this most beautiful and pristine spot, please let us move forward to resolve other meaningful issues, and coastal areas that truly need help.

I can understand the pressures you face as elected officials in dealing with the public. However, I must point out that I think such objection are based on a lack of understanding of legal and property rights issues and the reasons why the State chose to settle, and in this case, it would be damaging to renege on the agreement and submit to these uninformed if aggressive voices.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters, and for you continued service to this great state of California.

Sincerely

David Edington
Jimmy killed it. Thank you very much for the support. Excellent letter

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 29, 2018, at 1:19 AM, Jim Kverno <jimkverno@yahoo.com> wrote:

Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in San Diego County and regularly spend time at beaches all over California. I am an avid surfer, kite surfer, hiker, backpacker, retired science teacher and environmentalist.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. Hollister Ranch represents the last unspoiled stretch of California coastline. At all costs, we need to leave the working cattle ranch well enough alone. Allowing more public access than the current settlement would be the beginning of the end of this endangered treasure. The existing infrastructure could not afford safe public access. The roads are extremely narrow and twisty; certainly not appropriate for public access. The beaches are often unsafe, overgrown with kelp and without lifeguards. The kelp forests are extremely fragile while providing superior reproductive habitat for a wide variety of marine species. The coastal vegetation and sandstone bluffs are very fragile and dangerous due to constant coastal erosion in the form of landslides. Many innocent lives could be lost. There would be too much liability both in the water and on land. Far too many special coastal riparian environments in our state have gone the route of precoastal commission thoughtlessness in the form of concrete flood control basins, rip rap jetties and yacht harbors i.e. Oceanside, Dana Point, etc. Due to this shortsightedness, we are suffering from loss of natural beach sand replenishment that evolves from cliff and bluff erosion. Leave this important sand replenishment resource alone so beaches south can benefit as well. The existing settlement provides more than enough limited access with appropriate supervision. The legal battles and finger pointing continue...The existing Hollister Ranch Owners Association have done an excellent job in preserving this resource. Let them continue without all this ridiculous litigation that threatens to undermine their efforts. There are already enough ways for the public to have the adventure of the feral experience i.e.buy in, boat in, kayak in or
paddle in but stay below the mean high tide line. The California Coastal Commission and other proponents of the settlement need to stand tall and stick by their previous decision in the face of adversity brought on by the LA Times articles.

Thank you for your service to California.

Jim Kverno
Leucadia, CA
Hi,

It’s Brian. Please forward this to the correct recipient.
I’ve received a call from Dorothy Dent, who has a neural disability and cannot type or write a comment/opinion for the hollister ranch access dispute. Below is a transcription of the call.

“From: Dorothy Dent of Santa Barbara
To: California Coastal Commission Commissioners
Dear Commissioners,
A public vessel is allowed to land on any part below the high tide line on and any California beach we wish to. As to not restrict the public’s right, we want to enhance the rights for the disable, elderly and others to access any particular holster ranch point.
Gaining access to the beach as the decades old YMCA easement allows.
A Los Angeles judge should not be restricting the public especially local Santa Barbara citizens’ right. The terminators pick in judge shouldn’t terminate people’s right.
saveislavistaparks@gmail.com “

If you want me to make copies for the meeting next week meeting, please notify me.

Thank you,

Brian Woo
Management Services Technician
California Coastal Commission
415-904-5501
45 Fremont Street, Ste 1970
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219
Commissioners,

As local Southern California beach residents, my wife and I appreciate the recent ruling to protect the pristine California coastline.

I have spent most of my life, enjoying the Pacific coast from Big Sur to the Mexican border, and feel that the recent ruling was something that took considerable thought and diligence, on behalf of the Commission. I also believe that the ruling reflects a balance related to the sensitive issues at hand, and the outcome to manage public access is positive to all sides.

It is important to protect and preserve the precious resources of the Point Conception landscape for as long as possible.

My wife and I applaud the work that has taken place to protect the fragile coastline, and I wanted you to know that your decision to create a balanced settlement should stand.

Regards,

Hugh & Mary Anne Penton

Sent from my iPhone
Dear California Coastal Commission,

I’ve lived in Southern California my whole life – grew up in Long Beach (body surfer, boogie boarding at Seal Beach and OC), and now live in West LA. I took up surfing (on a surfboard) in 2016, and it has greatly renewed my love of the ocean and the coast.

I’ve followed the litigation and the resulting agreed settlement between the State of CA and the Hollister Ranch folks. I strongly believe the settlement was negotiated in good faith by all parties, and provides a reasonable solution to the issues at hand.

The four years of litigation regarding this case produced a well-thought out settlement that provides both parties with a win, and the Commission needs to honor its commitment in this regard. As you know, the settlement was signed by the State Attorney General’s office, as well as the Commission’s Executive Director and the State Conservancy Executive Director. The public access required under the terms of the settlement will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are both protected and preserved – as they should be.

The settlement commits the State to stand by the agreement, and also imposes a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate this settlement. **I’m strongly supportive of the settlement, and I greatly appreciate your commitment to protecting California’s coast.** It is vital to ensure that our coastland remain in good stead with the appropriate protections in place.

Thanks again for your service to California. My family and I greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Riopelle
COO, Legacy
1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 3150
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Work: 424-777-0776
Mobile: 310-926-5950
Email: rr@legacy88.com
Dear Commissioners and Staff,

I understand that public access to Hollister Ranch has long been a highly contentious issue. However, the proposed settlement will not settle the long standing dispute. Any agreement must be drafted with an eye to achieving meaningful public access for Californians to one of our State's most majestic and special coastal areas.

Thank you,

j.

--

Jesse Colorado Swanhuyser
508 East Haley Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
e-mail: jswanhuyser@gmail.com
cel fon: (805) 689-1469

This message contains information which may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not use, copy, share or disclose i) the message or any information contained in the message; and/or ii) the attachment(s) or information contained in any attachment(s). If you have received the message in error, please inform the sender by reply e-mail to jswanhuyser@gmail.com, and then delete the message.
From: prettycheapjewelry
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Request Land Access at Hollister Ranch
Date: Wednesday, July 04, 2018 1:31:47 PM

I am a long time California resident of over 25 years and am devoted to bringing newcomers and young people to the coastal environment for education and recreation. For example, I won and executed a Coastal Commission Whale Tail Youth Grant last school year for 250 sixth grade students to do water environment field trips. The program was a stunning success. Many many eyes and minds were opened to the invaluable coastal resources in our area. None of this would have been possible if the area was closed to the public.

'People protect what they love' ~Jacques Yves Cousteau

After experiencing the natural coastal environment, people are inspired to love and appreciate it. There is no better way to achieve long term protection of the coast than letting people on it and loving it.

Please make Hollister Ranch a place for people to visit by land.

Thank you,
Nina Danza
Sierra Club Ventura
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to oppose the restricted access agreement for the Hollister Ranch beaches. California’s coast should not be closed to the public to protect the interests of wealthy landowners. This is setting a very bad precedent and goes against the Commission’s mission to protect the California coast and ocean for present and future generations. Please stay true to your mission and act in the best interests of the public by allowing the California Coastal Trail at Hollister Ranch to be completed.

Thank you,
Marian Stone
3058 Berlin Way
Oakland, California
Please do not restrict the beaches from the citizens.

*Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Droid*
To Whom it concerns,

I agree with the court’s decision to approve the settlement which would not allow buses, vehicles and hiking access across the Hollister Ranch. I do this for environmental reasons, ie: The Hollister Ranch is an excellent steward of this environment. As Californians, we must take a good serious look up and down our Southern California coast. Despite the original intentions of the Coastal Act, neither our state, nor our federal government, has succeeded in preserving any significant portion our coastline in its natural state. The few remaining beautiful natural lands of the California coast are now our current endangered species. The last of these lands is still alive and well due to the stewardship and preservation of the historical owners of the Point Conception area. The settlement accomplished by our Coastal Commission should be supported in preservation of those lands.

Regards,

Steve Petix Jr
petixsteve@hotmail.com
(858) 568-2435
This is not a settlement that allows the bulldozers to wreak more development on our coastline. This is a settlement that preserves the last piece our coastline in its natural state.

"JB" James B. Griffin, Founder / Owner

JBGmg
16835 Algonquin Street
Suite 337
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
direct office: 562.592.5963
cell: 562.810.8881

www.JBGmg.com

Service is our Business .....
Commissioners,

I'm writing to let you know I support the settlement about the YMCA offer to dedicate for a few reasons.

The YMCA never had the right to dedicate an easement for access across properties they don't own or have rights too. This has been a very secure law in California for over 80 yrs. The access rights the YMCA had back in the 80's was precarious at best. They would've had to gone through a creek and disrupted an environmentally sensitive area and go through a small tunnel to get to the beach. Using that today for public access would absolutely get shut down with any environmental impact study. It's unfeasible. I know this lawsuit went on for over 3.5 years, and the sharp legal minds on both sides realized partway into it, that the Hollister Ranch was within its legal rights, and there was never a legal easement granted across their roads and through their front gate.

The coastal commission, conservancy and atty general have agreed and have SIGNED this agreement because it is a fair and legally right settlement. The state made this deal because another outcome would have been a complete failure and loss of any rights at all.

Please support this settlement and agree to it as all the professionals that have worked in and around this case have recommended you do. It is the best outcome expected for the position the state was in.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Speakman
Dear Commissioners:

I support the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy staff, which working with the Attorney General’s office, clearly and thoughtfully negotiated better access to the Hollister Ranch, while preserving the coastal environment.

I do worry additional access mandated by the state will greatly increase the risk of damage to the environment, and would increase the risk of wild fire as well.

The Commission should continue to support their staff’s advice and support the settlement and let truly interested groups access the Hollister Ranch for educational and scientific reasons.

Thanks for listening.

Best,
Steve Friedmann
Laguna Beach, California
Sent from my iPhone. I oppose the agreement
To the Commissioners and Staff of the California Coastal Commission

Sir / Madame,
I am writing to voice my support of the Settlement Agreement the California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy recently reached with the Hollister Ranch Owners Association pertaining to public access rights to and within Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County. As a native Californian and lifelong property owner in the state, I feel strongly that the Commission and the Attorney General's Office were correct in settling the dispute and that the resultant agreement truly does provide the best options for all concerned parties. Now the Commission needs to, not only honor its commitment and stand by the agreement, but also accept the legal duty it has to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it.

Jack Lee
403 Saunders Drive
Sonoma, CA 95476
707.721.2105
jack@tuckerleeassociates.com
In support of the settlement agreed to by HOAR and The CCC. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Respectfully, D.L.Hull
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the settlement agreement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate.

The agreement strikes a good compromise of promoting public access while respecting the property rights of Hollister owners. The notion that easements can be dedicated over property to which owners have not agreed makes no sense, and the State is getting more than they would had the matter gone to court. Now, after five years of diligence and negotiations between the State, its agents and the Hollister owners, the agreement should be respected and the Commission should honor its commitments.

I am a Laguna Beach resident, past ocean lifeguard and lifelong surfer. Public access by boat, by foot at low tide and through special events - which exits now and is enhanced by the settlement agreement - is a good thing to help maintain a unique piece of our coastline. The Hollister owners have done a great job preserving a place that's worth a little effort to enjoy.

Thank you for your time serving our State.

Sincerely,

Tom Redwitz

Sent from my iPad

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Tom Redwitz  |  Chief Investment Officer
The New Home Company
85 Enterprise, Suite 450
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
Office: 949-382-7812 | Cell: 949-939-1237
Website: www.nwhm.com

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I have followed the progression of the settlement that has now been agreed on between the Hollister Ranch and the Coastal Commission. I give my strong support. It nicely balances the protection of the environment and still allows public access via walk/boat and through managed access programs. I urge you to follow through on the commitments that have been made.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Groth-Marnat
please accept this email as my, and my family’s, endorsement of the Settlement. Protecting our coastline from yet another parking lot, public littering, noise, and exhaust pollution is important as we try and protect one of the final pristine beaches in California. As a resident of what was once a similar community in CA that is now a public nuisance, I can tell you that I represent many thousand visitors to the central coast who feel the same way. There are now ways for visitors to experience the Hollister Ranch area without creating a land-borne access nightmare.

As a 55 year resident of our fine state, please accept my perspective in support of this agreement.

Thank You,

Clifford Skelton

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad
Dear Commissars,

You the California Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy staff and Attorney General’s office have intensively been working on the Hollister Ranch agreement for years and a settlement has been reached. Thank you for your service.

An article was written and circulated in various newspapers to catch the public’s eye. It was very obvious that the columnist, who wrote the article about the Ranch, and the public do not have all the facts involved, nor the history of the Ranch that you have carefully studied for years. I urge you to abide by your decision. I feel your decision is the best to achieve the goals of allowing public access and preserving our precious sensitive habitats.

Again, thank you for your commitment.

Dorothy McLean
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in San Luis Obispo County and I am a surfer, hiker and angler. I have volunteered my time to conservation efforts at Arroyo Hondo Preserve, CalTrout, and others. I am writing now to voice my support for the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for the following reasons:

1. The agreement is the result of THOUSANDS of dollars (maybe a million or more?) of the citizens taxes which went to State Attorneys to negotiate and craft a settlement that is mutually beneficial. Walking back this settlement and “poo pooing” it as “not good enough” is a stick in the eye of our dedicated State Attorneys and wastes many days, weeks, months and years of invested by our public servants to achieve this settlement.

2. The State’s legal position – claiming public access rights in Hollister Ranch under the Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA (a then neighbor of Hollister Ranch) – is and was contrary to a century of legal precedent. A neighbor who only holds an easement over his neighbor’s property can't just give away a PUBLIC access easement (or license) on his neighbor’s property!

I am a property owner and technically own part of a perennial creek and my neighbor has stairs down to the creek that I have the right to use through agreement with the neighbor. The way I see it the State’s position is the equivalent of a hypothetical situation wherein I Dedicated these stairs on my neighbors’ property, which go from the top of bank down to the creek, to a future PUBLIC beneficiary for their access to the creek simply because I as a neighbor enjoyed rights of use while I was the owner. It just doesn’t make sense “in the real world” and it doesn't conform to legal precedent either. The settlement is a win for the Public and it should be accepted as such without an after the buzzer rush to pile on points with “penalty kicks.”

Thank you for your service to the people of California and taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Philip Gaston
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I was born in San Francisco, raised in San Diego County, started my career in Long Beach spent 10 years there, moved to Huntington Beach in 1981 and lived there until I moved to Gaviota, Santa Barbara County in 1997. I love and live by the ocean. I worked all of my life to own horses, and live on a ranch, near nature. I am 68 and semi-retired. My grand children visit their Nana at her ranch every year, and are being brought up to treasure and protect nature.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement, as agreed, for a few reasons.

- Hollister Ranch is a well managed cattle ranch, it's owner's are taking very good care of the native environment. The 14,500 acres are kept as it was over a hundred years ago. The cattle ranching tradition has been very successful, in maintaining a tremendous amount of acreage, supporting several types of native habitats.
- The managed public access program will serve those in the greatest need with care and consideration. It will also give access to the ocean loving recreational users, through use of one of the largest beaches on Hollister Ranch.
- The Attorney General's office, along with the Coastal Commission and Conservancy staff and were meticulous over the four years of litigation and in the year that produced the carefully negotiated the settlement. The Commission should continue to support their staff's advice and support the settlement.
- The Commission needs to honor its agreements. The settlement was negotiated using the guidance of the Court, and was signed by the State Attorney General’s office, the Commission Executive Director; and the State Conservancy Executive Director, do not tarnish their name by not accepting this agreement.

Thank you for your service to California. Wishing you all that you dream for.

Best regards,

Joanne Williamson
Dear Coastal Commissioners:

I strongly support the settlement between the Coastal Commission, State of California and the Hollister Ranch. The YMCA never owned the land and couldn't legally grant an easement so the dedication of an easement should never have been enacted.

The California Attorney General and you have already signed the settlement. Please keep that commitment and proceed.

Thank you,

James Aitkenhead

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commissioners

I want to encourage you to honor the settlement with the Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

While my understanding and opinion of the YMCA claim is that it was specious and unenforceable in legal terms, it seems that after years of litigation in good faith with the Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy that the agreement which has been mutually approved and signed by the executive directors of the Coastal Commission and State Conservancy and the Attorney General's office, should be honored.

As a lifetime resident of California, a voter, diver, surfer, volleyball player, beach walker, and concerned citizen, I am concerned about the precedent that could be set if you do not honor this agreement with the Hollister Ranch. Please confirm the agreement.

Sincerely yours,

Eric Anderson
1575 Prospect Ave.
Capitola, CA 95010
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your service to California.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

I was raised on Hollister Ranch since a child which I experienced as a community of outdoor enthusiasts, activists and early promoters of sustainable lifestyles and practices before it was a global phenomenon. These are people who care deeply about the Hollister Ranch and have served as stewards of the land for generations with authentic concern and care for the environment.

Consequently I myself completed my undergraduate thesis on the psychology of the sustainable consumer which involved studies of biology, environmental rights, human rights and sustainability in general.

I have witnessed and experienced the different ways communities balance environmental protection and public access and I recognize the need for both.

With that said, in this particular case utilizing the YMCAs unlawful gift of access across neighboring property is not legally sound and would not ultimately be granted because this sets an undesired land rights precedent in California. The public has been wildly misled as to the fundamental legal underpinnings of this situation.

The public does in fact have unblocked access below median high tide line which is what the current law dictates. It is not a current legal right in California to open up new pathways across private land, if this is to be changed it out to be done in a legally sound manner that applies to not just one community but all, with conservation in mind.

Ultimately the current deal that the Hollister Ranch residence have offered is more than what the public would gain should this conflict be taken to the bitter end. Above median high tide line beach near the entry of the Ranch that is in fact legally private would be opened to entry, and scientists and select groups would have unprecedented and managed access in a way that protects the environmentally sensitive area.

People have a fundamental right to clean air, water, and access to nature, and we must balance these rights with environmental protection and land rights as well.

The YMCA did not have the right to dedicate, and so those campaigning for more than median high tide line access should seek more honest ways of meeting that end goal.

I encourage you to accept the deal and continue the wider debate of public access to private land with the appropriate legal underpinnings.

Thank you for your time,

Katelyn Bennett
Dear Commissioners,

I wanted to write in as I completely support decisions made by you and appreciate your efforts in making decisions that will be in the best interest of California's coast. I live in Northern California in the Bay Area right over the hill from Santa Cruz. I frequent beaches all over CA and went to school at UCSB.

I wanted to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. The first thing I feel is that if you start walking away from commitments that were made during the settlement it will affect the public's image of the Coastal Commission and really affect how future settlements or decision are made. I think sticking to commitments is an important part of being the Coastal Commission in the first place. I also think having confidence that the public access that was granted will be carefully managed in order to preserve and protect sensitive coastal resources is important and I feel the settlement ensures this. All in all I think continuing to protect CA's coast especially parts of our coastline that have been so protected for so long shows how much we care about these resources and I think the Commission's decision should be stood by and not invalidated.

Thank you so much for your time and attention to this matter and most of all for your service to California.

Regards

Kari Clinch
The proposed settlement regarding 'public access ' to the coastal portion of Hollister Ranch is terrible. the following is why:

- Allows the public to use a 3,880 foot section of dry coastal sand (we already have the right to the wet sand) that can be accessed only by sea after a 2 mile voyage from Gaviota State Park, braving the gale force winds of Gaviota Canyon and the surf of the Ranch.
- Uses public money collected over decades that is intended to be spent on the Coastal Trail and coastal access, for Hollister Ranch expenses in bringing 480 school children and 400 underserved or disabled individuals per year onto the Ranch in a managed access program.
- Voids potential road access for up to 50 people/day to 3.5 miles of the Ranch access road.
- Creates a “poison pill” that eliminates the modest benefits of the settlement if condemnation is ever undertaken to secure an easement for the trail.
- Sets a very bad precedent.

Very little is gained by the public and much is precluded.

Sincerely, Florence Klein (Goleta)
To the California Coastal Commissioners and Parties Concerned,

I want to personally thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coastline. I live in Los Angeles and utilize the beaches all over our state.

I am writing in support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

I view the settlement as a win for our beaches. Treading further into litigation with the ranch owners is risky and may result in absolutely no access for the public. The current terms of the settlement open up a very private area, for those who are willing to adventure north, while protecting the unique nature of the Hollister Ranch.

I know the terms of the agreement are complex and fraught. I think the settlement as it stands will protect property owners rights, preserve the unique character of the area while providing a limited access for the interested public.

Thank You,

Alex Hubbard
Hello  I’m in for of honoring your deal w/ holister ranch. To attempt to renegotiate ,after the fact, will further damage your reputation, as well as hinder any other attempts your agency make in the future.
Commissioners:
I first walked into the Ranch in the summer of 1968. I live full time at the Hollister Ranch now, and it seems time has virtually stood still here for all that time. Even though I cannot stand on my surfboard any longer, I love this place more than ever. I want to thank you for protecting the California coast, and your support of the settlement with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to dedicate. It is the best compromise to save this special place. It is great to know future generations may boat and/or walk into the Hollister Ranch as it was when I first walked in so long ago. Thank you again for your support of the settlement.
Sincerely,

Michael Mitchell
therubberman@verizon.net
Esteemed Commissioners:

I do not claim to have a clear cut position on the Hollister Ranch access dispute. It is a very complicated case that does not lend itself to any easy solution.

What I do know is that the lack of transparency around this deal is galling. The process is clearly fundamentally compromised and there is an air of impropriety about it. I'm not saying corruption; I'm not saying bad faith; I'm not saying fraud - but something just doesn't smell right and the secrecy around the negotiations are a red flag. The process - regardless of the proposed resolution itself - should embarrass, shame, and forever haunt any public official who signs off on this deal.

I urge you not to approve this proposal and to make clear that the public deserves a team that is willing to transparently advocate on its behalf.

Sincerely:

Jack Ucciferri
3L, Santa Barbara College of Law
Dear Commissioners:

As a 6th generation Californian and a Surfer of over 50 years I wholehearted support the current settlement with the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch. I consider it a win-win for both sides as stated by the guidance of the Court and after years of negotiations.

I am concerned that any changes to the agreement that would provide mass public influx would ruin the pristine nature of the Hollister Ranch.

I've grown up on the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur and have seen first hand when the beautiful resources of our coast become overrun with a Public that has little or no consideration of coastal stewardship. My other concern is lack of funding at both the County and State levels to support access and maintain even basic services.

Please stick to the well structured agreement that has been years in the making.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to protect our coast and your service to our beautiful state of California.

Sincerely,

Scott Lundy
Dear Commissioners-

I submit my request for access to ALL California coastal beaches.

I'm once again mortified at the power of the almighty buck.

How can you, in all conscience give into the divisive few and have a ridiculous "compromise"

that marginalizes the many?

This is OUR land, not just for those who hold themselves above the rest and have forgotten what brotherhood is.

Please do not forget your duty to the citizens of this State.

Don't cower. How did this happen in the first place? What kind of deals went down to once again take away our natural rights

to bask in the beauty of this land?

Stand up and be counted as a champion and do the right thing.

And you know what that is.

I've lost hope in this State in the past.

Make me proud, once again, to be a Californian.

Respectfully,

Susan D. Cooper

California native and new resident to Santa Barbara County.
Dear Commissioners, I’m writing to encourage you to uphold the deal reached with Hollister Ranch. I feel strongly that this land is preserved and I believe Hollister Ranch owners are our best chance of keeping this land protected. By allowing masses of tourists into this natural area, you will destroy this pristine open land.

Thank you for your consideration

Best regards,
Kimberly Simi
750 ILiff
LA CA 90272

Sent from my iPhone
Without getting too lengthy, I'll simply say that I support what the CCC has decided in regard to preserving the pristine environment of Hollister Ranch. It's truly one of southern California's last beautiful places.

Ian Shelton
Dear Honorable Members Members of the California Coastal Commission,

I write to you as a surfer for over 40 years, lifelong hunter, fisherman, farmer and lawyer. I understand litigation and the outdoors. I support the settlement between the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch.

The Coastal Commission states that it's mission includes, "protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations". The value of public access to California Resources should be balanced by the need to protect these resources. What makes the Hollister Ranch a unique treasure along the California Coast is that it is reminiscent of stepping back in time to early California; this is due to good stewardship by the Hollister Ranch. Contrary to public opinion, it is not a guilded resort - rather, it is a cooperative that has preserved the land. While many any of our state beaches are beautiful places to escape back to nature; they are often impacted by over use, trash and graffiti. This could also happen to the Hollister Ranch. While the current settlement does not offer complete access, it allows access while preserving the unique qualities the Hollister Ranch. I support the preservation of this California jewel. I urge you to support the settlement, which in turn, will facilitate the continued preservation of this section of the California Coast.

Very truly yours,

Anthony Pullara

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www.pullaralaw.com

Law Offices of Anthony Pullara

633 West 5th Street, 28th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90071
tel. 213-614-1419

********************************************************************
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Hello Coastal Commission Staff,

Thank you for your efforts and dedication to the protection of the CA Coast. I am writing to voice my support of the settlement reached between the Hollister Ranch and State of California. I am a 10 year veteran of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department and former member of the US Forest Service, Los Padres Hotshots. In my profession the incidents with the greatest impact in the Santa Barbara area usually involve wildland fires and chronic homelessness, as both are extremely erratic and difficult to manage.

When I am not on duty I enjoy accessing the area from Gaviota State Beach to Pt Conception for a variety or reasons. While long boat rides and long tide-line walks are grueling, it gives the area a "wilderness" feeling that is quickly evaporating in California. I have no doubt that an increase in human activity in this area will lead to an increase in wildland fires. This area is constantly impacted by strong, dry winds, high temperatures and steep topography. I imagine that the State of California supports this settlement because they know that the State of CA and SB County Fire Department (contracted by the State of CA) does not have sufficient funding to provide adequate fire protection for the area if it becomes more densely populated.

In conjunction a steady increase in transient camps in the 101 corridor can be a huge draw on public safety resources. In my experience these camps are usually not seen while traveling on 101 but are in many arroyos and areas with dense vegetation. They pose a variety of issues. Once again I feel that the Hollister Ranch area could suffer from a lack of public safety resources/State of California infrastructure as it is essentially a "wilderness" area adjacent to a massive population.

Overall I feel that using our efforts to secure funding for the existing infrastructure at Gaviota State Park and other similar areas nearby is safer for the majority and for preserving the pristine beaches which are accessed by many, as long as they are willing to put in the time and energy.

Thank you,

Andrew
Dear Commissioners,

Thanks so much for your commitment to protecting our California Coast. I live in Santa Barbara and am a marine biologist at UC Santa Barbara. I am writing to let you know that I fully support the settlement entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for many reasons.

I have studied tidepools and taught students about the importance of protecting our ocean environment for the past 25 years. The pristine tide pools at the ranch are incredibly healthy and exhibit high biodiversity which is a direct result of not having a large human impact on that area. Planned school groups can visit the amazing tide pools at Algeria Beach that are like nowhere else on the California Coast. It is critical that we continue to protect this environment to keep the biodiversity and health of these ecosystems intact so we can demonstrate to students the value of protection and conservation for our ocean life into the future.

The currently agreed to settlement will provide the best option for taking care of this precious marine environment. The public access required will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.

It is critical that the Commission honor its commitments. The settlement was negotiated over many months under the guidance of the Court and was signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General’s office. Those opposing the settlement are asking the State to walk away from its commitments, which will harm the Commission’s ability to reach settlement in the future and tarnish its public image.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter and service to California.

best regards,

Laura Francis
Dear Commissioners,

I very much appreciate your support and efforts to protect the California Coast. I am an avid snorkeler, diver and paddle boarder from Southern California. I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for several reasons. Hollister Ranch is a place like no other on the California Coast and the Ranch has done a phenomenal job keeping this coastal area in a healthy condition over many, many years. It is truly a gift and this model of protection works better than any other in the history of conservation in California. Going to Hollister feels like stepping back in time before rampant coastal development and a similar feeling to going out to the Western part of Santa Cruz Island which is privately owned by the Nature Conservancy and also has limited public access. The public access required by the settlement will include school groups and non profit educational experiences that will be carefully managed to share the beauty and biodiversity that this special place has to offer, but will also ensure long term protection. Avid recreational beachgoers can access one of the ranch beaches by paddleboarding to it or they can enjoy one of the three nearby amazing California state parks that all have wonderful amenities, surf, snorkel and recreational opportunities!

The Ranch has done, and will continue to do, an amazing job of protecting the natural resources and coastal ecosystems of this very small slice of our coast. Please continue to support their efforts to do so. The settlement commits the State to stand by the agreement and imposes a legal duty to oppose any proceeding intended to invalidate it. Those opposing the settlement are asking the State to walk away from its commitments, which will damage the Commission’s ability to reach settlement in the future and potentially tarnish its public image.

Thanks so much for the great work you do on behalf of California.

warmly,

Anne

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Dear Commissioners,

I have been a resident of Santa Barbara County since 1984. As a lifelong lover of the ocean and California beaches, an occasional surfer at Hollister Ranch, and an attorney involved with local land use issues, I am writing in support of the settlement that was recently entered into between the Hollister Ranch, California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy. The settlement is the result of diligent efforts to achieve a reasonable resolution of a complex dispute. It eliminates ongoing uncertainties regarding access rights, and brings an end to expensive, long running litigation. The settlement provides access rights to the State that, on balance, may well be better than what it could reasonably have expected to receive if it had prevailed in the litigation. The parties negotiated the settlement in good faith, and it is important that the settlement now be honored.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Richard G. Battles
Howell Moore & Gough LLP
812 Presidio Avenue | Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone: (805) 962-0524 ext 11 | Fax: (805) 962-0534
Email: rbattles@hmglaw.com | Website: www.hmglaw.com

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Dear Commissioners,

Thanks so much for your commitment to protecting our California Coast. I am 16 years old and live in Santa Barbara and I have been around California's beaches my entire life. As a result of what I have experienced and what I have learned through the school system, I understand the importance of the conservation and preservation of coastal areas such as beaches.

I believe the currently agreed settlement will provide the best option in protecting the precious and endangered environment.

I hope that the commission considers this and honors its current agreements.

Best regards,

Jayden Francis
Dear Commissioners,

I would like to begin by saying thank you for putting all your efforts into preserving our coastlands. Growing up in the Northern Estero Bay area, these beautiful coasts have helped define me as an individual. I am a pharmacist, married to a firefighter, and the mother of two young children. I unequivocally support the settlement that was made between Hollister Ranch and the YMCA.

During my visits to Hollister Ranch I’ve seen an albino coyote, numerous foxes, and even a black bear. I have learned so much about sea life with my encounters with seals, dolphins, tide pool areas and much more that I was inspired to become a marine biologist at UCSB until I realized that making a living in this field would be very difficult. I have also grown up camping at Refugio, Jalama and numerous other state parks. As the years go on and these areas have become more impacted with humans, wildlife has become less visible and superseded by more and more trash. It would be devastating to see this happen to another area of relatively untouched coastal land.

I realize how lucky I’ve been to experience the pristine beauty of the northern Santa Barbara County coast and want others to experience it so the drive to preserve remains. Growing up on the central coast, I have seen the effects of the expanding population and worry that further negotiations beyond the settlement would jeopardize the preserved and currently protected coastal resources. The Coastal Commission, YMCA and Hollister Ranch have been working on this agreement intensively for years and a settlement was reached. I believe it is the best solution to achieve both the goals of allowing public access and preserving these sensitive habitats.

Thank you for your time,
Rebecca

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

My name is Brian Daly. I am writing in support of the proposed settlement between the Hollister Ranch Owners Association and the state.

I was born and raised in San Mateo County. I am a surfer and in recent years I have lived at various locations up and down the California coast, including Santa Cruz, Aptos, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, and El Segundo. I now live full-time on Hollister Ranch with my wife, whose family bought property there in the 70's. My wife was born and raised on the Ranch. We hope to raise our daughter, who is 8 months old, there too.

I believe the proposed settlement is a fair resolution of a complicated and uncertain legal dispute. The settlement enhances public access by opening up a new stretch of beach for visitors who walk or paddle in. For some communities - including persons with physical disabilities - walking or paddling in may not be a feasible option. The settlement also enhances access for these communities through the creation of the managed access program.

Sincerely,

Brian Daly
Dear Commissioners:

We reside in California and feel that beaches protected by private property access are beneficial for many reasons (i.e. protection of wildlife and marine life, maintaining an unspoiled landscape, and limiting the trash and pollution that can be caused by too many humans recreating). We support the settlement with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

There is already enough public access up and down the coast of California. We believe that private property owners tend to be good stewards of their land and the Hollister Ranch is a good example of that stewardship. The current settlement seems to provide the best option, especially since the public access required will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.

John & Alicia Woodcock
fluidblue1@verizon.net
I support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding public access.

Bill Bigham
To the California Coastal Commission:

My name is Susan Anderson and I want to go on record as supporting the December 2017 California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch settlement regarding public access.

Hollister Ranch is one of the last pieces of the Southern California coastline in its natural state, and it should be respected and preserved that way. Although I no longer live in Santa Barbara, I went to school at UCSB and often enjoyed the natural beauty of the coastland in Hollister Ranch. My memories of that time include the pristine nature of the coastline and how much I enjoyed my sojourn to the water.

Balanced public access should not mean “paving another parking lot”. Please preserve the adventure in public access. No chair lifts, no cars, no buses, no parking lots, no pollution, and no despoiling nature. The adventure of the journey is a significant part and spirit of this destination. Natural access can go hand-in-hand with balanced public access, as this settlement demonstrates.

Under the terms of this settlement, the Coastal Commission has achieved an environmentally sensitive and balanced public access that is now under attack by uninformed media for apparently not tearing down the fences and opening the gates of public access to the Point Conception area via buses, shuttles, parking lots and pedestrian traffic tunnels on these pristine lands and beaches.

Please protect our environment and this lovely enclave of the California coast.

Sincerely, Susan Anderson

Coronado, California

Sent from my iPad
To whom it may concern:

I will not bore you with all the details of the settlement and their pros and cons. The logical decision is fairly straightforward.

Do you believe your staff and the attorney general's office after reviewing the facts of this case for three or four years properly applied the concerns of your organizations when reaching this agreement? If you have faith in the staffs' ability to obtain an equitable settlement then finalizing the actions taken by them is the proper next step.

Sincerely,
Joseph Geeb
805-699-5585
I was born at St. Francis Hospital in Santa Barbara, and I grew up in Goleta. My friends and I first started boating into the Hollister Ranch when we were 16 years old. It was an experience that I will never forget. It has something to do with the adventure, being in the wildness of nature that made these trips so memorable. The Gaviota coastal areas still have shells on the beach. This obviously doesn’t happen in populated unpreserved coastal areas anywhere today. I could go on and on about how this coastal area will be ruined and never be the same for my grandchildren if this agreement is not upheld. This is why I say with all my heart that if the Coastal Commission does not limit access, the specialness of this coastal area will be forever lost. We all know this, deep down inside. Please make the right decision to uphold the settlement you entered into with the HR and the YMCA so these areas will remain preserved as we all wish.

Jane Rohrs
To whom it concerns,

I am writing to voice my support for the recent HR-CCC Settlement.

As the artist whose work is currently being used by the California Coastal Commission to promote the Coastal Cleanup Day 2018, I would first like to state my heartfelt appreciation for the work of the CCC. The concept my art career is built on is the idea of painting the entire California coast, and without the CCC fighting to establish coastal access throughout the state my work would be immensely more difficult.

But that said, nothing is more heartbreaking than finding some of the most beautiful pieces of California's pristine coast absolutely obliterated by overuse, often within state managed parks. The democracy of coastal access, while itself is something I generally consider a virtue of this great state must be balanced with the need for preservation of natural habitat. It is unfortunate that the most pristine pieces of the coast are also the ones that are still off limits to most of us- military lands, private ranches, islands, rugged portions where no roads can or should be built, etc. This reality is a sobering thought that should be kept in mind when considering imposing public access requirements where they previously have not existed.

If a wealthy landowner suddenly decides to cut off access enjoyed by the public long before they owned the land, then by all means, I absolutely love that I live in a state that will fight the self-interests of the wealthy in favor of the common man, woman, and child.

But that scenario does not describe the Hollister Ranch. It has been the holy grail of the California coast experience for decades, and at least part of it's mystique has always owed to the difficulty of access. The other part of it's enduring power to capture our imaginations is the vision of an older California that it provides. I've been fortunate to visit there 3 times in the last 5 years, and each time I am blown away at just how well the HR folks have struck a balance of maintaining a pristine environment that is used and enjoyed by residents and guests, but not overused to its detriment. I don't recall seeing any trash on the beaches, and the amount of wildlife scurrying about in broad daylight is nothing less than astonishing. I'd love to be able to drive right in and hang out and paint the coast there any time I would like, but the only way to make that a possibility is to open the door to all, and once open, those doors are hard to shut and the consequences often irreversible.

When the wise king Solomon was presented with the two women who both claimed to be the mother of an infant, he alarmed his entire court when he ordered the baby to be cut into two and half given to each woman. The real mother objected, but the other woman did not because she was motivated by jealousy and would rather see the child destroyed than to see the real mother live peacefully raising the child that the jealous woman could not have. In the same way, I fear that much of the push to open HR to the public is motivated not by true love of the land and coast, but rather a selfish sort of envy. The argument for opening the land often mentions the wealth of the landowners, but never touches on what is best for preserving this truly
pristine coastline.

This place is too important to California to give to a public that will surely not respect and cherish it the way it deserves.

Apologies for the rambling letter, these are just my thoughts regarding the current situation and bigger picture at play. My understanding is that there is considerable push-back from the public against this recent settlement, and the HR folks are in support of it. As a non-owner and member of the general public who has built a life around the California Coast, I stand with HR in support of the settlement as well.

Thank you.

And check out mattbeardart.com while we're at it. I think you'll dig it!

Matt Beard

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Matt Beard Art | 707.440.9375
www.mattbeardart.com
Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the settlement agreement reached with the Hollister Ranch Owners’ Association (“the settlement”). As an environmental and public interest attorney, I understand how difficult it can be to carefully balance environmental protection and the public interest in litigation. The settlement, though imperfect, carefully navigates the risks of litigation, balances environmental protection with the public interest, and creates the possibility for an environmental justice access program that prioritizes access for children, individuals with disabilities, and Californians from low-income communities.

As in any litigation, the California Coastal Commission ("Commission") and California Coastal Conservancy’s ("Conservancy") - collectively “the Commission’s” - likelihood of prevailing in the lawsuit with Hollister Ranch is uncertain. If the Commission does not settle, it is quite possible that it will lose this case on the merits, thus losing the opportunity to secure legally-mandated public access at the Hollister Ranch. In addition, even if the Commission abandons their signed settlement, prevails at trial, and secures the right to bring members of the public through the accessway at issue along Cuarta Canyon Creek, public access would impact environmentally sensitive habitat, and would likely be inaccessible for individuals with disabilities. Cuarta Creek is wild California at its finest: it contains a diversity of flora and fauna that thrive in an area relatively undisturbed by consistent human impact. In order to make that area safe for the public, the Commission would have to significantly alter the creek bed and bank and the rich natural resources there would be lost. In addition, because the accessway at issue in the suit is along a creek bed and through a culvert that is seasonally flooded, and likely cannot be made accessible for those with disabilities, it would, essentially, preclude certain members of the public from reaching the beach at Hollister Ranch.

The settlement, however, provides a practical solution to these issues. First, it guarantees legally mandated public access to the Hollister Ranch in perpetuity without the risk of proceeding with a lawsuit. Second, it eliminates the need to construct an accessway through the sensitive habitat along Cuarta Creek and allows public access to be carefully managed so as not to negatively impact the pristine Hollister Ranch coastline. Third, because the settlement mandates managed access opportunities specifically for individuals with disabilities and children, it creates access opportunities for members of the public who would be unable or unlikely to utilize the accessway along Cuarta Creek. Finally, and quite importantly, the settlement prioritizes access opportunities for Californians from low-income communities. In this way, the settlement creates a new and exciting model for responsibly preserving and sharing some of California’s most beautiful coastline with those who are often precluded from meaningful access to the beach.

If we wish to build a better, more environmentally and socially responsible future, we must take calculated risks and construct new ways to share treasured natural resources. This settlement is an attempt to do just that. For these reasons, I support both the Commission and the Conservancy in executing this agreement.
Thank you,

Elise Cossart-Daly

--

Elise Cossart-Daly
Attorney
805.380.8408
www.linkedin.com/in/ecossartdaly
Commissioners,

As a young woman who has grown up with a profound love of nature and the ocean in Southern California, I whole-heartedly support your most recent ruling to protect Hollister Ranch and have managed access rights.

Nature is a precious gift that has been abused by people for far too long and needs protection. This ruling is fair and just to all parties concerned, not only to the people involved but also to the animals and the land. I could not think of a better outcome, so thank you for settling. Thank you for protecting and honoring this pristine land and their creatures.

This settlement should stand, there has been so much effort put into this decision, let’s honor it and move forward.

A warm thank you,

Finnigan Jones
This email is in support of HR-CCC’s access settlement. This settlement helps preserve a unique time capsule of virtually untouched California coast. The Ranch isn’t special by chance, it has taken decades of hard work to keep this land protected and unexploited. Let’s not throw that hard work away.

Dan Phin

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. I live in San Diego County and have spent my entire life in nature, including pristine beaches and hiking trails. There are not enough places left in California like The Hollister Ranch.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate for a number of reasons. They are not enough pristine beaches left in California. They need protection. Agreements that are entered into in good faith and supported by multiple agencies need to be honored.

Thank you for your service to California.

Howard Katkov
Commissioners: Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. This email is in support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch. HR is a protection-worthy environment with unspoiled beaches, minor sloughs, wildlife, and some of the last remaining tide pools in California. This settlement achieves that protection.

Trestles, in Southern California, was a pristine beach environment in the 60s and 70s. After acquiring the beach for public access, it is now a beach environment that is severely compromised. Hollister Ranch has voluntarily engaged in managed access for scientific research, education, and special needs groups for over 20 years. The public access committed to under the Hollister Ranch settlement will continue to be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.

In accordance with the Commission’s mission to protect and preserve, I ask that you protect the Hollister Ranch beach and preserve the tide pools for our future generations by approving this settlement. On this section of the coast, there are already five state and county public beaches for recreational activities. Please do not destroy Hollister Ranch and make it into another Trestles.

Stand by your commitment to this settlement.

Thank you, Nancy Aitkenhead

Sent from my iPad
July 2, 2018

Commissioners:

Our family lives in Santa Cruz County and we wanted to thank you for you’re on going work to protect our coastline. My entire families life’s revolve around water, our bays, rivers, and coastline. We’ve sailed, fished & surfed our west coast and Pacific Ocean extensively.

We support the settlement you entered into with the Hollister Ranch in regards to the YMCA property & possible rights they may of or did not have.

A decade or two ago, we thought different about our environment and specifically coastline. It use to be that we would trust the public at large to respect and treat our public places the same as they would treat their own backyards. After all, that is what we were taught and that is what we’ve taught our kids to do.

Times have changed and with the growth in population, lack of awareness or just disrespect for our environment, the general public needs greater and greater support from our government to properly utilize our public lands. Without our California’s public services contributing funding, education, roads, bathrooms, services, and patrolling these public places, we see everyday what happens to them. We do not think the state has the capacity to oversee any additional public land until we can do the “right” job with the parks, beaches, and land we currently have.

I read with amusement the LA Times article about the kayaker who launched at Gaviota and made the decision to paddle north towards Pt Conception. Anyone with “any” knowledge of our coastline understands that “north” in that area can be fraught with danger. I’ve sailed, fished, and surfed on both sides of Pt. Conception so I have first hand experience; it is without a doubt one of the most dangerous parts to be in the water of our beautiful coastline. All that kayaker had to do with some good common sense was to head south, where the coastline is just as beautiful, mostly public, and accessible.

There are so many reasons to urge you to stand by your decision you entered into with the Hollister Ranch.

Over the 4+ year engagement, the details were fully discussed and debated, we can not possibly think the public has the knowledge or even discipline to take the time to fully understand all the points especially after the fact. The facts were put on the table and both sides came to the same conclusion, now a few without all the facts want to change the agreement? I wonder what their real motivation is?

The decision was made, lets stick with it and move forward.

Thank you for listening and for severing our great state and coastline.

Rich & Laura Everett

2119 Soquel San Jose Road
Support the CCC-Hollister Settlement - Save the Last Endangered Species of Southern California Coast

Dear Commissioners,

Please accept the following (and attached) submission in support of the Coastal Commission's final settlement with the Hollister Ranch authorities as a landmark agreement, forging balanced public access with preservation of the natural lands and beaches of the Point Conception area, the last "endangered species" of unspoiled Southern California coastline.

**California's Point Conception - Preserved by History:**

The beaches, foothills and mountains of California's Point Conception are the last natural pristine preserve of the Southern California Coast. These are the preserved lands of the Hollister Ranch and the Bixby Ranch (now known as the Nature Conservancy's Dangermond Preserve).

Today, these lands live, breathe, and remain essentially the same as they were ... when the Chumash Indians arrived 9000 years ago, and named them the "Western Gate" through which the souls of their ancestors could pass between the mortal world and heavenly paradise; ... when Cabrillo anchored in "Los Sardinas" (Gaviota) and "Coxo" Bay as he sailed the California Coast in 1542; ... when the Spanish explorers of the Portola Expedition arrived in Gaviota 1769 and Cojo Pt. in 1770; ... when the land route from Arizona to San Francisco along the beaches of Point Conception was pioneered by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775-1776; ... when José Francisco de Ortega was granted his land-grant from the King of Spain in 1791; ... when California became a state in 1850; ... when William Welles Hollister, and partners Bixby and Flint, made their grazing land purchases in 1854; ... when the first county road through the Gaviota Pass was constructed in 1860; ... when the Gaviota wharf was originally constructed (as Port Orford) in 1875; ... when the first Gaviota store was constructed in 1877; ... when the railroad arrived in 1901; ... when the Gaviota State Park was donated by the Hollisters to the State in 1903; ... when the Hollister family built their Hollister House residence in 1910; ... when Coast Highway 101 made its fortunate turn north and away from the Gaviota Coast in 1926; ... when the "new" Gaviota wharf was constructed in 1951; ... when the State took over the Park in 1952-53; ... when the Gaviota tunnel was constructed in 1953; ... when the Hollister Estate Co. sold the ranch property to the Macco Construction Co. in 1968; ... when Macco's attempted mega-resort-golf course subdivision dissolved under the bankruptcy of its parent company (Penn Central Railroad) in 1970; ... when the good fortunes of the bankruptcy-foreclosure resulted in a distant creditor (Milwaukee Guaranty Insurance Corporation-"MGIC"), becoming the new owner in 1970; and ... when these lands became soundly preserved and protected by MGIC's environmentally guided creation of the self-imposed limited use restrictions of the recorded "Covenants, Codes and Restrictions (CC & R's)" of
the present-day Hollister Ranch in 1970-1971. These lands remain the same beautiful coastal lands today, as they were long before the State of California ever imagined its Proposition 20 or legislated its Coastal Act in 1976. They have withstood the test of time from Native Americans through European explorers, through Spanish colonial status, through the Mexican territory years, and to this point of California statehood.

Today these beautiful lands of Point Conception remain the same, not because of the attempted historical intrusions of foreign explorers, competing nations, federal and state governments, oil and gas industries, state sanctioned utilities, regulators, coastal commissions and developers. Rather, these beautiful lands remain the same in spite of them: Not because of the attempted "nuclear generating station" sought to be located there by Southern California Edison in 1965; not because of the attempted regulations of the California Coastal Commission and its subsequent legacy (including the present litigation); not because of the subsequent attempted interventions of the State (e.g. 1979 cessation of building permits; or the 1983 entry demands for claimed eminent domain pre-condemnation planning that never materialized); not because of the California's enabling legislation for the Western LNG's attempted "liquefied natural gas plant" facilities and four-lane highway to be cited through to Cojo Point (1977-1986); not because of the California licensed condemnation demands of Big Oil in the failed pipeline of the Point Arguello Pipeline Project (1985-1986); and not because of the attempted intervention of the federal government (1999-2004 - the Gaviota National Seashore Study). Yes, not because of these attempted historical intrusions, but rather in spite of them. All these attempts at spoilation, development and regulation of these beautiful lands have each been unsuccessful. Why?

- Preserved Because........

Why? Because of nature's historical gifts of geology and resulting steep cliff coastal geography that has protected these beautiful lands from easy entry and passage? Because Padre Junipero Serra and the legacy of his travels on the El Camino Real, went inland from Santa Barbara to Santa Ynez, somehow forgetting to missionize, baptize and colonize Point Conception area? Because the later "modern engineering" of California's Coast Highway 101 (1926) chose to go inland at Gaviota, and north to the San Francisco Bay Area, somehow forgetting to forge and pave its way through, up and around Point Conception? Because Los Padres National Forest (1919 and 1936) later restricted development from the East? Because Vandenburg Air Force Base (1941) later prevented access from the North?

Because Point Conception was somehow the forgotten crook in the elbow of California? Because, in the midst of it all, the beauty of the Point Conception lands and beaches were somehow so quiet and serene in their natural state as to be overlooked as the rest of California turned away, chasing the Highway 101 corridor and its attendant sprawl and contagious development disease to other locations? Because the Hollisters, like their Bixby neighbors, preserved their lands as stewards, instead of seeking to subdivide and develop them for profit, subdivisions, tract homes, strip malls, parking lots, resorts, golf courses, highways and cities?

Why? Because many of these blessings and karmic events have acted in concert........ Today these beautiful lands remain the same today because the twists and turns of nature's evolving
geology and geography, because California's rich history has coincided with the lands' historical sequence of unique owners acting as stewards, who have been historically both fortunate and dedicated enough to continually embrace and preserve these beautiful lands as they were from the outset.

"....... What matters most about the [Hollister] Ranch is that it's really a 14,000 acre time capsule harking back to an era when California had yet to be royally [f>>>ed]. The first time I went to the Ranch, I looked like one of the paleontologists from Jurassic Park, walking around and gaping at something I thought had long ago gone extinct: untrammeled Southern California. That untrammeled quality is the part most worth saving......"[ "From My Cold, Dead Hands" by Justin Hausman (Surfer magazine, November 2014)]

Indians, explorers, ranchers, cowboys, environmentalists, farmers, authors, journalists, surfers, fishermen, sailors, divers, boaters, local residents and landowners have all contributed their fair share at appreciation and preservation of the Point Conception lands. Time and again, they have joined together, in historical furtherance of the protection of these lands, taking repeated stands and fighting through many environmental "stop development" campaigns and by maintaining steadfast self-imposed limited use restrictions (on land and at sea) to be carried into the future that have proven, thus far, to have outlasted and prevented the urban sprawl, increased traffic, parking lots, bulldozer developments and high-rises we have witnessed on much, if not all, of the remaining Southern California Coast.

The CCC-HR Settlement preserves these beautiful lands through a combination of balanced public access with the continuing preservation and protection of the natural environment.

**The Litigation Summary**

In 1970 the YMCA purchased a parcel of land, located inland from the Hollister Ranch. In 1980, when they wanted to build on this land, the Coastal Commission required the YMCA provide public access easements over land owned by others-i.e., the Hollister Ranch owners. Instead of condemning the land and acquiring the easements, or requiring the YMCA to purchase the easement rights, the Coastal Commission merely required that the YMCA provide and record an "Offer to Dedicate" (OTD) such easements in 1982, knowing full well that the YMCA did not own the land over which the easements crossed. The problem was that California law had long recognized, then and now, that easements over land can only be created by the consent or agreement of the landowner. Simply put, the Coastal Commission, with its eyes wide open, was requiring the YMCA to give them a "Brooklyn Bridge" over land it did not own, in exchange for a building permit. The YMCA never built the camp. When confronted by litigation from the underlying landowners concerning its inability to "offer to dedicate" easements over land it did not own, the YMCA settled the claims, sold their property, and left the area in 1983.

For obvious reasons, the "Offer to Dedicate" was void from the outset, and was never "Accepted" by the Commission or any other public entity, lying dormant on the books of the County Recorder’s Office from 1982 until 2013. Under California law, an offer to dedicate is not complete until the offer is "Accepted." In 2013, as the date of the expiration of the OTD approached, Santa
Barbara County wisely refused to accept the OTD. At the same time, the Coastal Commission was forced by the mandate of a separate more recent State statute to accept all outstanding offers of dedication before they expired. Consequently, in April 2013, the "1982 Offer to Dedicate" was "Accepted" by the California Coastal Conservancy acting under the directive of the California Coastal Commission. Immediately after the Acceptance, the Hollister Ranch owners filed their lawsuit to "quiet title" as to their ownership rights in their lands, which action is now the subject of the present settlement reached in December 2017.

**The Settlement Summary**

The OTD’s easements, even if fully litigated and successfully determined to be valid, were very limited in scope, numbers, area and in practical use. The functional access of the void easements was limited to the same ¾ mile of beach described that is now the subject of the licensed area under the final settlement agreement; and the day-use numbers permitted to use such easements were also limited [i.e. restricted to 50 members of the public maximum; with bused access limited to the two vehicles per hour with no more than 30 persons on any one bus], all of which required attendant government buses, parking lots, trash control, transportation corridors, pedestrian tunnels, road improvements, increased vehicle traffic, coastal bluff construction and/or reinforcement, under railway passage support & improvements, security vehicles and sanitary facilities on these pristine lands and beaches.

The Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch have reached a final settlement agreement which allows for public access, including pedestrian access, from Gaviota State Beach or from the ocean, not across Hollister Ranch property. In addition, the Hollister Ranch agreed to grant a license for public access and passive recreational on the same ¾ mile stretch of beach from Gaviota State Beach boundary to the Cuarta tunnel on the Hollister Ranch. In addition, the Hollister Ranch Managed Access Program was agreed to be expanded to include a permanent tidepool school program for an annual admission of 480 students, teachers and parents; and expansion of the disabled veterans and special needs and under-groups to serve approximately 400 individuals annually to experience ocean recreation in a safe and secure environment. The final settlement has been approved and signed by the California Coastal Commission and the California State Coastal Conservancy, as well as the Hollister Ranch Owners Association and by a majority vote of the Hollister Ranch owners.

**Southern California, Take a look around....... It is THE LAST.**

To re-state the often heard mariners forecast : "from Point Conception to the Mexican border" there is an "All Crafts Advisory" for heavy prevailing winds of development that have wreaked, and will continue to wreak, heavy damage on the Southern California Coast. Take a look up and down our Southern California Coast, and take your pick of many once pristine coastline locations: From San Diego to Santa Barbara counties, the only vestiges of natural coastline that still exist do so under the pretensions of the military (Camp Pendleton and Point Mugu) or the inaccessible geography of the Coast highway's rocky cliffs immediately above the LA County line.

The natural beauty of the undeveloped rolling foothills, mesas, wetlands and beaches of the
Irvine Ranch-Laguna Beach coastline are gone; of the Malibu-Point Dume coastline are gone; of the Trancas Beach-County Line coastline are gone; of the Salt Creek, Dana Point, and Capistrano Beach coastlines are gone; of the North San Diego County coastlines are gone…… All gone as the SoCal development fever continually rises, creeps and pushes ever so hard on our coastline, now on the western borders of Goleta and the Gaviota Coast. As the Gaviota Coastal Conservancy describes its mission statement: "Gaviota: The End of Southern California." The double entendre is too meaningful to be mistaken.

THE LAST ? Really? No kidding: The lands of the Point Conception area are THE LAST remaining remnants of the natural lands and beaches of the Southern California coastline. There are no more. They are an endangered species without an "Endangered Species Act" to protect them. Today's "California adventurer" has to travel several days deep into the off-road back country of Baja California coastline to find any similar undisturbed coastal lands in "Southern" California.

The Coastal Act, the Coastal Commission, and the Private Stewards

We are reminded that the California Coastal Commission's original and still current mission is: "To protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment of the California coastline."

Many have separate and diverse opinions as to the Coastal Commission's legacy on what little now remains of the natural undeveloped shoreline on the Southern California Coast. Sadly, much of the natural beauty of the Southern California coastline has disappeared during the four decades of the jurisdiction of the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Act. This is not to say that the Coastal Commission was, or is, responsible for not halting the unrelenting development of privately owned lands on our Southern California Coast. No, the resulting message is that the Commission could only condition such development on private lands. It could not, and did not, stop the private development.

By contrast, however, where private ownership, without development, has conserved and preserved these last remnants of natural beauty on the Southern California coastline, such ownership shares (and has, in fact, accomplished) the same common goal of the original mission statement of the Coastal Commission. Such historical private ownership is stewardship, accomplishing for the Point Conception coastline the same goal and mission of the Coastal Commission in conserving, restoring and enhancing the environment of the California coastline. The historical stewards of these Point Conception lands, both past and present, should be honored for their preservation and their continuing vigilance for the protection of this last remnant of wild coastline, all that remains of the once open country, untouched canyons, unmarred hillsides, wetlands and pristine beaches of the Southern California coast.

Such stewardship should not be mischaracterized by uninformed journalists as "the rich people" or castigated as "the celebrities" of the Hollister Ranch, in order to sustain their media "attack and distract" strategy under the guise of tearing down the fences in the name of "public access". Such misinformed claims mistakenly seek the sacrifice of this last endangered species on our coast, while ignoring the true mission of the Coastal Act in conserving, restoring and enhancing the environment of the California coastline. Rather than attack the stewards, the media should
celebrate this final settlement for achieving balanced public access and preservation of the natural environment of Point Conception.

**Balanced Public Access with the Preservation of the Natural Environment**

California's Proposition 20 and its legislated Coastal Act of 1976, creating the "Coastal Commission" as the gatekeeper of the California Coast, simultaneously charged the Commission with the ever-conflicting dual mandate of preservation of natural resources [section 30001.5a] and promoting public access [section 30001.5c] with the express mandate that resolution of conflicts between the two be resolved in a manner, on balance, which is most protective of California's significant coastal resources [sections 30200 and 30007.5]. Simply put, should the Commission balance public access AGAINST the preservation of natural resources? Better yet, the Commission should balance public access WITH the preservation of natural resources. This settlement strikes that balance.

Balanced public access should not mean "paving another parking lot," authorizing another tour bus, creating pedestrian tunnels, installing trash control and restroom facilities in the wilds of a pristine natural environment. *Preserve the balance and the adventure in public access.* As members of the public, we boat to the Channel Islands. We hike into the wilderness areas of our national forests. We boat or hike or paddle to the lineup in Big Sur and at Mavericks. We hike or paddle to Upper and Lower Trestles. We raft or paddle kayaks into the protected wild river areas. We skin or ski into the back snow country. No chair lifts, no cars, no buses, no parking lots, no restrooms, no day use concessionaires, no pollution, and no despoiling nature. Adventure access does not mean that public access is denied, but only consecrated, as it often should be, by those with the adventure "to go" into nature. The adventure of the journey is a significant part and spirit of the destination. Natural access can go hand-in-hand with balanced public access, as this settlement demonstrates.

The term "Public access" has been advanced too many times under the Coastal Act under the banner of tearing down fences while too often ignoring the Coastal Act's parallel mandate of protecting and preserving the natural environment. The proper balance has been struck in this settlement. This is not a settlement that allows the bulldozers to wreak more development on our coastline. This is a settlement that preserves the last piece our coastline in its natural state. This is truly the last piece of the Southern California coastline in its natural state, and it should be respected and preserved that way.

**Disclosures:**

The author is a California surfer of 56 years; a Hollister & Bixby Ranch "beach entry hiker" and "ranch boat" veteran dating from 1964; a seasonal ranger-employee at Gaviota, Refugio and El Capitan State Parks (1967-1970); an attorney of 40 years; a father of two surfers (and a grandfather of an anticipated four more); and, together with my wife, very proud to claim to be two of the many "stewards" of the Hollister Ranch, since 1978.

Thank you for your consideration.
Tom Schaefer
Encinitas California
As a Californian, I can attest to the fact, there is no other state, that provides more for their citizens then we do. Are, we perfect? No, but we are taxed to the point, that wealth equates to privilege. More, wealth, more taxes, hence Hollister Ranch has earned the privilege to determine the use of its land. The, beauty of this formula, is that you have a choice. If, you can’t afford to buy into the Hollister Ranch Property Group, to have access to those beaches. Then, you can go to other coastal areas, that provide public access. The, logic that every inch of coast line, should be available to the, general public, is ludicrous. Especially, in this case, where the caretaker, Hollister Ranch, has taken extreme measures to preserve and maintain, the area for its residents and for generations to come. All, things considered, Hollister Ranch has earned the privilege and right, to determine how it’s properties should be managed. As, true Californians, Hollister Ranch needs our support in achieving this excellence in conservation. And, it would be severely disappointing, if that was to change.
From: Della Cook
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Support the settlement
Date: Saturday, June 30, 2018 2:10:15 PM
Attachments: Hollister.docx
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for fulfilling your mission to "protect and enhance California's coast for present and future generations".

Your decision to settle with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA offer to Dedicate was and is a wise use of your time and resources. Your mission statement to utilize "careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education and effective intergovernmental coordination" has been fulfilled...lawfully.

We hope that the Commission continues to support the advice of your staff regarding this settlement. **We support the settlement!**

We're shocked that so much time and money has been allocated to this case. We've never heard of anybody having the right or power to give away an easement or access over his neighbors property? Property that they don't own.

We understand that this settlement was carefully negotiated over a very long time period through the court system. It was signed by the State Attorney Generals office, the State Conservancy Executive Director and by your Commission Executive Director. After all this effort, time and money the Commission needs to honor its commitments and **stay true to it's mission.**

This lawsuit was tricky, complex and risky. You guys came up with a compromise option that protects the public and landowners. Just stick with your decision.

For over 10 years my wife and I have live full time on Hollister Ranch. Thank you for the work that you do.

Steve and Margaret Cegelski

HR 53
Dear Commissioners:

I support the agreed settlement with Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

I have enjoyed using California beaches over many years and am sensitive to the need to preserve coastal habitats. Your current agreement with the Hollister Ranch is a well balanced resolution that ultimately emphasizes respect for the environment.

Thank you.

RC Phelps
Dear Commissioners

I am writing in support of the settlement agreement reached with Hollister Ranch and YMCA. While I agree that coastal access is an important aspect of coastal management, I support this settlement because I believe it more important to carefully manage and protect sensitive coastal environments. There are many miles of coastline to which the public has unfettered access, which are unfortunately not in as good condition as the coastlines that have limited access. We should be endeavouring to control access to preserve coastal ecosystems for future generations. The settlement allows increased educational visits, while managing access.

Secondly, it seems foolhardy to attempt to allow public opinion to sway matters of legal precedent. Of course the public will ask for access - but this is not rooted in any legal footing. Given the apparently tenuous claims that the state had, the risk of getting less access than the settlement provides, at great expense to the state, seem very real.

I appreciate your taking this matter into consideration
Best Regards
Steve Francis
--
Steve Francis | Chief Evangelist
steve@logicmonitor.com
805 698 0770

SaaS based Enterprise datacenter monitoring
Dear Commissioners,
Thank you for your service to California and your time and efforts devoted to protecting our coasts.
I support the settlement entered into with Hollister Ranch regarding the YMCA Offer to Dedicate!
With this settlement I believe that public access will be correctly managed to best protect the beautiful and environmentally delicate coastal area as has been, and is still, the charter and intent of the landowners of the Ranch for many years. Extended tenuous litigation has resulted in the best option available. Now that it is a commitment, it is everyone's best interest to honor and abide by it.
Again, thank you for your commitment.
John Bacon
Dear Commission,

I am writing in support of the settlement that has been reached with the Hollister Ranch. I live in the Bay Area and love going to various beaches around the state. I commend the commission for the hard work and diligence over the past few years in resolving this very complicated issue. In my opinion, and the opinion of my circles, the people should support the decision making of state commissions such as yours. I believe in your ability to reach proper resolutions given years of research and a deep understanding that the public can't begin to consider. Great job on the long and diligent pursuit. You should be proud! Please do all you can to support your decision despite, as I understand it, other individuals uneducated claims to the contrary, you deserve it. You worked hard and intelligently and it is not fair that your decision is questioned. Thank you again.

Best,
Shawn Kellenberger
Commissioner,

I'm taking time out of my busy day to thank you personally. Thank you for protecting California's coast. I completely support your settlement decision on the Hollister Ranch case.

As a tenured real estate professional, its ridiculous to think that an appurtenant easement owner could turn that into a public easement on a neighbors property. That would violate real property law that been in place for at least 100 years!

I'm urging you to please honor the advice your staff has given you, honor the demand of the Commission Executive Director, honor the demand of the State Conservancy Executive Director, and honor the demand of the state Attorney Generals wishes. To go against all of their commitments, would be a professional embarrassment to the state.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,

Elisha Boyle
Berkshire Hathaway Realty
elishaboyle@hotmail.com
805-338-2136
#01396077
Dear Commissioners,

I am a Southern California native and have enjoyed our state’s beautiful coastlines for as long as I can remember. After the recent ruling to continue to protect Hollister Ranch, I would like to say thank you. The effort to protect and preserve this zone means that our California Coast will continue to thrive in its current, healthy state.

I understand that this case is complicated however, it is important to stand by the decision. Let’s be honest, we (as a human population) are destructive so we must continue to protect the limited environment we have left. Thank you for all of your efforts! It is greatly appreciated.

Best,

Matt Hoffman
(626) 318-2202
matt@gnarbox.com
Hi there,

I have only been to Hollister Ranch once, but am grateful for the pristine conditions and love it’s caretakers have provided the land. I am in the business of helping people realign with nature, which in turn aligns them with their true authentic selves. Unfortunately, our society has created disconnected mentality that humans are separate from their planet. This in turn gives people the idea that they are in dominion over nature rather than living harmoniously together with it. This belief leads to massive ignorance and disrespect of our shared home. A home that may run out of it’s ability to provide for human. I feel it very important for those with a greater responsibility to protect and preserve the remaining beautiful and sacred planet we have left until mankind can live in harmony and cooperation with her. I am so grateful to hear of the settlement of Hollister. We are all here with different purposes, some of them are to lead, protect, and hold the light until others can do so for themselves. We are all so intricately connected to the planet, and I am happy to see people are protecting the Mother that gives us life.

Thank you,
Lyndsey

Lyndsey Johnson
Co-Creator + Alchemist
657.859.1082
lyndsey@lunanoel.com

"Graciously and gently, placing our energy into creating harmony between people and planet. The Earth is calling us back to her, can you hear her?"

luna noel . twitter . facebook . instagram
Oh, goody. I can get to Cuarta Beach in a kayak if I want to brave 3 miles in often dangerous wind and waves. I’m 63. Think I’ll make it? This settlement is a disgusting giveaway to the rich. Let them buy an island if they don’t want anyone on a beach. These beaches are the property of the people. The Coastal Commission should be ashamed.

“Hollister Ranch is a world-class example of ‘private conservation,’” wrote David Levine of Southern California. “It is expensive, awkward, and always contentious — but this model protects California’s coastal resources better than any other mechanism in the history of conservation. If the public wants to enjoy the Gaviota Coast, there are three awesome State Parks. Finalize the settlement. It’s a gift.”

Bull. It conserves the Gaviota Coast for those who can afford multi-million dollar homes. This is theft.

Gerald Smith
Dear Members of California Coastal Commission,

One of the most precious benefits of living in our great state is the right to enjoy our 1,100 miles of shoreline. This right, protected by the State Coastal Act of 1976, insures public access to the unique beauty, serenity, and peace found only at the place where the vast ocean meets the shore. Whether it is sandy or rocky, calm or wild, the California coast is a sacred place of renewal. It must remain accessible to all people, not reserved for the use (or inattention) of a small percentage of the richest landowners in our state.

We, the people of California, are relying on you to expand, not restrict the rights of everyone to breathe the ocean air, play wave tag with our children and grandchildren, and build sand castles. The renewal of a walk along the beach or a splash in the waves must not be reserved for the wealthy at the expense of the rest of us. Please do the job you are entrusted to do and use your power for the benefit of all Californians.

With appreciation and high expectations,

Ina Scott
Lancaster, CA
Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the proposed settlement agreement with the Hollister Ranch. As a property owner on the Gaviota Coast for more than 40 years and full time resident, and as someone actively involved in conserving and restoring the natural resources of the region, I have some comments based on my perspective which I would like you to consider.

1. The public clamor over what is perceived as a “weak” settlement (since it does not open the Hollister Ranch up to much greater public access) is understandable. I have no doubt the State extracted the maximum settlement they could, so the settlement is ultimately a reflection of the strength or weakness of the State’s position. I hope the Commission will be briefed on why the law supports the Hollister Ranch position that the YMCA offer to dedicate was legally flawed.

2. The public has no idea of the terrain and topography of this part of the coast and how difficult this would make it to implement the offer to dedicate, had it been legally enforceable. I know your staff and the Coastal Conservancy staff are well aware of this issue and I hope you will listen to them.

3. If we assume for a moment that the State could require much greater public access to the Hollister Ranch, I believe this would be a huge mistake and contrary to many of the goals of the Coastal Act. The Hollister Ranch and the adjacent Dangermond Preserve are, combined, a 40,000 acre private conservation area and wildlife preserve. Both properties allow limited, “managed” public access in order to protect the unique and increasingly rare natural resources they contain. Managers of both properties recognize the harm to these resources that would come from increased public access. Even a settlement agreement whereby the State would receive more public access to the Hollister Ranch would create a similar controversy about the harm to the resources this would likely entail. Maintaining these natural resources as an example of how Southern California “used to be” is an important public benefit which these two ranches provide at no cost to the public. (The State has had several opportunities to purchase each of these ranches over the past 50 years, at below then-market values, and declined.)

4. Finally, the State and the Hollister Ranch have each invested tremendous amounts of time and money to reach the settlement. Both parties have committed to stand by the agreement, which has been signed by the Commission Executive Director, the State Attorney General’s office, and the State Conservancy Executive Director. For the State to now walk away from its commitment will damage the ability to reach a settlement in the future and put at risk the benefits this settlement offers. These officers are obligated under the terms of the settlement that they have signed to oppose anything which is intended to invalidate the agreement.
Sincerely, Doug Campbell
Gaviota, CA
Dear Commissioners,

Many thanks for the work that you do to protect our coastline. I am a Gaviota resident, and spend as much time as possible fishing and surfing the area. After careful consideration, I am in support of your pending settlement with the Hollister Ranch Owners Association. This is obviously a very complicated and delicate issue for our coastline. Based on the history and geographic challenges, this is a very good deal for the public. Adding the very generous stretch of Hollister Ranch beach to the public inventory is a big win for the public. Especially considering the facts of this particular case.

The media covering this issue seems to leave out many key issues, and has led to uninformed public outcry. This is clearly by design to undermine the terms of the settlement. I have not seen a single article about the specific legalities of YMCA easement issue, and why this settlement was created. This is a key part of this scenario that is purposefully left out of articles, and it makes a real difference in the story of these legal proceedings.

The concerns brought up by Steve Lopez of the LA Times about the dangers of navigating into the new public beach area are over-exaggerated. Hundreds of boats and ocean craft already utilize the local waters for access into the area for recreational activities every year. I have been boating into Hollister/Bixby/Cojo Ranches for decades. There are many ways to predict weather and winds to determine if it is safe to make the voyage. Usually when the weather is unfavorable for boating up there, the conditions are not pleasant for surfing, fishing or general recreational activities. When it is too windy, you can legally walk in along the beach from Gaviota State Park to reach the various surf breaks near the new public license area. One way to dramatically increase the volume of public use, especially to the new license area, is to fix and restore the hoist at Gaviota State Park. That would instantly add another way to access to area by boat.

This settlement is the best possible outcome for the public based on the facts of this case. It was carefully thought out by all agencies involved in the lawsuit. The Coastal Commission has a duty to defend the settlement from any legal proceedings with the intended to invalidate it. It is a big win for the public, and needs to be completed for the good of our south coast community.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

All my best,

Ryan Harrington
Dear Coastal Commission,

I’m in full support the December 2017 settlement entered into between the California Coastal Commission and Hollister Ranch regarding public access. This is a settlement that preserves the last piece our coastline in its natural state. I speak for myself and many others who applaud the Coastal Commission’s agreement with the Hollister Ranch authorities in preserving the correct balance of public access and environmental protection. Please do not be swayed by the uninformed or vested interests who want to ruin this settlement.

Sincerely,

Tony Allison
From: Tom Palenscar
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: The proposed settlement for the Hollister Ranch is a great deal – lets go!
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 1:23:56 PM
Attachments: Hollister Ranch.docx
The limited increase of a maximum of 480 individuals per year to Cuarto Beach through a Ranch-managed access program will be paid for by public funds earmarked for the realization of the CA Coastal Trail and beach access at the Ranch. The settlement allows for the inappropriate use of public money.

Arthur Kennedy
Isla Vista, CA
Dear Commissioners,

I am a Santa Barbara Land Owner, Surfer, Santa Barbara Business Owner and an Expert Witness in Highway Safety. I moved to Santa Barbara in 1969. I have been surfing for over 50 years. In the 70’s and 80’s I was on occasion, able to surf the Hollister Ranch by boat access, beach access and by invitation. It is a magical pristine place, free of trash, crowds and traffic. Most knowledgeable dedicated surfers would be very sad to see the lands of the Hollister Ranch invaded by hoards of out-of-town Surfers.

But, more importantly as an Expert Witness, I am aware of the significance of a Legal Settlement. Getting opposing parties to agree to a Settlement is typically only achieved after huge investments or research and financial cost. I believe this judge was careless in opening the issues up to an uninformed public. After all parties signed an agreement.

Of course the Average Joe wants more accessibility to land and beaches. In our current political environment mistrust abounds. But, I beseech you to defer to those that are knowledgeable based on direct involvement in the relevant issues.

Please Support The Settlement.

Thank you,
Bill Broadhead

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile
Dear Sir or Madam:

The term “public access” has been misused too many times under the Coastal Act under the banner of tearing down fences, while too often ignoring the Coastal Act’s parallel mandate of protecting and preserving the natural environment. The proper balance has been struck in this settlement. This is truly the last piece of the Southern California coastline in its natural state, and it should be respected and preserved that way.

Yours truly,

Thomas J. Kennedy III, M.D. (a third generation Californian)

900 Adella Avenue

Coronado, CA 92118
Commissioner,

Recently I have read many articles written about The Hollister Ranch and YMCA deal. As a individual lucky enough to visit The Ranch roughly two times per year, I felt it necessary to reach out and provide my support to you regarding your decision.

In addition to maintaining the beach’s pristine condition that has been superbly maintained for decades with hard work and care, there are other factors driving the need to maintain The Ranch’s privacy and seclusion. The Ranch is home to many species, which owners and visitors have maintained protection of. There is concern this protection may be difficult to maintain if access to The Ranch becomes easier to gain. The Ranch is also home to cattle and is one of the last working cattle ranches. The conservation of these species are cherished by current owners and visitors.

Additionally, after surfing at The Ranch’s beaches, it is important to understand the danger present. With a rugged terrain, rocky waters, and powerful waves, The Hollister Ranch beaches are not safe for beginner beachgoers with no lifeguards present.

I understand the public’s desire to gain full access to The Ranch, but feel there are many reasons that require this nature preserve to be maintained for more decades to come. Thank you for your hard work, it is appreciated.

Michelle
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the settlement with the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

As a native California resident, botanist, and graduate of University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as a mother, water sports enthusiast, and beachgoer keenly interested in matters affecting our wild lands and the coast, I am particularly encouraged that you have worked with landowners and that public access will be carefully managed to ensure that sensitive coastal resources are preserved and protected.

This is a favorable solution to an extremely complicated situation within a very narrow set of parameters. The extensive research and work done by your staff and commissioners is to be commended.

In reading comments, it is apparent that opponents voicing their criticism of the commission do not realize that the settlement is a culmination of years of study to find the best solution which both protects the coast and increases access to it.

I trust that the commission will stand by their decision and legal commitment by finalizing this settlement as agreed and signed by the Commission Executive Director; the State Conservancy Executive Director; and the State Attorney General’s office.

Thank you for your service to the State of California and your commitment to protecting the coast and its beaches.

Respectfully yours,
Deborah E. Shaw Booth
7400 Cathedral Oaks Rd.
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 687-1530
Goleta, CA 93118
C-27 License #696078
WBE Certified
(805) 687-1530
dshawlandscape.com
I strongly favor walk-in access to the public portion of Hollister Ranch beach.

Dana Roth
Pasadena, CA
Dear Commissioners,

I was born and raised in Southern California, I love the beauty in California more than anywhere. I’ve traveled extensively through my life, and always come back to the beauty of California.

The Santa Barbara coast has been my home for over 35 years. I have been coming to visit most of my life. I remember when I was going to Santa Barbara City College, I wrote an essay on the Chumash native Americans who resided in this area. One of the things that astonished me was there love for the land, and their spiritual connection to it. They lived on the this coastline for over 10,000 years, they honored the land. What they called Cojo, the western gate, it is there spiritual vortex where they ascend to their heaven.

I live on the east side of Alegria Canyon, everyone I know everyone on the Ranch believes that it is their duty to take care of the land, continue to preserve its beauty, and indigenous nature.

So much of our coastline in California has been
ruined, this part of the coast has stayed the same because of what people do to preserve its natural beauty.

The lawsuit with the Hollister Ranch is complicated, risky, and had an uncertain outcome for the State. The Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Conservancy did the right thing.

Please hold up the ruling of the coastal commission, they worked long and hard to see this was the right thing to do.

Kind regards,

David Vartabedian.
Re: Beach Access at Hollister Ranch

To the California Coastal Commission and State Coastal Conservancy:

I am strongly against allowing public access to the Beach at Hollister Ranch. I have visited Hollister Ranch beaches a couple of times in the past through an owner who is a friend. I was immediately impressed with how clean the beaches were and how much wildlife flourished in the tidepools. I think we have very few wildlife sanctuaries left and I would like to minimize human interference.

Sincerely,

Natalie Bausch Esq.

310-308-3991
July 1, 2018

To the Coastal Commission,

I am writing this email to encourage you to accept and not change the agreement that was recently made with the owners of the Hollister Ranch regarding access to the beaches at Hollister Ranch. The agreement is a fair one and preserves the balance between public access to the California coastline as well as protecting private property rights. I have witnessed the unspoiled pristine beauty of this stretch of coastline, and it is important to preserve this coastline for future generations.

It is currently accessible by boat, kayak, paddleboard, and walking in at low tide. I have accessed this stretch of coastline for decades via these methods. It is true that I could not park my car in a paved parking lot and just walk 15 feet to the beaches at Hollister Ranch, however, the extra effort has always been worth it to experience the natural unspoiled beauty of this coastline. Hollister Ranch has done a remarkable and underappreciated effort to maintain this natural beauty as stewards of their working cattle ranch. Hollister Ranch should be applauded for their efforts.

Only a few miles away, there are at least 3 State Parks that provide wonderful access and public facilities available to all, including people with disabilities. Refugio State Beach, El Capitan State Beach, and Gaviota State Beach are all accessible, developed parks that provide access to the same beautiful California coastline. In many ways they are even better because of the recreational and sanitary facilities that are available at these parks which do not exist at Hollister Ranch.

I drive often along the coastal stretch from Gaviota to Santa Barbara. This entire coastline is magnificent, yet there are many beaches along this stretch that are not accessible to the public because they cross private ranch land. I certainly would never expect these private ranches to allow me to drive across their private property to reach the beach. These beaches are, however, accessible via boat, kayak, paddleboards, or hiking along the beach.

The YMCA settlement the Commission made with Hollister Ranch is a fair one that should be upheld and implemented. I urge you to accept it as negotiated without changes.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Henry
117 N. Silver Shoals
Shell Beach, CA 93449
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the matter of the YMCA Offer to Dedicate settlement with the Hollister Ranch. I am a former editor of *Surfer* and *Surfing* Magazines and *The Los Angeles Times*. I was born in Santa Barbara, California and grew up in Santa Cruz. I’m a surfer, paddler, beach volleyball player, and am currently an environmental professional.

I was glad to hear that a settlement had been reached in the case of the YMCA Offer to Dedicate and the Hollister Ranch. I respected all parties for finding common ground in such a delicate and complicated suit, and it supported my experience that the Commission and the Conservancy do well to protect both the interests of the public and of private land owners whenever they are in conflict.

I am writing to express my support of the settlement for several reasons. First and foremost, it always seemed to me that to claim an easement established to provide private access across private land could be offered up as public by anyone other than the property owner is unlawful. Many legal precedents against such a claim can be found in past court decisions reached in the State of California.

I also believe the settlement is the best path forward as it provides for increased public use of the area while preserving local ecosystems and natural resources. The settlement also avoids continued litigation which will drain valuable state resources and funds, and possible result in less valuable outcome for all parties involved.

Please consider moving forward with the current, agreed-upon settlement with Hollister Ranch in the YMCA Offer to Dedicate case.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,
Jason Smith
Commissioners:

Thank you for your commitment to protecting California’s coast. My name is Nate Alker and I live in Goleta, CA with my wife and two (soon to be three) kids. I am a middle school teacher and an outdoor enthusiast. I grew up on the Hollister Ranch from birth until I was old enough to move out. I am extremely thankful that I am able to now share the pristine property with my kids.

I am writing to let you know that I support the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. I believe that the settlement, which was well thought out through several years and guided by the courts, signed by the Commission Executive Director, the State Conservancy Executive Director, and the State Attorney General’s office provides the best option for both the public and the private landowners to ensure that this sensitive coastal resource remains well preserved.

Furthermore, the State’s weak legal position – claiming public access rights in Hollister Ranch under the Offer to Dedicate signed in 1982 by YMCA (a then neighbor of Hollister Ranch) – is contrary to 100 years of California property law. Although the YMCA held an appurtenant easement over the Hollister Ranch property, they had no legal power to give away a public access easement (or license) on the property. By walking away from the carefully negotiated settlement, the Commission will damage its ability to reach a settlement in the future and perhaps tarnish its public image.

I believe that the Commission did the right thing by entering into a fair settlement and needs to honor that agreement and the sound reasons for the settlement. The protection of California’s great coast is of the most importance to me and my family, so thank you for your work to this point. I would encourage the commission to continue this great work by standing by its word and protecting this stretch of sensitive coastline so that our children and our children’s children may be able to enjoy it as we presently know it to be.

Thank you for your service to California.

Sincerely,
Nate Alker
Commissioners:
Thank you for your ongoing work protecting the California coastline. I feel very fortunate to be retired in San Diego where I can go surfing at Sunset Cliffs and take my grandchildren to our many lovely beaches. Our family also enjoys beach holidays to the Central Coast and the Hollister Ranch.

While I understand how complicated and controversial the public access issue for the coastline between Gaviota and Jalama is, I am writing to let you know that I support the Settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

I feel that this agreement is a reasonable compromise between no access and unrestricted, damaging, and dangerous public access without ANY infrastructure or regulatory staffing to support it. The risks of wildfire, to say nothing about harm to endangered species and injury to visitors are major.

In addition, I feel that the legal basis of the YMCA Offer to Dedicate is very shaky. It seems to me that they offered an easement without proper ownership and totally ignored private property rights. I suspect that returning this issue to the courts will be very costly and in the end result in no public access.

Finally, I am very concerned about the precedent that the Commission would be setting by discarding a complicated agreement that was reached by the parties concerned through due process and careful consideration. I think that this will cause future concerned parties to take a very skeptical view of reaching settlements with the Commission in other areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Scheidlinger
Dear Commissioners,

My family has lived on the California coast since 1875. I was born in Orange County and I remember the inception of the California Coastal Commission. My wife and I reside at the East side of Alegria Creek and the ocean in Gaviota. We are directly affected by this easement problem. We are encouraged with the current agreed upon settlement. We can put to rest the terrible, useless, previous agreement with the YMCA and the California Coastal Commission. The Commission should accept the settlement that their staff and the Attorney General as drafted.

We feel as though the plan of an unfunded transport system is unworkable and the plan will have a stop issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

We are the current stewards of the Gaviota coastline, PLEASE do not destroy all of this nature, just to to exercise a misguided, obsolete plan submitted by unvested parties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fred Rohrs
Dear Commissioners,

I support the settlement in the case in question.

It is unfortunate that the media and several well-organized groups have played this issue up to a position that doesn’t address the matter at hand. If the disappointed public were made more aware of the benefits to the people of California that were obtained by the Coastal Commission, they might be more supportive.

Please encourage the final certification of the settlement.

Thank you,

Jeff Kruthers

P.S. My wife has run the Tidepool School for over 20 years.

Jeff Kruthers
jeff.kruthers@gmail.com
805-567-1008
Commissioners:

My name is Ryan Fell and I am a landowner in Hollister Ranch, Santa Barbara County. I was born and raised in Santa Barbara and truly respect the work the Coastal Commission does to protect our coastline.

I am writing this email in support of the settlement you entered into with Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate. Given the lengthy litigation and the carefully detailed settlement agreement, I believe the settlement is the best option for allowing public access to Hollister Ranch. The settlement ensures that public access is safe, suitable and protective of the sensitive coastal ecosystem.

Those of us who hold a property interest in the Ranch love it for its dedication to maintaining the land and the coastline in its natural state. Throwing away the settlement will only damage the Commission’s ability to reach settlement in the future and will tarnish its public image.

Therefore, I ask you to hold firm and continue forward with the proposed settlement. Thank you for your time and for your dedication to the State of California.

Ryan Fell
805-252-8473
Commissioners,
I wanted to send my sincerest thanks to you all for your commitment to protecting California’s coastline. Especially for your support of the settlement pertaining to the Hollister Ranch over the YMCA Offer to Dedicate.

I am an avid surfer and beachgoer from Santa Barbara having the privilege of enjoying these waters for the past 25 years of living here. I’ve surfed the Gaviota coast via boat, paddle-board and as a guest at the Hollister Ranch.

I would encourage anyone who loves the ocean to pursue avenues to explore this rich coastline. I just think opening the Ranch to the public after it being private for over 100 years would ruin something so special. I may sound elitist but opening public access to an area so sacred would turn it into a mess. Bringing trash, traffic and overcrowding. If people want to explore this area boats, kayaks and paddle-boards are a sustainable approved alternate method. The ocean is open for enjoyment. It just takes some effort.

The Western Gate was the name given by the Chumash Indians to this area around Point Conception. This coastline is considered sacred and thought to be a passage to the next life. It has remained relatively unspoiled over the years and is truly one of California’s finest treasures!

Sincerely,
Trey Brooks
Santa Barbara, California

Sent from my iPhone
Item F 5
Hollister Ranch Settlement Agreement

Informational briefing
July 13, 2018

CORRESPONDENCE

As of June 20, 2018, the Coastal Commission has received 798 Public Comment letters.
Commissioners,

Please reconsider your plan for Hollister Ranch and increase public access to the beach. Thank you,

Sandra McCanne
San Juan Capistrano
CA 92675

Sent from my iPhone
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

Most Californians are counting on you to maintain public access to the beaches bordering Hollister Ranch. It's so painful to watch the Common Good get twisted in favor of the wealthy, well-fixed few to the exclusion of just about everyone else. It's not only shameful, it is out of compliance with what I have understood to be long-standing California Law: That all Citizens are guaranteed by law access to California beaches via current existing easements.

Please sustain and support this right; do not surrender and restrict it to merely the privileged.

Thank you for your concern in this matter,

Kim G.

kim_grossman@sbcglobal.net
Dear Commissioners,
I am writing to ask you to reconsider your plan to so significantly restrict access to the Hollister Ranch coastline.

I write as a long-term resident of Southern California—63 years—who loves the beach. I grew up in Santa Barbara and spent many happy days on the beach or in the water swimming and sailing. As an adult, I haven’t been able to live closer than a 30 minute drive, but I still seek every opportunity I can to get to the smell of the saltwater, the feel of the ocean breeze, and the sound of the waves.

I have strong feelings about making the beaches available to all those who love them and would protect them. Rather than giving such exclusive access to the people rich enough to buy property, I encourage you to creatively find a way to protect and preserve this coastal area without permanently locking out so many of this state’s residents.

Respectfully yours,
Lisa Myers
1605 Alta Park Lane
La Canada, CA 91011
Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Please fight for expansion of public beach access rather than less.
It is a state treasure
Please protect it for all

Bret Witter, MD
Hello,

I’ve been wanting to visit this beach for years after I heard from friends how beautiful it is. I would love the opportunity to do so and find it only fair for walk-in access. Not sure how homeowners can dictate that.

Thank you.
As a native Californian, I think the right to access the beach at Hollister Ranch should be by path from Gaviota State Beach. The state of Hawaii has required access to many private beaches, and it has worked out. Thank you. Wendy Van Vechten
Dear Commissioners,

I am relying on you to expand not constrict the rights of "everyone" to have access to the 8 1/2 miles of beach at "the Ranch."
Think about it. What is the purpose of the Coastal Act? The easement that predates the 14,000 acres' formal development needs to be respected, so that everyone, not just the wealthy, have access to the beach. The law supports the fact that the beaches belong to all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Johnson
6152 Eaglecrest Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Please consider allowing access to the Hollister Ranch. At the very least, allow access via a walking path or bike path. This is a beautiful part of our state. As of now, only very rich owners can access this area. Everyone should have access to all beaches. That is how it is in Hawaii and that is how it should be in California.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Greg Maine

Sent from my iPad
The proposed agreement is unfair to the general public. People without the resources and/or physical stamina will be unable to make use of the beaches they are entitled to.
Please do not let public access to the Hollister beaches get any smaller! Everyone should have access to those beaches and I am relying on you to make certain this gets done. Do not let the exclusive community control who gets to that beach.

Sincerely,
Chris & Helen Griffin
Commissioners, the State Coastal Act of 1976 was passed to protect California's coastline, all 1,100 miles of it, to the mean high tide line and provide access to everyone. That act has been threatened over the years; more recently, Vinod Khosla is pursuing all the way to the Supreme Court his demand that his property south of Half Moon Bay be kept private. Unlimited money in the bank sure helps the wealthy pursue what they want. Now the Hollister Ranch development threatens to limit public access to a few escorted groups, leaving the rest of the public to sweat in our inland counties, dream of the beach, and see it only in our minds' eye. No squiggling our toes in the sand of that 8.5 miles of coastline while waves rush shoreward, no picnics on the beach with our families, no kids building sand castles and discovering the wonders of wading in cold, fresh ocean waters.

Those who are hoping to buy land in the Hollister Ranch development can afford to fly anywhere they want and enjoy whatever recreation they want. Millions of us in California don't have that luxury and rely on public access to the incredible beauty of California's coastline and its many other natural wonders.

Judge Colleen Sterne, please remember the rights of the many and require the few to back off California's coastline and allow full public access for all. And while we're at it, how about providing pathways, picnic areas, shade, and even showers to refresh ourselves after a dip. O.K. that's asking too much (except it's not), but at least give us full access to the beaches and coastline of this wondrous state.

Respectfully,

Libby Vincent
1019 N. Heritage Drive
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760-463-1199
Please provide an access resolution that works for people of all incomes. The current solution is dangerous and does not provide sufficient access. It has been my dream to surf here and hope there is a way to make that happen.

Thanks,

Simon Lamb

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commissioners,

Please uphold one of your principal mandates which is to protect the coastline for all citizens, not just the fortunate few who have property on the beach. Not doing so could justly be considered a dereliction of duty. Having to approach a beach by boat is truly a ridiculous proposition. Thank you for your attention.

Rose Nebeker
Dear Coastal Commissioners:

As a lifelong surfer and author of the book, "The Saltwater Wilderness," I write to implore you not to give in to commercial and financial interests, and to maintain and, when necessary, expand land access to all of California's wonderful coast. The beaches of our state are NOT just for the wealthy.

The easement allowing access to the Hollister Ranch beaches predates the formation of the elite housing development there. It is only the immense wealth and commensurate legal firepower of the Hollister landowners that make open land access a legal issue. Please do not give in to them, even though it is the easy way out. It is bad enough that billionaire Vinod Khosla thinks he owns the beach at Half Moon Bay.

Your decision in this case will have far-flung repercussions. Does money trump the law (the Coastal Act of 1976), or do the rights of the people prevail? That, I am afraid, is the question.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Glenn Vanstrum, M.D.
La Jolla, CA
92037
I have been reading about your recent decision to constrict the right of everyone to have access to our beautiful California coastline.

I believe this is not in the best interest of California and its citizens, many of whom come to California's coast to relax, unwind, spend time with their families. It is a respite for the majority of people who don't have the money to live on the coast.

Please do the right thing.

Thank You,
To the Commissioners:

One would hope that, after the mess created by the commission several months ago, you would recall cries of “foul” from the people of this state. Now it appears that you are about to play the same old game again! Is history about to repeat itself? I sincerely hope not!

David Lyon
Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Please give citizens footpath access to the coastline of Hollister Ranch. NO to kayaks and boats! We need coastal access via LAND NOT WATER!!!

Thank you,
Bruce Sutherland
Pasadena, Ca.
I grew up on the beaches of Southern Ca. I am 76 years old, so I remember the openness of coast line; available to all. I have gradually seen that decrease over my lifetime, so in places like Malibu and Playa del Rey one can barely see the ocean for the huge beachfront properties. I follow all the news reports about Hollister Ranch and Half Moon Bay, and while Hollister is occupied by the likes of Jackson Browne and Yvonne Chonard of Patagonia (both who do amazing things for our ecology), I do not condone that greedy jerk in Half Moon Bay. That spot has always been a wonderful stop for me, my family, my surfing sons and friends, and he should not be allowed to appropriate it. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,
Linda Phillips
Santa Monica Native
Pacific Palisades Resident (we won the NO OIL battle against Occidental Petroleum back in the ’70’s) and currently of Ojai California
California Coastal Commission:

We can be proud of our history of maintaining access to the beautiful California coast for all.

Establish your part in this wonderful legacy by NOT CONSTRUCTING access to the beach at Hollister Ranch.

Every child and adult must be able to enjoy nature's beauty for their health and to assure they are good stewards of the earth health.

Jean & John Culp
132 S. Country Club Road
Glendora, CA 91741
jazcfhc@gmail.com
A life long native, I think it is essential that coastal access be expanded rather than restricted. Access is what the law intended.

All Californians deserve as much access to our coast as possible. I see no principled basis, in the case of Hollister Ranch, to permit anything less than full access.

Michael Duran
Pasadena
As a life long resident of California I find it surprising to say the least that the coastal commission is actually thinking about allowing individuals to control our beautiful coastal areas. I've been following some of the issues before your commission and would like you to know that this area should not be open to any negotiation by anyone who owns property on the California coast since the people of California, all people, own that access to the coastline. You know as well as I giving any one person or group of people access means those people will now dictate to others how the area will be used and who will access it. Further, giving one person that ability sets the precedence for those others who will try to position themselves through coastal property ownership to obtain that same control. Our coastline will be lost forever!!!

If this means fighting both tooth and nail in a court of law to protect these rights of the California people then so be it, as once this protection of the coast is relinquished it will be impossible to reverse and this ability to control these areas will be forever lost.

I urge you and your commissioners to do the right thing and protect access to the coastline for ALL the people of California.

Regards
Dennis Becking
Dear Commissioners:

I strenuously object to the proposed settlement for Hollister Ranch. In no way does this satisfy the mandate that the coastal beaches will be open to the public. These property owners have no right to appropriate the beach as their own. We, the people of California, own these beaches as citizens of this state. For you to give this right of ours away, as proposed, is a serious breach of your responsibility as a coastal commissioner. Do your duty and fight for unlimited public access to this beach-- not to do so sets a horrible precedent and perpetuates the elitist attitude in our society today.

Rita M. Harley
Burbank, CA
To Whom It May Concern:

California beaches should belong to the people of California. Access to those beaches should not belong to the select few who can afford to buy the multimillion-dollar beachfront property, but should be made public so all can enjoy the beaches. Hollister Ranch owners understandably do not want people driving across their property and turning the beachfront into a circus as some other California beaches are, but it doesn't give them the right to keep everyone out. Other beachfront property has easements to allow people if not to drive at least to walk to the public beaches, and that's what they should do at Hollister Ranch. The suggestion made by Tam Horn Chase in the Los Angeles Times article dated June 16, 2018 that pedestrian access should be allowed from Gaviota State Beach along a 2-mile trek to Hollister Beach was a good one, and one I support. I also assert that handicapped access should be made available not just for veterans but for the General Public. I sincerely hope that the Santa Cruz County judge will consider these suggestions as a much better alternative to the current agreement between the state and the wealthy landowners at Hollister Ranch.

Sincerely,

Colleen Davis
Dixon, California
To the California Coastal Commission:

I have been reading about the above mentioned controversy for years. I hope you will continue to protect our state’s precious coastal areas by allowing the public access to the beaches in this area. To allow access only in small, pre-arranged groups is outrageous at what should be a public beach.

I have lived in Laguna Beach for decades. I have observed one private beach after another be opened to the public because of the rulings of the Coastal Commission, and rightly so. Yes, private beaches are nice, or beaches where few people have access because they don’t know where the secret stairs are - but that’s not fair. We are all residents of this state and we all deserve a day at the beach.

Please continue to fulfill the obligation of the Coastal Commission by opening the Hollister ranch property to the general public.

Thank you for your contributions to our state,
Anita Dobbs
949.637.2717
To the California Coastal Commission:

I have been reading about the above mentioned controversy for years. I hope you will continue to protect our state's precious coastal areas by allowing the public access to the beaches in this area. To allow access only in small, pre-arranged groups is outrageous at what should be a public beach.

I have lived in Laguna Beach for decades. I have observed one private beach after another be opened to the public because of the rulings of the Coastal Commission, and rightly so. Yes, private beaches are nice, or beaches where few people have access because they don't know where the secret stairs are - but that's not fair. We are all residents of this state and we all deserve a day at the beach.

Please continue to fulfill the obligation of the Coastal Commission by opening the Hollister ranch property to the general public.

Thank you for your contributions to our state,
Anita Dobbs
949.637.2717
All the beaches in California belong to all of the people, rich and poor! Please enforce the law by granting unlimited and unescorted access to the beaches along Hollister Ranch. The coastal commission has a badly tarnished reputation to fix. This preliminary ruling, if it becomes final, will only serve to make it worse.

Gary & Kate Belanger
ggandkate@aol.com
Honorable Commissioners:

The coastline that fronts the Hollister Ranch is beautiful, remote, and well protected. It is a treasure that deserves continued protection, but should be more accessible to the public. After decades of legal battles the Coastal Commission's decision to allow only limited public access to the Ranch goes against the original intent of the Coastal Act. The Commission should consider broadening public access by allowing the public more opportunities to explore the Hollister Ranch shoreline.

For an alternative to restricted access, the Commissioners can look to the public access policy of the Arroyo Hondo Preserve, owned by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County and located along the Gaviota Coast. The Preserve is open to the public on the first and third weekends of the month from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. If Hollister Ranch property owners decided to offer similar access, they could dictate which areas the public can visit, limit the number of people per day, and/or require that visitors are led on their explorations by a docent. If the law allows, they could charge a fee to visitors to offset the cost of supervision. If only school students on field trips and private groups are allowed access to the Ranch, there is no real public access.

Thank you for considering these remarks.

Marjorie Popper  
1875 Still Meadows Road  
Solvang, CA 93463
I was a LACO Beach Lifeguard in the 1970's. As such one of my duties was to make sure the beach access gates were open and not locked by local land owners in Malibu. The beach is public property up to the mean high tide line and access was not to be denied. It is very disturbing the the Hollister ranch is seeking to close a public easment that predates the private development seeking to shutdown beach access. If this is allowed to proceed private landowners up and down the coast will also follow suit and shutdown coastal access. It's time to do the right thing and keep the Hollister Ranch access open as it was when I was a young surfer.
Judge Colleen Sterne and California Coastal Commissioners –

I am writing to express my deep dissatisfaction with the proposed settlement at Hollister Ranch. To allow a group of extremely deep pocketed land owners, the vast majority of whom do not live at Hollister Ranch full time, to fence off from free and unfettered public access the beach that they live near, is unconscionable.

The proposed settlement with limited, scheduled and bureaucratic access provisions for partial use of an extremely small portion of the beach areas in question is inadequate. Let’s not make a mockery of the California Coastal Act by allowing this privatization of the public realm.

Thanks -
Stuart Magruder, Architect
Studio Nova A Architects, Inc.
4337 West 59th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90043
323 292-0909 (o)
smagruder@studionovaa.com
www.studionovaa.com

Licensed in the states of California and New York
www.linkedin.com/in/stuartmagruder

Specializing in highly sustainable contemporary architecture.

President of AIA Los Angeles, 2012
National Young Architect Award, 2012
AIA California Council John Bolles Fellow
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

The people of California have the right to unobstructed and unlimited beach access to all California beaches. We expect the Coastal Commission to uphold these rights by ensuring unlimited and unobstructed access, including access to the beach below Hollister Ranch. Accordingly, the Coastal Commission must not agree to the limitations of beach access, imposed by the owners of Hollister Ranch.

Free beach access cannot be reserved only for the wealthy, but it is the right of ALL the people of California.

Please right the wrong that you have agreed to, for the sake of all of California.

Thank you,
Gisela Adams
 Commissioners:

The State Coastal Act of 1976 was written to protect California’s 1,100 miles of shoreline and to guarantee the right of the people to access the coast and its incomparable beaches. I am dismayed and appalled that you would even consider denying access to the public to the central California coast adjacent to Hollister Ranch. The historic easement was in place before the Hollister Ranch development. Why is it not being honored?

Your charge, as Commissioners, is to ensure that the public is able to enjoy California’s beaches and shores regardless of their economic status. We rely on you to carry out this mandate of conservation as well as ensuring public access to enjoy this state treasure. Access by ocean is no access at all! Limited access for specially chosen groups is exclusionary and does not fulfill the intent of the State Coastal Act.

Please reconsider your acquiescence to the pressure of big money and real estate developers. The people of California rely on you to expand rather than to constrict our rights to enjoy the beauty of coastal California.

Sincerely,

Patricia T. Reed
72810 Tamarisk St.
Palm Desert CA 92260

pattyreedplmdsrt@aol.com
Dear Coastal Commission,

Please honor and respect the California State Coastal Act of 1976!! The California coast is one of our states most precious resources and it should belong to ALL residents and visitors, not just a select few who have more money then they know what to do with!! It just shouldn’t be that anyone can just buy their way into owning for themselves what rightly belongs to every citizen in the state.

Hollister Ranch is but one example of this kind of attempt of the uber-wealthy trying to have it all for themselves. The same is happening in Half Moon Bay!

Please remember your mission:

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination.

A finding for the wealthy Hollister Ranch folks would be a most serous error, the coast should belong to us ALL!!

Thank you for listening/reading,

Susan Dischler
All,

I am writing as a concerned citizen as well as the committee chair of the Santa Barbara Newcomers hiking group. As an avid hiker, cyclist, and kayaker I am concerned about your proposed settlement with Hollister Ranch. I understand that the judge has requested public discussion before things go final.

I cannot possibly know all of the details and complexities, but this does not pass the basic “sniff test” with respect to the right for public beach access. It seems you are giving the Hollister people exactly what they want—no reasonable way for the public to access the beach. This is exactly what Vinod Koshla has been fighting for up north and seems like a dangerous precedent.

I am a relative newcomer to CA, but I do know people who have special access to Hollister Ranch because of who they know. I can tell you that I have never seen this kind of entitlement in many years of living in New England, and I never expected to see in on the California coast line that you protect. I guess that surfers really do have a different set of rules than others—it’s almost comical to hear them talk about the guards, special access, harassment of foreign surfers, etc. My fear is that your decision will only encourage and empower this group to continue that tradition.

I believe that a fundamental tenant of the Commission is to protect the rights of all citizens to experience the beautiful California coast, and you are not doing your job if you allow the proposed “settlement” to go through. Thank you for listening.

Dave Ellenberger
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISION
06-11-2018

To the Members of The California Coastal Commission,

The time is now for you use the mandate granted to you by the people of California to open our 1100 mile coastline for public use. Immediately.

In recent years I’ve watched in stupefying disbelief as the Coastal Commission has surrendered to the monied interests of our most privileged and connected developers, celebrities and lobbyists.

The “Edge” from the band U2, David Geffen, billionaire Vinod Khosia and now the Hollister Ranch developers seem to have no trouble getting your attention. Their desire for privacy and exclusivity are endless. These suitors for your favor are only the tip of an iceberg that the public can see. What isn’t addressed are the luxury condo, golf course and private enclave developers who are below the waterline.

There seems to be no shortage of effort on your behalf in making sure their needs taken care of, at bargain prices. Concert tickets and access to circles of influence are pretty cheap perks for the exclusivity that they desire. I’m appalled that the public trust is up for sale at any price.

A locked gate, an access road to a pristine hillside and just enough secrecy and red tape to keep the undesirables, I mean the taxpayers of California, out.

Californias beaches (and parks) are one of the only public assets that all Californians can use for a reasonable investment. They are not for the privileged few.

So who do you work for? An exponentially expanding California population or your own personal, business and political interests.

My guess is that you feel the Coastal Commission is below the public radar and that we have other concerns. We do. But the hollowness of your intentions are visible and clear. Follow the money!

Do the right thing. Make OUR beaches accessible to all Californians.

Dan Quarnstrom
Los Angeles, CA

Sent from iCloud
To the Commissioners,

Respectfully I would like to voice my support for opening the Hollister Ranch to all.

We are relying on you to expand rather than conscript the rights of all of us to run into the cold water even on this most secluded stretches of our coast.

We look to you to protect our coasts so they can be enjoyed by all, not just a select few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPad
Barbara Lipkin
24948 Kit Carson Rd.
Hidden Hills, Ca. 91302
Blipkin@aol.com
Several years ago, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit some friends who owned property on Hollister Rancho. We were treated to the most incredible and beautiful expanse of shoreline we had ever seen. We are writing to encourage the Coastal Commission to increase public access to this magnificent California natural resource.

Thank you,

Roger and Danna King

Sent from my iPad
Dear Coastal Commissioners:

I would urge you to reconsider your recent decision regarding Hollister Ranch. The Coastal Commission has been such a blessing for Californians, allowing us to enjoy our beautiful coastline and keep it as a treasure for all of our citizens. This recent decision on Hollister Ranch does not live up to the goals and values of the Coastal Commission or of our State. I am a senior citizen and would love to be able to visit that beautiful stretch of coastline, but I am not capable of kayaking there. Why must it be that the very privileged residents are the only ones who will be afforded that joy? I respect their privacy and their property, but I, as a member of the public, should not be barred from public areas of our beautiful state. Please, please hold firm to our values.

Sincerely,

Mary Breskin
TO: Calif. Coastal Commission
Please use all efforts possible to keep California's coast/beaches easily accessible for all. Rather than restricting access it should be made easier for all to enjoy this natural resource. Hollister Ranch is a good place to start. Those owning land next to the coast bought knowing about public access to the beaches. Fair and reasonable access should be a given.
Thank you,

Don and Rusti Gold
Woodland Hills, CA
Public access over land should not be stopped by private landowners adjacent to/fronting the beach and surf area.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
Please don't shut off access to this beautiful stretch of beach. The beach is for everyone. It is one of the few pleasures in life that all should have access to, not just the wealthy. Give us walk-in access so that those willing to make the trek can enjoy the beach without creating issues with cars and crowds for the residents. Certainly a better compromise than just water access can be reached. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,
Jackie Fox

Sent from my iPad
I’m a native Californian and believe fervently in the public’s right to access the State’s incredible beaches. I do NOT support the current “compromise” solution for boat access to Hollister beach, and limited overland access for school kids. I believe trail access from Gaviota State Park should also be allowed. Thank you for considering this additional access feature.

Thomas F Gillett  
315 Westwood Lane  
Redlands, CA 92373

Sent from my iPhone
Please allow for the creation of a walking path from Gaviota State Beach to Hollister Ranch Beach.

Rebecca Jones
Long Beach, CA
Please consider changing the decision to only allow kayak access to the beaches at Hollister Ranch. In order for the trip to be completed safely requires skills beyond those of the casual kayaker. People that do not have these skills will attempt the trip. Some of these people will be injured or not come back at all.

The decision only granting access in this manner is really not granting access at all. If the Hollister Ranch property owners will not grant vehicle access, I would suggest the approval and creation of a coastal access trail enabling people to walk there.

This will save lives and have a minimal impact on the Hollister Ranch Property.

Thank you for considering an alternative.

Robert Zwissler
Darwin Zwissler
Axel Zwissler
Gretchen Renshaw
1138 18th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
My name is Gary Stewart, M.D. My address is 1377 Skyline Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. My e-mail is bertrandbartok@gmail.com I am writing in support of allowing a walking trail to the Hollister beach area from Gaviota State Park beach, as a compromise. Access by kayak is ~no access at all. Thank you.
I second walk in access but minimal development as proposed by LAtimes:

"I’d like to see people be able to walk in under their own power, and not be hassled by security."

He suggested a trail that begins at the Gaviota State Park beach, where there’s plenty of parking. A two-mile hike would be a lot easier than a two-mile kayak trip along a dangerous rocky coast.
Water access to the beach vs being able to walk in via an agreed upon path seems unfair & discriminating. If only we were all so rich that we could command our own private beaches or demand they be accessed by water only.
I hope the commission will reconsider water only access.

Sincerely,
T. Saarinen
The proposed settlement is inadequate and must include walk in access.
Thanks,
Russell Kerr

Sent from my iPad
Dear Madam/Sir,

I’m writing against the proposed settlement for Hollister Beach which allows a small group of extremely wealthy individuals to restrict access to the public’s beaches. Not only is this a bad agreement, but it sets a dangerous precedent. Please revoke the agreement and continue to protect the public’s full rights.

Sincerely,

Jesse Wolfson
I am writing to object to the proposed settlement giving up the public access right of way to the Hollister beaches. Aside from the issues of fairness to the public and open access to beaches, I think there may be a safety and liability issue. I am a physician, not a lawyer but the proposed sea access seems dangerous and almost certain to lead to loss of life when people try to access the beach by sea. If this is the proposed solution the safety of beach access must be studied before a settlement is finalized.

S. Khan, MD
Los Angeles, CA

Sent from my iPad
How dare a deal be made that pretty much excludes almost everybody from accessing Hollister Beach. Do the wealthy home-owners have no consciences? Are they really fine with folks perishing trying to reach what they think is their own beach? I am disgusted by these folks and would most certainly not pay money to see any movies made by the “Hollywood” film makers residing there. Please print a list of these wealth elitists in the LA Times so that I can make sure I never support their inclusiveness and lack of regard for those who have less in any way!

The State should NOT cave in to such a terrible deal for the residents of California!!
I think the public should be able to walk to the beach at Hollister Ranch. You shouldn't be able to buy property all the way down to the water.

Eileen Green
Tarzana, CA

Sent from my iPad
To Whom It May Concern,

I’m writing because I won’t be able to travel from Los Angeles to Santa Cruz for the follow-up hearing on the Hollister Ranch dispute, but wanted to share my feelings nonetheless.

I’ve been keeping-up on the case over the years, primarily through online updates and news and I’m disappointed to hear of the agreed upon settlement. I think it goes against the spirit of public access to the beaches, and (frankly) what it means to be Californian.

One of the most special parts of our great State is its commitment to every citizen as it applies to our shared natural resources, something myself and my family have enjoyed and been proud of for over 20 years (with the exception of our attempt to access the Hollister beach for a day trip that was thwarted by security guards.) The settlement regarding Hollister Ranch falls short of the high standards we - and our friends and family - hold dear, appreciate and, frankly, are entitled to by the State thanks to the hard work of so many people who have fought to protect access to the beaches for everyone.

It’s a shame that a select few can use their influence to carve off something that is for all. It’s a dramatic over-reach to assume that the current settlement somehow meets the spirit (even the letter?) of the standards set by the State. The current rules read like some kind of a mockery of the public, taunting them to even attempt to visit the beach like some locals-only surfer dudes protecting “their” break. I’m writing in the hope that you’ll reconsider your decision and find a more open and fair (to the public) solution that restores proper access to this beautiful part of the coastline. I, for one, support walking access to the beach through the ranch and intentionally limited parking to help control the influx of people.

Thanks for your time and consideration. It’s not OK for a select few to be selfish with California’s resources while hiding behind a claim that it’s somehow in the public’s best interest. That’s for us -the public, Californians - to decide and ultimately share the responsibility in. It’s time to open up that beach for real.

Regards, Matt Checkowski
I support public access to the hollister coast.

Sent from my iPhone
I don't understand how an agreement where 99.9 percent of the public is not allowed access to a beach could ever be considered. This Hollister deal is ridiculous and goes against everything we stand for. The beach is for everyone, not just a few rich jerks who want it all to themselves.

Let us all enjoy the beauty of this beach. Saying we can enjoy it if can somehow make it there by sea is idiotic.

I am ashamed that our government would allow a real so obviously catering to the rich and against the majority of people who live and visit here.

Kelly Safino
Why is the public always shut out of enclaves that are owned by wealthy people when the beaches belong to all?
Simply put, coastal access is coastal access. That was one of the reasons for creating a Coastal Commission. The California coast belongs to all Californians and implicit in that “belonging” is physical access. Please reconsider your response on limiting access and open Hollister Beach to everyone.

Edward Drenner

Sent from my iPad
To whom it may concern:
As an environmentalist, and a hard worker who supports our family and pays taxes, I would love to see Hollister beach open to the public as all California beaches are and should be. I don't understand why the Coastal Commission is making an exception for 1 beach. This is setting a very dangerous precedent. Once set, every landowner with beach front property will be lawyering up. Pretty soon us mere mortals won't be able to step foot on a beach without coughing up money for a hotel room. I do not want to see a parking lot or roads leading to Hollister. And of course I understand why the homeowners would want to keep this pristine beach all to themselves. A footpath leading to the beach would be fabulous. I love the idea of a 2 mile trail from Gaviota State Park. This would keep the area from becoming a circus. Only people who really want a relaxing day at the beach would be willing to hike in. With global warming and our beaches soon to disappear, are these home owners expecting us tax payers to foot the bill for preserving their beach when we’re not allowed to step foot on it or even see it? I've lived in Boca Raton and West Palm Beach, FL and the Outer Banks in NC. I've seen first hand what happens when beaches are allowed to be private. In no time at all we'll end up looking like Myrtle Beach, SC. Parts of it can be fun if you've rented a hotel room, other parts of it are an arm pit. Is that really what we want to turn our state into? Because once we set this precedent, there's no turning back.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read my long winded email.

Sincerely,

Kim Carroll
3858 Walnut Ave
Long Beach, CA 90807
Dear Commissioners, and others to whom it may concern,

I am very disappointed with the recent settlement that allows very limited access to the coast along the Hollister Ranch property. I recognize that it is primarily private property but the beach up to mean high tide is public yet this settlement does not give meaningful access to any but a select few or the hardiest of ocean kayakers, paddlers etc. and only along a small portion of the beach. I urge the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy and the court to reconsider and expand the areas where access to the dry sand is permitted, to consider a foot path to the coast that the public can avail itself of without risking life and limb.

Respectfully
Kenneth Palley
Santa Barbara California
805 722-4037
Hi,

Since the beach is public property and the Americans with Disabilities Act requires reasonable accommodations so that persons with disabilities can have equal access to places open to the public, this proposed “agreement” is a violation of public policy. It’s also erodes further the values of our state. Please don’t allow this. What a terrible precedent.

Sent from my iPhone
Good day,

I am informing you of my belief that there should be walking access to the beach, in Hollister Ranch. It’s just that simple. Look at the rest of the California coast, people have a right to beach access. Using the ocean to get there is too dangerous! Every death or accident that occurs at sea will be due to this agreement, if you just let people get there by sea.

Thanks,
Ted Pessin

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UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES IMPORTANT WARNING: This email (and any attachments) is only intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. You, the recipient, are obligated to maintain it in a safe, secure and confidential manner. Unauthorized redisclosure or failure to maintain confidentiality may subject you to federal and state penalties. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify us by return email, and delete this message from your computer.
Dear Sirs:

I find the recent deal regarding access to Hollister Ranch unacceptable. Frankly, it is a joke. The ordinary citizen still has no ability to enjoy the public's beaches there, even after this so-called deal go into effect.

I would rather California go into debt battling the rich homeowners to gain real access for all.

Or perhaps a hiking trail from Gaviota State Beach could be established. The distance would greatly reduce the traffic at the beach and still allow those who want to make an effort the access we have a right to.

You have been hoodwinked by the rich. The deal you propose is an outright robbery from the people of this great state.

Thomas Fogle
275 Pickett St.
Sonoma, CA 95476
Fogle.798@gmail.com
The agreement that parties have proposed to the judge is very disappointing when compared against the mission of the Coastal protection act. To restore safe access to the public but in keeping with what you have worked out with the Hollister group, I suggest you have the judge order a trail beginning at Gaviota State Park beach and proceeding two miles to the Hollister Ranch Beach. Two miles is more than most people are willing to hike but it would be a safer way to give access to those Californians wanting to visit this beach. Signage, refuse containers/regular emptying of containers reminding hikers that no trash can be left on the path or beach would help keep the area pristine.

Claudia Fishler  1948 Malcolm Avenue #303, Los Angeles, CA  90025  424/369-5006  (cell) 310/773-1166
California Coastal Commission

To whom it may concern—

Who's supposed to be sticking up for the public rights to beach access in this state, if not this commission? This compromise of access via an at times dangerous ocean-going route certainly precludes visitation by any but skilled kayaker or someone who can afford to charter a boat/guide/kayaks.

We, as Californians, have a right to reasonably safe and direct access to the sand of our beaches. There should be a dedicated trail from a public location with parking such as Gaviota State beach, it would be a beautiful hike along the coast.

Losing access to this areas the beginning of a slippery slope of curtailing the public’s right enjoy public lands.

Respectfully,

Lisa Kallenber
California resident and beach lover
I oppose the tentative agreement in which the public must access Hollister Ranch beach by sea, for getting to the beach by sea is dangerous.

I support beach access by developing a two-mile hiking trail from Gaviota State Park beach where there is a parking lot. As a Californian, I support both protecting our coastline and allowing public access. Public access by hiking trail does both.

Thank you,
Kitt O'Malley
kittomalley@gmail.com
21612 Criptana
Mission Viejo, CA 92692
Having the beaches of California lost to its citizens and held for the private use of the very wealthy is sad at best, infuriating at worst. Quality of life cannot be assigned by tax bracket. Much of our coastline have homes on, or just above, a beach. What is the precedent here? Is it acceptable to have the 1% control the best resource of our state? Does anyone think that this will be the only public asses to be denied to the average citizen?

There are countless arguments against class warfare. Additionally, there are plenty of cautionary statements from law professionals about setting precedents that will harm in the long term. Hollister Ranch belongs to the citizens of California.

Christina, Chuck & Tommy Hosmer
Well, it seems pretty straightforward to me:

1. The proposed decision does NOT allow ‘true’ beach access, so seems contrary to state laws and policy regarding public beaches
2. It’s a terrible precedent; it will not only be used to justify Vinod Khosia’s beach exclusion near Half Moon Bay, but will be used as justification for future restrictions on the public’s access to California beaches.
3. The proposed “access” to the beach is restrictive and really only allows access to those with money (access to kayak or boat to get to area outside to kayak in).
4. It’s dangerous; how many deaths/drownings/water rescues will be caused by changing winds, rough seas, exhaustion, etc. by those attempting to kayak in?

Please find a safer and more egalitarian resolution.

Thank you

Hap Freund
1248 San Miguel Ave.,
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
805-451-2099
I have a EPOB Biology degree from the University of Colorado. I am a Los Angeles resident, an ex-professional skier, an avid outdoors person and a concerned citizen.

It's amazing that these land owners have gotten away with breaking the California Costal Constitution for so long. Nothing liked armed security to scare the public from upholding their native rights.

Fundamentally there is a major flaw in the thinking that those who consume the most (helicopters landing pads, mansions, exotic cars, luxury lifestyles) should be in charge of conserving anything, let alone our natural wonders. It mirrors the White House appointment of our Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, the wolves are guarding the sheep, the fox has claimed the coup, we cannot stand by and remain innocent we must act and refuse to let these things happen.

I will be voicing my opinion in various channels, demanding a hiking trail for public access to this public beach.

thank you

Victor Noerdlinger

3712 beethoven st
los angeles, ca 90066
This is an awful deal for the people of California. It should be stopped.

Paul

VP and COO West Region
323 864-0084
Dear Coastal Commission;

I am shocked and dismayed at the current proposal to limit access to Hollister Ranch in return for a couple of incredibly insulting concessions by the land owners. It is hard to believe that the people entrusted to both protect our coastline and ensure public access (THAT'S YOU!!!!) would provide over such a blatant give away to a bunch of rich landowners. If this is the way that you are going to act as a supposed “protector” of our precious coast then I think you should all be replaced by someone that is fit to serve in that capacity because you clearly aren't those people. Please stand up and rescind this HORRIBLE agreement and make these greedy landowners accountable as you would anyone else. IT'S OUR RIGHT NOT THEIRS!!!

Sincerely,

Gary Bauer

Sent from my iPad
Good Afternoon,

I was told that you are still accepting public comments with regard to the above-referenced matter. I am against the current Settlement Agreement because for all intents and purposes it eliminates public access to Hollister Ranch, and this is unacceptable. This is an example of favoring the wealthy and penalizing the poor simply because they are poor. California is supposed to be better than that. California is supposed to set a positive example for the rest of the country. I am also an environmentalist, and I do not want to see development in the Hollister Ranch area. I think the idea of a foot trail from Gaviota State Park Beach would work as a viable compromise and should be considered. The current Settlement Agreement is unacceptable. To the California Coastal Commission and California Coastal Conservancy members who agreed to this Settlement Agreement: you should be ashamed of yourselves.

Sincerely,

A. Iaderosa
To whom it may concern,

I would like to strongly urge the CA Coastal Commission to treat all beaches in California evenly and to provide public access to all of them as provided by the law. This is currently not the case at Hollister Ranch. Please instate public access via a foot path, not by boat.

Thank you
Martina Wiedau
Culver City, CA
Hello, I am opposed to the proposed current settlement agreement by the California Coastal Commission for the Hollister ranch beach access settlement.

This is a giveaway of the public right to access the beach. I want landside access for all. The idea of a two mile trail from Gaviota State beach park were there is plenty of parking to Hollister ranch sounds like a good compromise.

Regards

Jeffrey Finn
California Resident.
Please continue your fight to make Hollister Ranch beach access available to the public. I like the idea of parking at Gaviota State Beach and walking a 2 mile trail to the beach. I respect homeowners’ rights, so provisions could be made to protect their land and privacy, but give the public access to their California beaches.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Denise Swift
Big Bear City, California

Sent from my iPad Pro
I do not support the agreement
Although I don't have plans to ever visit the area beaches are public domain and at the very least there should be walk in access
Beaches are not the domain of only the wealthy

Ron Freeman
Hello,

My name is Shilpi Roy and I am a citizen of Los Angeles, CA. I have read the Hollister Ranch decision, and I believe it is only to the benefit of wealthy, private land-owners, and not a benefit to the rest of the tax-paying public.

There needs to be walk-in access to the beach. The water-only access is very treacherous, and extremely dependent on weather conditions. If someone is willing to hike a couple miles into the coast, they have the right to be there. It allows for public access without all the development that would end up spoiling the area.

Please take this into account as you move forward. California's beaches are for everyone, not just the wealthy and the extremely skilled seamen.

Shilpi Roy
Commission Members:

Please step up and uphold/expand "our" rights to access the beach along the coast at Hollister Ranch.

We are all supposed to have the right to use our coastal beaches, so how about seeing that they are all made accessible?

Hopefully,

A. L. Kenney
Coastal California,

The Beaches of this great State belongs to all. We live here, pay hefty taxes. We’re tired of having rich and entitled people who are holding the “strings”. People will die trying to reach spots that are being closed to all of us. Enough is enough.
The beaches belongs to all of us. We’re not in North Korea yet.

Sincerely,

Maria
Dear commissioners, I think the proposed settlement is grossly inadequate. There needs to be a realistic means for the citizens of California to enjoy their beaches and coastline. As proposed, there really is no access to this amazing part of our California.

Bill Dewey
Www.bilddeweyphoto.com

Sent from my iPad
And take all necessary steps to return and restore all public access to the California coast. Please.

Susan Redelings, 66-year-old native San Diegan
5145 34th St.
San Diego, CA 92116
619-283-1979
Public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch by water only is really no access at all. Limited land access for a privileged few is a travesty. An agreement for public land access is the only fair agreement for all parties.

- Greg Gillam
Manhattan Beach Ca.
319.308.6199 cell

Greg Gillam
310-308-6199 Cell
Unfair that the beach should be controlled by the rich. Open access to all........that is what the law says.
How can a group of wealthy land owners claim the right to the beach, with no access to the public?
This is America, is it not?
Please reconsider before the beach is closed to all citizens.

Jean Jensen resident of CA for 82 years.
Fire all coastal commission members who do not represent "we the people"! That means, the coast does not belong to only the rich and politically connected. The coastal commission has denied the citizens of California and the rest of the United States from accessing public coastline and beaches, and has given them to the rich. Really? The commission is now the "SWAMP".
I object to the settlement because it gives up the public access by land: the already established trail from Gaviota State Beach. If the only access to the beach that is part of the settlement is by water, it would eliminate much of the public who do not have water craft. And importantly, kayaking to the beach from Gaviota State Park can be treacherous given the currents and rocky coast. Having that be the only access besides a boat is asking for trouble. I am thinking there will be those that try to access by kayak who will ultimately need to be rescued.

I encourage the Coastal Commission to renegotiate the settlement and put the trail back in the public domain.

Susan Garrett
2712 El Prado Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Hi,

I think the tentative settlement between the CCC and Hollister Ranch is a bad deal for coastal access, and I think the Commissioners should reject it.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Robert Aronson
108 Catamaran Street
Venice, CA 90292
As a native Californian I don’t understand why access to beach would only be allowed by sea. Especially from a treacherous stretch of ocean. What happens when someone gets drawn out to sea by the winds and currents as they try to access the beaches at Hollister ranch? Who will be responsible if that person dies?

One of the best ideas of California is that the coast is for everyone. Please don’t change that. Please insist on a route for people to access the Hollister Ranch coastline by foot, not just by the dangerous ocean.

Sincerely,

Neal Steinberg
Topanga, California
Born and raised in CA since 1964
To Whom It May Concern:

In 1972, California voters passed Proposition 20, known as the California Coastal Commission Initiative. This ballot measure called for the temporary creation of the California Coastal Commission, a politically appointed body tasked in part with protecting and preserving the 1,100 miles that make up the California's coast and guaranteeing the public's access to that sea and shore. In 1976, the state legislature passed the California Coastal Act, making Prop 20 permanent.

Because of Proposition 20, the beaches in California belong to all California citizens, not just a few. What gives millionaires the right to close access to Hollister Beach, California’s most pristine section of coastal habitat? Allowing access only by sea will result in lives lost due to high winds that can arise suddenly in shark-infested waters. Even experienced kayakers know that paddling to Hollister Beach can be fraught with dangerous swells, wind waves, and powerful currents.

I can understand why people who purchase multi-million dollar homes at the beach may not want the public parking illegally in front of their homes and then traipsing over their property to the ocean, but why not allow limited walk-in access? Why not create a trail to give adventurists the ability to hike in from near-by Gaviota State Park beach where there is plenty of parking? Nature-loving citizens who commit to a four-mile round trip hike are most likely those who will love and protect this beautiful area of coastline.

Please follow Proposition 20 and free Hollister Beach for the benefit of all Californians. We pay taxes to our great state and the coast belongs to all of us.

Sincerely,

Jody Liss-Monteleone
Please open the road from Santa Barbara up the coast to Jalama.

Ed

Sent from my iPhone
The current deal is really awful, and is bowing and scraping to the super rich.
I am against the tentative agreement because the non affluent members of society get nothing really out of the agreement and the wealthy have again taken advantage of the public. The beaches are public property, the public should have free, safe access to those beaches. How do we expose our children to the wonders of the ocean environment if safe access is not available? I hear the homeowners - go elsewhere, there are other more accessible beaches, leave us alone - but this is not their beach, this is our beach. A safe walking path from the already existing state park makes the best sense. Ocean only access is deadly which will increase rescue costs and loss of lives. This is about letting the public have free access to what is rightfully theirs. Please do not give away another public outdoor space we do not have enough as it is. Thank you for hearing me. Karen-Denise Lee

Sent from my iPad
From: Larry Sabo
To: Coastal Hollitzer
Subject: Provide public access to all to shorelines
Date: Sunday, June 17, 2018 9:27:27 AM
I am a native California, a resident of Santa Barbara and I am writing to protect public access of our wonderful coastline. Some public access should be permitted.

Thank you

Janet Z Giler
To whom It May Concern:

I am greatly troubled to learn that public access to Hollister Ranch beach has been restricted to entry by boat, kayak, or surfboard. In essence, I have been denied access to the beach because I don't have, nor can I afford, a boat, surfboard, or kayak. Furthermore, I don't have the physical ability to maneuver through the dangerous nautical conditions needed to arrive at the beach safely. I am, however, physically fit enough to walk the distance to the beach.

It is a travesty, that the wealthy in this country can use their wealth to deny access to land that belongs to the public. The coastal commission for decades have worked tirelessly on the public's behalf to ensure that California's coast remains open for all Californian's to enjoy, not just the privilege few.

I love our California beaches. I get invigorated and cleansed the moment I walk out onto the beach. Your ruling on the Hollister Ranch sets a new precedent, thus putting all of our coastline at risk. As a born and raised, tax paying Californian, I plead with you to overturn your ruling on the Hollister Ranch access.

Thank you for your consideration,
Karen Drenner
I read an article in the Los Angeles Times about the ongoing issue regarding public access to the beach area of Hollister Ranch, a private ranch. Currently, the public is only able to access the beach via the ocean, and an arduous 2 mile kayak trip. Which would then only be available to those who own or rent kayaks, and who are in strong health and able to do a 4 mile round trip ocean kayak trek, a difficult and dangerous prospect.

I think this is wrong. All beaches in California must be accessible to the public from LAND, not from the ocean. A road need not be put in, but there should be a foot trail available so that the public can hike in to the beach area here.

Alice Hargreaves
Without access via land to the Ranch, the agreement does nothing to serve the real public’s interest. Keep it limited in some fashion for protection but make sure access is still realistically possible for most people. Access via ocean is not feasible for most people.

Best,
Michael Freeman

Sent from my iPhone
Please support a resolution that includes walk in access.

Derek Girling
237 Ximeno Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
dcgirling@verizon.net

Sent from my iPhone
Please excuse typos!
From: Andy Roach
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Public theft of coast
Date: Sunday, June 17, 2018 8:44:09 AM

The coast belongs to all of us not just the rich. Time for a new coastal commission that isn’t in the pockets of the wealthy. Protect the California coast for all of us.

Andy
Dear Commissioners,

I would first like to express my gratitude in what you have done over the years to protect California's coast and balancing the needs of the public with those of private enterprise. As a teacher in the Santa Barbara area, I find no greater inspiration and teaching tool for our youth than by exposing them to the beauty of our natural habitat. I am fortunate to live in such a beautiful place, and have the opportunity to enjoy the many trails both in the front country and along our coastline.

I would like to express my support for an amendment to the recent ruling on Hollister Ranch. Specifically, I would like you to seriously consider the option of allowing access to a limited portion of the Hollister Ranch beaches via trail from Gaviota. I believe this offers a much more reasonable means of public access than only via the ocean, which can be treacherous at times and therefore highly limit the access to the public, particularly children. I fear the risks some may take to reach Hollister Ranch via the sea route. I think a trail offers a reasonable accommodation. It is far enough to limit the access of hordes of people, but yet safe enough to offer access to young and old alike.

Please consider this reasonable amendment to the recent decision. I think it offers a fair compromise that will maintain the seclusion that homeowners desire, but yet offer the public reasonable access to one of the few remaining jewels of the California coast.

With the utmost respect,

Peter Glynn

--

Peter Glynn
Lower School Math Specialist

CRANE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
1795 San Leandro Lane | Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Phone: 805-969-7732, ext. 326 | Fax: 805-969-3635
Web: www.craneschool.org

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Hi Hollistees,

Just finished reading Steve lopez column and I’d like to express my support for walk-in access by way of Gaviota State Park beach, a 2-mile hike.

I am also a paddle-boarder but as an over-60 year old with one shark encounter under my belt, do not feel like I can make the ocean trek.

Thank you,

Karen Telleen-Lawton
Please allow access for the public. The tentative agreement being considered now is not adequate for the constitutional rights Californians are afforded.

Sincerely,

Jim Robison

San Clemente, CA
Dear Commissioners,

I live in Santa Barbara county and have had the opportunity to visit Hollister Ranch. No one can dispute its beauty, untrammeled old-California, still flourishing in the foothills and bluffs sweeping out to pristine coastline. It is very wrong that this beauty remains privatized, accessible to only a handful of wealthy individuals. The plan to allow water-only access to a single stretch of beach would be laughable if it weren't so pathetic. Is this the best the Coastal Commission, guardian of public rights to all of California's beaches, can do? Maybe a few surfers and intrepid kayakers can make the many-mile journey, but it is unlikely that families will ever get to experience those beaches and that shining piece of lost California. A walking path from Gaviota State Park along the bluffs to that single beach would be a much better way to proceed. A better deal can be forged than the one the CC seems to settled for. It is your duty, as advocates for preserving and extending public beach access, to try harder!

Fran Davis
P.O. Box 304
Summerland, CA 93067

Fran
To Whom It May Concern:
I have been reading a great deal about this issue lately, and want to voice my concern about the fact that our coasts belong to everyone, not just the rich and famous. Access should be available for everyone!
Thank you,
Jane Harrison
California resident
Please also allow access to the Ranch by hiking in. Hollister Ranch has assumed almost mythic status in the 88 years I have been living here. Human nature being what it is, it is unrealistic to think the general public/tourists, although perhaps not fully aware of the dangers on this stretch of coastline, will not make the attempt by water.

Joyce Powell
Carpinteria, CA.

Sent from my iPhone
I’m not a central coastal area resident but I’ve lived in California almost all of my 70 years. Allowing such limited public access because it protects some rich folks playground is not just wrong, it’s offensive! Fine. Protect it. But allow walk in access. Dan Barbakow

Sent from my iPhone
Isn't it only fair we ALL have access to the California Coastline...not just a few who can afford their own access.

Laura Newman
Born and raised in Los Angeles
I would like to express my deep concern over the shutting out of the public's access to the eight and a half acre coast area fronting the Hollister Ranch development. While certain property rights of private ownership should be protected, such protection should not be at the exclusion of accessing the beach areas adjacent to private property.

The current proposal is a sham! It is essentially excluding the public from accessing the beach. The owner's agreement to allow access from the water is ludicrous, and dangerous. This proposal should not be allowed to prevail.

We are witnessing the increasing violation of coastal and beach access by a handful of wealthy property owners, to exclusion of the public at large. This is taking place from Malibu to north of San Francisco and should not be permitted.

Tom Fleishman
Valley Glen, CA
From: Nick Vodantis
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: Cali's beautiful beaches belong to all residents - so does reasonable, simple, and easy access.
Date: Sunday, June 17, 2018 1:50:15 PM
Honorable Judge,
Just want to express concern over the access to Hollister Ranch. As a former Santa Barbara resident who used to hike into the area, I know first hand how pristine and beautiful that stretch of beach is and I want to preserve it.
But ocean only access basically means no access for anyone but the wealthy. Hiking in on a small trail would at least give access to those willing to make the journey. It would not bring in the hordes.
The beauty of the beaches belongs to all Californians. Please do not shut us out. The wealthy should never be allowed restrict us from what belongs to us all.
Please.
Thank you
Lisa A Landres
Venice,CA

Sent from my iPhone
Please excuse any typos
Sir:

The deal made by the commission re: Hollister Ranch is shameful! That a few super rich pricks are able to deny public access to a California beach is WRONG!!!!
--- On Sun, 6/17/18, joanne opdahl <joanneopdahl@yahoo.com> wrote:

> From: joanne opdahl <joanneopdahl@yahoo.com>
> Subject: Public's Right to beach
> Date: Sunday, June 17, 2018, 2:30 PM
> To Whom It May Concern:
> 
> I am expressing my anger concerning the ruling put forth that our beautiful beach shore is being limited at the Hollister Ranch. There are no reasons on this earth that could allow such limited access as described in the current ruling about how the public can visit Hollister Ranch.
> 
> I believe there should be a trail that begins at Gaviota State Park beach where there is plenty of parking. As someone who loves to hike I would enjoy a hike to one of California's greatest natural gifts.

> It is about public access for all, not just some.

> Please allow us to continue to enjoy all of our beaches in California.

> Sincerely,

> Joanne Opdahl
> 2823 Clune Ave.
> Venice, CA 90291

> tel 661 886 0577
Do these people have a property description that includes the sand and part of the ocean?..............if not they can't claim the beach.

This is WRONG

Rose D'Esposito
A Premier Travel
714 313 9367

Rose D'Esposito
I have been reading about the potential agreement for only water access to a small part of the beach at Hollister Ranch.

Back in the 1960s I paddled the two miles to surf there and also took a boat up to Coho bay to surf.

Both were difficult and potentially dangerous trips but at that time I did not know any better so we did it a few Tim's each year.

I think the agreement currently being considered for approval is very unfair and in favor of leaving all but a few people annually unable to visit a beach which should belong to everyone in California.

This agreement at a minimum should require a walking access trail from the state park to the beach. More access would be better but walking access must be a minimum.

Sincerely

Jim Pitblado

Phone 5627169857

Email. Jpitt306@earthlink.net.
Please do not settle on Holister Ranch beach access until the public can enjoy all of the beach and have access from land. Californian beaches should be able to be accessed by all not just a few land owners.

Frank Docter

Sent from my iPad
What can we do to support a move to gain public access?

Adam Nimoy
310 351 6190
From: amsablock
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: Hollister Ranch Access
Date: Sunday, June 17, 2018 7:48:33 PM

I just finished Steve Lopez’ article in the June 17th LA Times entitled Paddle out to state's newest public beach at your own risk. I cant imagine that the suggestion is for the general public to access this stretch of beach by kayak or somesuch. It sounds entirely impractical at the very least and dangerous at worst.
Practically speaking, the public is still denied access to the stretch of beach at Hollister Ranch. I love Tamlorrn Chase's idea of walk-in access from Gaviota State Park beach as quoted in the Times' article.
Hopefully, this idea will be considered by the court and the California Coastal Commission.
Thank-you,
Anne Marie Kucera-Sablock
333 1st St #F302
Seal Beach, CA 90740

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8+, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone
Dear Coastal Access Commissioners:
I have lived and worked in Santa Barbara for nearly 30 years, and have dedicated part of volunteer
efforts toward preservation of our scenic beaches.

As a “senior citizen” who has worked in Beach clean-ups and adoption of several Santa Barbara beaches
over the years via California Coastal Commission, I am wondering if I will ever have the opportunity to
visit Hollister Ranch beach...

It has been on my “bucket list” (so to speak) for decades. And, with recent publicity on an access
agreement with Hollister Ranch owners, I am dismayed to learn of the unrealistic proposal on Beach
“access”.

Please reconsider the current proposal to allow real Beach access, especially to those who may have
disabilities, or due to age or other limited mobility issues, to visit the Beach under negotiation.

Thank you for your help in making our Santa Barbara County beaches accessible to all.

Dale Pavich
Clinical Social Worker (Retired)
Graysondale@hotmail.com
Attn: Members of the Coastal Commission

Please reconsider the tentative agreement regarding Hollister Ranch beach access. Allowing access by ocean only is effectively a ban on access for the great majority of the public. A better and safer compromise would be to allow the public to walk in from Gaviota State Park.

Thanks,

Tim Mullins

3 El Arco Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Tim Mullins | timmullins@cox.net | 805.708.9686
Hello,

The decision by the California Coastal Commission to limit beach access to "by way of water only" has saddened me deeply.

This decision runs counter to all previous public access policy. At a minimum, there should be access by foot path.

Another concern is that the ruling may set a precedent although it is solemnly stated that it will not.

We sincerely hope that the CCC will reverse its decision.

Jorg and Anke Raue
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
A public access via land must be included in any settlement.
HOLLISTER RANCH SHOULD BECOME A STATE PARK WITH PUBLIC ACCESS. I DON’T WANT IT KEPT AS A RICH MAN’S PLAYGROUND. IT IS PART OF OUR COAST AND BELONGS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO BE PASSED ON TO OUR CITIZENS IN PERPETUITY.
Dear California Coastal Commission,
I am just a normal CA resident that loves the beach. To block off miles of beach for the very wealthy and famous is against everything California and America stands for! Please find it in your hearts to make a fair decision so all of us beach lovers can continue to love the beaches with our families.
Thank you,
Candida Rodriguez
Sirs: as a long time bodyboarder with many exotic trips under my belt, and an outdoor enthusiast, I support foot access thru Hollister Ranch to the beach. Limit daily numbers if need be, use reservations, a lottery, whatever is needed. Crowds, concessions, etc., would ruin it, but careful use by a limited public would benefit all without significantly changing Hollister's beauty.

Thanks for your consideration.

Richard Guess, MD, MBA

Sent from my iPad
I think that the beach at Hollister Ranch should be far more accessible than to only be able to reach it by kayak or the like. One of the worst principles for a democracy to operate by is “them that has gets”. To have only a wealthy and lucky few have access is to follow that unfortunate principle. It also violates the spirit and intelligence of laws granting coastal access to all residents. I think a very reasonable compromise is the one suggested by Tamlorn Chase in a recent LA Times editorial. Have a trail begin at Gaviota State Park beach. The hike would discourage a lot of traffic and still allow reasonable access.

--

Glenn Evans
Hello,

I am at a loss to understand why access to this area is essentially -not permitted- unless one is able to kayak in. Somehow, this doesn't sound equitable. This would permit only physically fit people who are capable of ocean kayaking for at least 2 miles. They would need to understand the importance of detailed weather forecasting as well as navigating through the fog which can roll in. These individuals would need to be trained in safety and first aid as well.

I don't think this is a fair compromise at all. As a native Californian, the pristine coastal areas need to be loved, experienced, and admired by people who care enough to visit, — not just people who can maneuver a kayak through the ocean.

Georgette Rieck
Santa Monica
310-600-0177

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Judge,

I'm extremely disappointed, to say the least, to learn on 22 May 2018 that the California Coastal Commission and the California Coastal Conservancy agreed to give up their decades-long legal fight for beach access by land at Hollister Ranch on the Gaviota coast.

How dare they!

In California, the beaches are owned not by anyone, but by everyone.

I NEVER EVER wish to give up my right to have Beach Access by LAND at Hollister Ranch on the Gaviota coast!

Please let me know what else I need to do to stop this behind-the-scene agreement!

Tammy Shaper
310 475 2052
Don’t live in CA but do live in America and the last checked the beaches are ours to enjoy. Trust the citizenry on the West Coast of our United States is the same as we here on the East Coast. Tough to think we are becoming a privatized nation where money rules.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are among the many Californians disappointed by the proposed agreement for limiting access to the public's beaches off Hollister Ranch. We are not naive and think that this is an easily resolved matter, however, the proposal simply does not remotely provide legitimate access to the beach.

The private landholders at Hollister are certainly within their rights to be concerned with overdevelopment and security issues, but there does seem to be room for greater compromise than that outlined in the proposed agreement.

At a minimum, Steve Lopez's column of June 17, 2018, as articulated by Tamlorn Chase: walk-in access via a trail beginning at Gaviota State Park beach traveling 2 miles along the coast.

We would further add, that certain egregious actions by some of the Hollister residents (claims of some residents driving vehicles on the beach) should also be included in the agreement. Whether the general public or the Hollister homeowners, everyone should have to adhere to the protection of our beautiful coast.

Thank you,

Alice P. Neuhauser & Thomas R. Conroy

Alice P. Neuhauser
P: 310-275-7505
F: 310-275-7518
apntrc@msn.com

Please consider whether it is necessary to print this email.
Your honor,

My understanding is that the beaches in California belong to all of us. The role of the Coastal Commission is to protect that right. To allow access to the Hollister Ranch beach only by kayak, surfboard, raft, or paddle board is neither true access nor safe access.

A more reasonable accommodation would the suggested trail from Gaviota State Park beach where parking is available.

My family is familiar with Big Sur’s Andrew Molera State Park where the beach is a mile from the parking lot. Many people enjoy the hike out to the beach following preset paths through the meadow. The beach is available to enjoy while still respecting the natural environment.

It seems to me a trail from Gaviota would meet the needs and the rights of the public without making Hollister Ranch another “Venice Beach.”

We’ve already had issues with wealthy landowners who want to “own” the beach and have made promises they haven’t kept. This is another instance when we need to stand up for the public’s right of access to California’s beautiful shoreline. Otherwise we’ll soon find ourselves losing it to the highest bidder.

Thank you,
Jayne Goldberg
Dear Commissioners:

I am opposed to the proposed agreement to limit public access to Hollister Ranch Beach by sea. I favor a compromise that would allow unlimited public access by foot traffic only from nearby Gaviota State Beach. My wife and I are seniors, in good physical condition. We would like to bring our young grandchildren to Hollister occasionally. It is both laughable and discriminatory to insist that our only access would be by kayak, ocean swimming, etc. The walk in from Gaviota would discourage anyone who is not motivated to visit the beach, but without presenting a near-impassable, dangerous barrier to access. The proposed compromise would effectively ratify permanent inaccessibility. It is a difference that would make no difference.

Yours,
Jeffrey Hutter
Santa Monica, CA
It’s a shame that only the Rich & Wealthy can enjoy such a natural treasure like the coastline along Hollister Ranch. No one wants to see it developed and/or commercialized … but everyone should have access to that beach.

A kayak ride is too dangerous. Boat access is too expensive. Even hiking will limit the number of visitors capable of making it to the beach.

On the other hand, there is a 2-mile long hike from Gaviota State Beach Park (with available parking) to the beach that would allow some of the public to enjoy this natural treasure.

Please allow public access to this public treasure!

JON DUDLEY
1394 El Mirador Drive
Pasadena, CA 91103
Cell (626) 437-4797
jbdudley@aol.com
Dear commission members,

Please support the compromise solution of a long footpath or hiking trail to Hollister Beach. The non-monied public should have to access our public land. I also strongly believe that it is extremely important to protect the pristine natural areas that are left California, so limiting the number of visitors is very reasonable, but wealth should not be the determining factor for who can visit. There is also a public safety issue with boat-only access, given the difficult conditions there. A hiking trail, even one with limited access would be a far superior solution.

Thank you for your attention.

Edith Gralla
10335 La Grange Ave
Los Angeles CA 90025
I am yet another taxpaying citizen of California who is disgusted by the agreement to keep the public from accessing this beach. The compromise of allowing access via a hiking trail from Gaviota State Park seems like a good one. Rich landowners have NO right to block our public beaches.

Kathleen Biggs
Santa Clarita CA
661-212-5392
I read the article by Steve Lopez, L.A. Times, June 17, 2018, with great interest. The offer by the HROA is a bit disingenuous. I feel that the public should be able to access dry sand beaches on Hollister Ranch. This access should be by sea and more importantly and safer by land. As a surfer for over 50 years I know the dangers of our coastal waters. Finding yourself in a dangerous situation off the Hollister Ranch coast means that you’re a long way from help. The easement to the beach should not be relinquished. The easement to beach allows a broad range of the public beach access. If needed this access could be limited to a reasonable amount of people a day and to entry on foot.

Thank you,
Bruce Trentham
Burbank, CA
To whom it may concern,

I am against the proposed public access that requires risking your life to accomplish. How can you say it is public access when you have to arrive by a boat? It sounds very dangerous to try to achieve public access this way. Wait until people drown attempting this. Then try to sleep at night knowing that you've agreed to a very dangerous deal. Do a trail instead.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth BREESE

Sent from my iPhone
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I entreat you to insist on allowing walk-in access on the trail from Gaviota State Park's beach to the beach at Hollister Ranch when negotiating with the Hollister Ranch Owners' Association. To settle for limited access to a public beach through treacherous water is to endanger the lives of people who have a right to enjoy the beach. Limiting public access will also set precedent for other exclusive communities to deny any Californian or visitor to our state an opportunity to revel in our glorious coastline.

Thank you for your consideration.

Annette Szlachta-McGinn
Dana Point, CA
Excuse my language, but this settlement is a bunch of bullshit. Keep fighting!!

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse any typos.
Dear Commissioners:

The proposed Hollister Ranch settlement is a sell out to the Lobby interest of the Hollister Ranch Association.

The proposed settlement is only providing access only by boat or Kayak to a beach 3 miles plus one way to a beach is ludicrous and Dangerous!

Please send our State attorneys back to court to get full access to the Hollister Ranch.

The Hollister Ranch is nothing but a rich folks place so they can enjoy the numerous surf breaks to themselves. Less than 40% of the Hollister Ranch members even live there.

They are all rich folks from LA that drive up for the weekend to surf. The cost of entry without a home or guest house is over $650K. This is more than any pricey Country Club in the Nation buy five fold.

Sincerely,

Mark Sullivan.

I
Coastal access to the coast at Hollister ranch should remain open to the public. The California Coastal Act which I campaigned and fought for, is to make sure that everyone in California has access to our coastline. Private property owners should not be allowed to intervene with nor supercede the right of the people in California by law, to enjoy all of the California coastline.

Phillip Roullard  
8529 Jackie Drive  
San Diego, CA 92119  
619-698-9512
To Whom It May Concern:

The public must have land access to public beaches at Hollister Ranch. The current compromise of getting there by kayak is absurd. What percentage of the public could actually accomplish that?

My mother was born in Santa Barbara and grew up on the shores at El Capitan. We spent our summers on the beaches between Goleta and Gaviota. Yet, the first time I saw the beaches of Hollister Ranch was from Amtrak. This isn't right. Surely the Coastal Commission can find a compromise with wealthy land owners so the public can have a land route to the beaches that belong to us all.

Make this right!

William Yturri Skeen, MD
354 Arroyo Rd
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
805-964-3455
I am a native Californian - parents went to high school in Ventura and Santa Barbara. I believe very strongly that we need to maintain public access to our beaches.

It is hypocritical that "environmentalist stars and billionaires" who live in the Ranch do not want to allow the public to have access. The "some are more equal than others" nature of the current proposed settlement is completely unsatisfactory because it does not allow land access and forces access through an impossible journey via the ocean with gales and sharks.

The best solution I support is that the judge and the Coastal Commission should insist on "walk in" access from Gaviota State Park. This solves everyone's issues by meeting both the access law and environmental concerns.

--
Kendall Lockhart
Founder/CEO

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949-500-8240
www.meucare.com
Dear Coastal,

I understand the preservational motivations for limiting Hollister beach access to non-motorized vehicles, but believe that limiting such access to non-motorized water conveyances that very few people have access to is a little over the top.

Please open access to foot traffic and low-speed bicycles that qualify under federal and state law. These would be bicycles under federal law PL 107-319 and state law AB 1096.

A waiver for parties with an ADA member to access the beach by car would also be very much appreciated. Please note that such families, including mine on account of my son, will be excluded otherwise.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

--

Best,

Bruce Wasson

https://www.linkedin.com/in/brucewasson

M: 626.824.3695
The details provided to the public are vague. However, giving up easy public access to a California beach would set a bad precedent. The general understanding should be that all California beaches should have relatively easy and equal access which should be defined as a road that can be accessed by majority of vehicles or in person with reasonable safety. I would emphasize equal so that no person should have better access than any other person or public. Thank you.

KC
People will die trying to reach a public beach by kayak in 40 knot winds. Its an undo burden. Please allow us all access to public beaches.
Gregory Savalas
California resident
To the Court-

This beach is public land, but is landlocked for access and an easement or eminent domain easement for safe public access should be mandated. What if I want to take kids to this beach? Should they be forced in a kayak? Billionaires should not be able to cause safety issues, if they are the court should allow them to be sued in any agreement for unsafe access. They are not supposed to control the planning, zoning and access process. Open this beach up safely. A hiking path is reasonable. Guards are not.

Bob Young
17672 Greentree Way
Guerneville, CA 95446
954-218-0723
As a 35 year resident of California, I implore you to provide walk-in access to Hollister Ranch and preserve everyone's right to enjoy our beaches. Please continue our great state's tradition of keeping our beaches open to all.

Victoria Chenevey
Long Beach, CA

Sent from my iPhone
Keep Hollister pristine!

I’ve seen firsthand the manner in which the California Coast Commission manages their holdings, and I’m all for the guards at Hollister — at least these beaches are being protected from the hordes. Even in the perfect world if there is a way for the public to walk to these beaches, there is nowhere for the hundreds of cars to park, nor anywhere for the thousands of people to relieve themselves.

It’s okay to enjoy some places through photos and videos.

CC
I would like to state my opposition to the current settlement proposal. Instead of the paddle in restriction I would like to see a walk in option. Thank you.

Jeff Holcomb  
jeff@shosholoza.org
To restrict land access to a minuscule few is counter to the Coastal Commission's mandate to protect and make available our wonderful California beaches. When the wealthy buy homes and land on our beaches, they are well aware that they must share access with the public. It is the Coastal Commission's job to see that they remember that, and enforce the mandate that the people of California have given it.

There needs to be land access to the beaches fronting Hollister Ranch. See that you do the right thing.

Alexa Smith Maxwell
2651 Rinconia Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90068
All Californians have the right to enjoy “our” coast, which belongs to all of us. Please hear the pleas of the vast majority of Californians who will never be able to rent a place on the beach, let alone own one. Our children deserve to have easy access to what is rightfully ours. Please help us.

Respectfully,
Judi Frazin
There are 40 million Californians and we all need our beaches.

We are relying on you to EXPAND rather than constrict the rights of everyone who wishes to enjoy mother nature and all her beaches and shores even along the most secluded stretches of our coast.

Please do the right thing! The commissioners in recent years have become just a little too cozy with the rich and politically well connected developers.

It is time to re-examine the Coastal’s Acts purpose.

Respectfully,

Chuck and Betty Beckert
West Hills CA
Hello Commissioners:

I am writing to let you know how important I think it is to improve beach access for the many citizens of California. I think you should keep this uppermost in your thoughts during all your deliberations.

Concerning Hollister Ranch: it’s wonderful to have a pristine coast line which has been kept that way for many years. Commendable, but at the same time, the lack of access to the Hollister Ranch beaches has been an outright assault on the laws of California.

I don’t think you can find balance in this situation. Things have been way out of balance for way too long. You need to address the rights of the public, rights which have been truly trod upon.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hawkes
6731 Mountain Top Court
San Diego, CA
To the Coastal Commission
Just do your job and protect our beaches from developers and those who believe the own the beach just because their property is near or next to the beach. Of course those homeowners want hollister beach to be their personal beach.
Maybe 50 years ago California beaches did not need protection. But at some point some very smart people began to wise up and realize that if our beautiful beaches were not protected, the citizens would lose the right to use the beach. Developers and the wealthy would have access but not those of us without money.
So this property was left alone and not protected. Those who wanted to use Hollister beach had access if they wanted to go through the trouble of getting to it.
Why not make sure the public has the limited access that it has enjoyed all these years. The beach is not easy to get to. Do not put in public parking or restrooms. By this inaction the homeowners will still feel some what protected. And there will not be crowds at the beach because it is an isolated beach.
This is a democracy negotiate fairly
nancy weiss
The Beaches MUST be accessible to All!!! The water and the wet sand are not for sale, were NOT sold. That part of the ocean is not just for the RICH!!! How can they be so self-involved, insensitive. Oh, that's right, they are rich so rule don't mean anything to them. I think they are outrageous!

Thank You for your efforts on behalf of the "have-nots".

Sheryl Enriquez
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to **object to the proposed class action settlement with property owners at Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County.**

This settlement effectively destroys the public’s access to this part of the California coast, which the Coastal Commission is empowered to protect.

Why has the Coastal Commission agreed to relinquish the existing public accessway? This is inexplicable, unacceptable, and contrary to the mission of the Coastal Commission.

Public access by water only is a joke, and is not acceptable. This means that only people who are wealthy enough to have boats can access this part of the coast.

Finally, requirements to "obtain leave of Court to intervene" are so burdensome as to effectively shut out members of the public from commenting.

I protest in the strongest possible terms, and urge you to reject this settlement. It is unacceptable and contrary to the mission of the Coastal Commission.

We rely on you to protect and preserve our access to our beautiful coast. Please do your job.

Thank you.

Sarah Tamor
Santa Monica, CA
Hello Commissioners,
This is a follow up letter to one that I sent with in the last week.
If you are going to open up the Hollister Ranch to the public, may I suggest a lottery system similar to the one that the City of Manhattan Beach put into place, after one of their parks was over whelmed with people.
The sand dune park turned into a very crowded exercise destination with many college and professional sports teams, due to its proximity to the beach, and excellent training challenge. After numerous complaints, meetings and work shops, the city fenced it off, and required an advance lottery sign up, performed on line for a timed reservation. They limited the access to the amount of parking spaces that could accommodate the park goers. They were able to eliminate many headaches that the residents were having with over crowding and loud park goers at all hours of the day and night. The city made it work with every one happy.
Please consider this type of access for the community at Hollister Ranch.
Sincerely,
John Bush
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,
A day at a Southern California beach reminds me of a time when people were more carefree, life was less complicated and swimming in the Pacific Ocean's warm waves was a free pleasure. Please, please give us access to the beaches at the edge of the Hollister Ranch and preserve for us a remnant of what it means to live in California--a sense of freedom and equality, a chance to spend the day outside, and a way to build community.
Best wishes,
Jaye Scholl
--
Jaye
Jaye Scholl
818 681-3496 mobile
TO Whom it may concern...WE THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA HAVE ONLY ONE COAST...IT BELONGS TO ALL PEOPLE NOT SOMEONE WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE MONEY.

PLEASE DO WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THIS CASE.

THANK YOU,
T.D. Hayes
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to object to the proposed class action settlement with property owners at Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County.

This settlement effectively destroys the public's access to this part of the California coast, which the Coastal Commission is empowered to protect.

Why has the Coastal Commission agreed to relinquish the existing public accessway? This is inexplicable, unacceptable, and contrary to the mission of the Coastal Commission.

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Thank you.

Sarah Tamor
Santa Monica, CA

cc: via the websites for:
   Governor Jerry Brown
   Senator Ben Allen
   Senator Henry Stern
   Representative Richard Bloom

and:
   Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne
   1100 Anacapa Street
   P.O. Box 21107
   Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107
Dear commissioners:

The settlement agreed to is unconscionable—all beaches in California, with the exception of military bases, are public. Our public beaches are for all of us, not just those fortunate enough to live on Hollister Ranch.

I implore you: PLEASE expand rather than constrict our access to this pristine and beautiful California beach!

Claudia Chotzen
1248 San Miguel Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA. 93109

805-451-2080
The purchasers of the land can own their land, but the beach, plus access to the beach, must always remain public. That is a fundamental American principle that must not be taken away from the common people.
To: Commissioners of the California Coastal Commission

I am writing to you as a long-time California resident to strongly urge that you ensure continuing access by the general public to the California coast along the Hollister Ranch parcel. It is an injustice to the people of the State of California to not respect the existing easement and not grant public access to the beach along the 8 1/2 mile stretch of the California coast that borders the Hollister Ranch. The beach is public property up to the mean high tide line - of what value is that public ownership to all but the few private land owners bordering those beaches if it is inaccessible?

I grew up in Southern California and have long appreciated the accessibility of the California coast. As a Southern Californian the beaches have long been part of my life and I have spent time over the years exploring various parts of the coast. As a former scuba diver and (tankless!) abalone seeker I have explored remote beaches and pools via sometimes tricky paths down to the waterline. It would be disappointing to see that access denied to current and future generations.

I have taken the train from Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo a number of times over the last several years to join my wife for family weekends. I have looked longingly at the landscape as the train passes through the Hollister Ranch property and points north and have wondered how I could possibly get access to the shoreline along those stretches. I do not know the right people and, as the drive along the same stretch of 101 indicates, unless you know the right people you don’t either. This is wrong.

I also spent several years living in the Northeastern US and was shocked to experience how much of the coast is locked up from use by the general public. I would hate to see the same thing happen here – which is what the Coastal Commission settlement of the various private lawsuits over Hollister Ranch access endorses.

The California Coastal Act of 1976, passed by the state legislature in response to an earlier ballot initiative passed by a strong majority* of the people of the State of California, continues to enjoy the support of that majority for a reason – we believe we have a right now and into the future to have access to the entire stretch of coast that borders the State of California. Where access to the coast is difficult the State should make reasonable efforts via guaranteed rights-of-way and public parking to make those sections of the coast accessible. Where there are existing easements, especially those that predate any proposed developments, they must be preserved in perpetuity.

We are relying on you to preserve the rights of all Californians, current and future, to expand rather than contract our access to the pleasures of the California coast.

Respectfully,
Charles Brown
Los Angeles, CA

*1972 initiative (Proposition 20) passed 55% to 45% despite proponents being outspent almost 100 to 1.
The State Coastal Act of 1976 is exemplary legislation to guarantee public (meaning all of us) access to California beaches. It has served well to continue the intent of access.

Regarding the Hollister Ranch decision to reinterpret public access to exclusive access for a limited number of escorted groups, it is outrageous. The intent of the Act was the broad interpretation of public.

I urge a thorough discussion of the issue with meetings open to the public (meaning all of us). The responsibility of the board is to follow the intent of the Act. In the simplest term it is PUBLIC v EXCLUSIVE.

Thank you.
Jerry Young
245 Altura Dr
Fullerton CA 92835-1301
Dear California Coastal Commission,

Without question money buys power, and in many cases a diminishing of the soul and enlarging of hypocrisy. Such is the case with the issue of public access at the Hollister Ranch. Suddenly, when environmental and cultural issues get too close to their insulated doorsteps, people with exalted environmental values who live on the Ranch, such as Jackson Browne, Yvon Chouinard, and James Cameron, look small and hollow. We have not seen their voices speaking out for public access, countering the Ranch's years' long bare knuckles fight to keep people off "their" beaches. They suddenly do not look any different than Vinod Khosla up the coast in Half Moon Bay, or the stance Donald Trump would take if he owned a parcel at the Hollister Ranch. There is a karmic price for such hypocrisy, no matter how it is rationalized.

The decision by the California Coastal Commission (you) to cave in to the legal forces marshaled by the Ranch and not fight for even one entry point for the public is wrong, embarrassing, legally indefensible, cowardly, and only accentuates the real world impact of the wealth gap. You let all the rest of us down.

We also see lack of imagination here, fueled by the legal blockade put up by the Ranch. Without question a moderate amount of public access (not just school children on controlled tours) could be worked out--limited by lottery systems, first-com-first-served pre-purchased tickets, number of parking spaces, or other strategies. Such things are done lots of places. But as far as I can tell the Ranch is anything but open hearted, fighting even minimal accessibility. Outsiders are OUTSIDERS and the expectation is to go find another beach--yet no one can tell us that Yvon Chouinard hasn't surfed at some beach somewhere that public access was granted only after local citizens fought for their legal rights and the psychological and spiritual benefits therein.

We live only 20 miles from the Hollister Ranch. We drove through on the road from Gaviota to Jalama Beach several times in days of yore before it became the exclusive development it is today. Although we have no specific need to go to the beaches there, our grandchildren might and one of our adult children who is a surfer might. Right now everyone who is involved with this process looks small, with actions undergirded by fear and acquisitiveness. That is what hurts most on the deepest level, an inner damage that the human family does not need.

Sincerely, Benjamin Sawyer & Susanne Hammel-Sawyer
Goleta, CA
Also cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson via her website.

On Thu, Jun 14, 2018 at 1:33 PM, Sarah Tamor <sarahtamor@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I am writing to object to the proposed class action settlement with property owners at Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County.

This settlement effectively destroys the public's access to this part of the California coast, which the Coastal Commission is empowered to protect.

Why has the Coastal Commission agreed to relinquish the existing public accessway? This is inexplicable, unacceptable, and contrary to the mission of the Coastal Commission.

Public access by water only is a joke, and is not acceptable. This means that only people who are wealthy enough to have boats can access this part of the coast.

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I protest in the strongest possible terms, and urge you to reject this settlement. It is unacceptable and contrary to the mission of the Coastal Commission.

We rely on you to protect and preserve our access to our beautiful coast. Please do your job.

Thank you.

Sarah Tamor
Santa Monica, CA

cc: via the websites for:
    Governor Jerry Brown
    Senator Ben Allen
    Senator Henry Stern
    Representative Richard Bloom

and:
    Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne
    1100 Anacapa Street
    P.O. Box 21107
    Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107
We have really become a society which consists of a class of rich people who hold themselves separate from the rest of our citizens and who feel that the stated laws regarding the coastline do not apply to them. Why are they custodians of the coastline? They bought property that abuts the Pacific knowing full well that the ocean is protected...but I guess money talks. Disgusting perversion of our democracy.

Sent from my iPad
I just read an article in the Los Angeles Times by columnist Steve Lopez concerning access to Hollister Ranch beach. Why is it that some property owners mistakenly think that they own California’s beaches? And why do we continually allow them to block access to what rightly belongs to all of us? These should not be rhetorical questions. They should be the impetus to get our elected officials and judges to stand up for Californians and grant access--by land--to all beaches. Let's end this ridiculous position that forces people to make a perilous landing by water to a public stretch of beach. Sure, protect private property and encourage people to respect that. But also find a way for those who pay taxes and respect our laws to get to the beach without endangering their lives.

Robert Nathan
I respectfully request that safe public access by land to the Hollister Ranch Beach that protects the environment be created.

sincerely,

Gale Trachtenberg, Los Angeles, CA
California beaches should be accessible to everyone. Access by sea is not available to everyone. I do not think paddling or kayaking from Gaviota State Beach to enjoy the beach at Hollister Ranch is a fair option. Please reconsider and keep our beaches available for everyone to enjoy.

Julie Jones
425 Jasmine St.
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
It’ll create a terrible precedent others can use to the public’s disadvantage.

If it’s a uniform law that the public owns beach, then it’s going to create nothing but trouble going forward to make exceptions.

Thank you.
Dear California Coastal Commission,

I was under the impression that the entire coast of California is open to the public. This decision regarding the Hollister Ranch sets a bad precedent.

I was a surfer for many years and had to deal quite often with a ‘locals only’ vibe that made it more difficult but I never let it prevent me from catching waves that are there for all Californians. There are access points all up and down the coast for beachgoers. They can abide by the mean high tide rule, but only if there is access. A water only access is discriminatory. Why would you agree to this?

Please reconsider the public access to Hollister Ranch. Don’t let it remain a private playground for the rich landowners.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jay Homel
603 N. Catalina Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91106
I was very disappointed in reading 3-4 weeks ago about a decision to only allow small groups to visit the beach area at Hollister Ranch at very limited times. The beach should be available to the public as all beaches along the coast are to the mean high tide line. Yesterday's LA Times article by Steve Lopez very clearly shows that using a kayak or renting a boat is virtually impossible. There should be a trail along the coast that would allow us to walk in. There does not have to be a parking lot, though that would be nice but at least a trail. I understand we could park at Gaviota State park for a fee and walk from there. California has been trying to provide access to beaches along the coast for about 40 years. Why did they cave in to Hollister Ranch? It smells a little bit of pay-offs. Tim Norlen
To Whom It May Concern:

The current agreement about public access to the Hollister Ranch seacoast in truth shuts out access for 99% of the population. As is too often the case, a few crumbs are meted out to the average person while the uber rich hold on to what they feel they are entitled to by virtue of their wealth, and therefore, power. Please do not allow this agreement to stand. There should be reasonable access for ordinary folks, not barriers which preclude all but the most adventurous or most privileged from experiencing what is supposed to be available to all.

Thank you for your attention.

Susan Rosen
Van Nuys, CA
Hollister beach should have access for all humans. The rich have no right to steal the beach from the people.

Sent from my iPad
I am outraged by the idea that access to the shore at Hollister will only be available by water.

Access to the beach is a fundamental right of the citizens of California that the California Coastal act established and that access MUST be maintained.

It is abhorrent to me, and it should be abhorrent to you, to think that a small group of wealthy homeowners can block access to one of our natural beauties except by an arduous water approach.

please do not let this happen.

Regards,

Kevin E. Ryan
Please allow walk-in access to the Hollister beach area. Do we really want families risking lives by kayaking into the designated area? Let's make sure the beaches remain available to all Californians. Thank you.

Greg Bartz
Newport Beach

Sent from Greg's iPhone
I'm in my eighties and have lived on the coast, Balboa Island, most of my life. I have seen how money can ruin the idea of public beaches. Our beaches should NOT be private. They belong to all of us regardless of wealth. Joan Ross
I am writing to strongly oppose the ridiculous decision about usage and access to Hollister Ranch. Give people land access! Allow no cars, no vendors...just people who can walk to this pristine area that must be shared.

Tom Fefer
805-7171968
Dear Coastal Commission, Coastal Protectors, and Access Advocates,

Please continue to fight for coastal access for all of our California coastline!
I live in Ventura County and drive to the beach almost daily, always appreciating the easy access I have to the ocean and the beach. I am 73 and not a surfer and I cherish my walk at the shore. Our coast is our most important and valuable state characteristic which has the power to inspire and replenish all our citizens. Please continue to fight for that right of access, even by foot, to all of our coastline.

Thank you,
Kenmere Davidson
600 High Point Drive
Ventura, California 93003
805-340-3205

Sent from my iPad
Access by kayak is no access at all. I am in my 70’s and could not maneuver a kayak through the swells—forget the cost of renting one. Why not a trail from Gaviota State Park as suggested in Steve Lopez’s Sunday column in the LAT?

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Hello,
I am appreciative if we could have walk in access just like some of the beaches near Big Sur.

Patrick Arballo

RE/MAX 2000
Commercial / Investment / Residential
Direct: 909-709-9156 / Lic: 00963124

For your consideration -

I support the trail from Gaviota State Park Beach to allow walk ins - the two mile hike - to Hollister.

The beauty of California is for all to enjoy.

Thank you,

John

John Dumbacher
626.440.1234
Jddumbacher@gmail.com
From: Walters, Jim (LLU) <jwalters@llu.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 9:37 AM
To: Ainsworth, John@Coastal <John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Hollister Ranch access

Dear Mr. Ainsworth,

I write to appeal to you and our Coastal Commission to allow timely and effective public access to the coastline below the Hollister Ranch.

I realize that access via paddle boat to kayak from Giovata State Park is now possible, but this is dangerous to all and surely not at all an effective method for allowing legal access to the precious public coast along a significant section of the as-yet undeveloped California coast.

I urge you and your commissioners in the most strong and urgent sense possible, to do all in your powers to persuade the Superior Court to devise a way that protects the private property rights involved while also allows timely and appropriate access to the involved public lands.

Surely those who know this case intimately may have a better solution, but here is a two-part plan I suggest for your consideration:
   a) Access for the able-bodied via a 2-mile trail from Gaviota State Park, and
   b) Access for the less able along the YMCA road that for decades provided access for all.
   c) 

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James W. Walters, PhD
Professor of Religion, School of Religion
Director, Humanities Program
Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA 92350
(909) 558 4536
On campus ext. 47011

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above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error and that any review, disclosure, dissemination, distribution or copying of it or its contents is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by replying to this message and destroy all copies of this communication and any attachments. Thank you.
Greetings,
Access to Hollister Beach via the ocean is not safe. I feel that it invites injury or drowning. The wind also comes up daily, pushing kayaks and paddle boards out to sea. This being California, it invites lawsuits.

The hike from Gaviota Beach is easier to control and much safer. Most people won't attempt a 2 mile hike each way unless they are confident that they can do it. Rescue on land is much easier than by sea.

I am a stand up paddler and windsurfer and am reminded every outing to exercise caution.
Regards and concerns,
Judy Kordich
San Pedro, CA

Sent from my iPad
The currently proposed agreement for access to the beaches at Hollister Ranch should not be approved. It is too much of a giveaway to monied landowners and not enough for the residents of California who want to use the beaches.

Kent Genzlinger
PO Box 5403
Playa Del Rey, CA 90296
Dear Sirs: I am troubled by the possibility of limiting access to this beach; it is very dangerous. The beach should be open to all. The plan before you would result in rescues and drownings for those that take the chance to use this beach.

Please set up an access plan that works.

Richard R. McCurdy
Post Production Sound
4405 Riverside Dr., #104
Burbank, CA 91505-4050

818-260-9544 (office)
818-618-7388 (cell)
818-260-0954 (fax)

richardmccurdy@earthlink.net
mccurdysound.com
Hello,

I wanted you to know how unfair the proposed agreement between Hollister Ranch and the State of California is, in my opinion. As a native California who loves the State's beaches and shoreline, this is not right. I have been out to Hollister Ranch as a 'guest' but cannot go out and enjoy the shoreline and surf on my own. I'm 68 years old - I ought to be able to do this without being a 'guest'.

Years ago, my husband and I had the horrible experience of 'dropping off' my son's friend after an outing at Space Camp. The Dad is a property owner in Hollister Ranch and asked us to meet him at the 'gate' in the drop-off area and he would pick-up his son at that area. We drove up to the 'gate' which was open, with 2 'guards' standing/seating there. We drove past them, 20 yards (?) to a parking area and pulled in and parked to wait for the Dad. One guard approached us menacingly and just started yelling at my husband (in his 50's) and almost came to fisticuffs with him. He made us drive back to the other side of the gate and wait for the Dad to pick-up his son there. The Dad apologized and said that the 'guards' sometimes got 'carried-away'. That was the last time (20yrs. ago) that we ever went out to Hollister Ranch. I would certainly be hard-pressed to ever accept an invitation out there again as a 'guest', even from a friend.

There is absolutely no reason that a public walking trail, one that you could actually walk on, cannot be made available from the Gaviota parking lot. I understand that it is a 2 mile walk in, but that shoreline is really the citizen's of California and the general public's right to access and enjoy.

The 'agreement' is a 'gift' to the Hollister Ranch property owners. Shame on the poor negotiators who bowed to this 'agreement'.

Please do not approve this 'agreement'.
Elaine Dietsch
236 Ortega Ridge Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Dear Sir: Please, please, rule in favor of the citizens of the state of California by allow we the public to access the Pacific Ocean at Hollister Ranch. I am aware much /most of the land to the ocean is privately owned. HOWEVER, the coastline belongs to all of us and the general public must have access to the beach and the ocean. Appropriate the land by law, eminent domain, what ever means is necessary to allow the public to access the beach by land on walking paths, by vehicles, whatever means to allow public access. Getting to the coastline by boat or kayak is ridiculous. We have feet and must have access....

Thank you,
Barbara Nathan
Please reconsider the access to the beach areas at Hollister Ranch. The parking that has been decided on looks like it is 2 miles down the coast from the ranch and the beach can only be accessed by boat. This does not serve the public access very well.

Michael Hatton
4873 La Gama Way
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93111

805-705-2526
To whom it may concern:

The agreement with the Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association should not be approved.

The access the Homeowner Association has proposed is completely absurd and should not be considered.

But also more importantly this “Agreement” will set precedence for all future oceanfront homeowners and associations to strongarm the Coastal Commission and give away our beaches.

My extended family live in the area and use the local beaches. I sincerely hope our beaches will still be here when my great grandchildren are born.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carol Mineau
4421 la Paloma Ave.,
Santa Barbara, Ca 93105
Hello, Commissioners.

I am writing about Hollister Ranch, and coastal access.

We have to protect coastal access for Californians. Coastal access is becoming a problem when large swaths of land are bought and sold along the coast. Land owners do have a right to their privacy, but the public also must be considered and given access to the 1,100 miles of beaches in the state of California. We will not be shut out.

Commissioners must consider the average Californian that relies on you to expand access, not restrict access to the coast, for everyone.

Mindy Taylor-Ross
1033 Nowita Place
Venice, CA 90291

(310) 592-0742
Really?? This is so hard to believe that a California judge would allow this nonsense to occur.

If these wealthy landowners want their own private beach access, then why don't they purchase their very own island where they can have it all to themselves and not have to share with those who have less.

Please do not allow this beach access to close to those who are not able to access the beach from either kayak or swim in from dangerous currents.

Thank you.

Belinda Gonzalez
I'm contacting you to state my dissatisfaction with the deal you are making with the Hollister Ranch for beach access. By not providing land access to the beach with a protected easement and right of way you are forcing people into a dangerous situation. The winds and waves off that coast are often dangerous and unpredictable.

This is not how public access to an area the Hollister Ranch has illegally stopped access to over the years.

Ed Adams
93117..
Please allow walk-in access for the Hollister Ranch Beach. Coastal California is unique in the world for its public beach access. It benefits everyone to continue it.

Thank you,
Kristina Thorpe
23 year resident of Montecito CA
I urge you to reconsider your decision on the Hollister Ranch. I, along with thousands of other Californians, am relying on you to expand rather than constrict public access to our coastline, even its most secluded stretches. I live in San Luis Obispo County and frequently drive south along the 101. It is a beautiful stretch of coast, and it should be available to everyone, not just the wealthy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Juliane McAdam
Los Osos, CA
RE Hollister Ranch and Coastal Commission Access Plan

Dear Sirs: We are deeply troubled by the "agreement" that is before you to limit the access to this beach by boat, surfboard, or swim by sea; it is very dangerous and costly to say the least. It seems reasonable to me that if someone can walk under their own power on an accessible trail, the beach, it should be open to all those able to do it. To limit it by sea can be deadly to those not skilled enough in weather, surf, and tides, and would result in rescues, searches, and drownings for those that take the chance to use this beach and get into trouble. There has to be a better way to insure that we have access to this remarkable coast line.

Please re-evaluate this agreement and set up an access plan that works. This one is very flawed.

Thank you,

Thomas Williams
1879 Maui Circle
Costa Mesa, California
92626
From: Louie Traister
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Hollister Ranch coastal public access
Date: Sunday, June 17, 2018 9:07:37 PM

The purpose of the State Coastal Act is to preserve California's coast, and allow the public access to the coast.
Please enforce it for all of us.
Thank you,
Louie Traister
The idea that access to public beaches should only come from the sea is worth a chuckle were it not that this proposal initiates that oxymoronic idea as a precedent for future agreements. The truth is that ALL California ocean beaches already are accessible from the ocean. No agreement is needed to allow this. Offering such in return for the concessions to the Hollister Ranch owners is a sell out of the public and should never proceed. Minimally there must be land access for days and hours that are realistic in terms of the needs of the people of this state.

Glen Mowrer
Santa Barbara, CA
Hollister Ranch is a world-class example of “private conservation”. It is expensive, awkward, and always contentious – but this model protects California’s coastal resources better than any other mechanism in the history of conservation.

If the public wants to enjoy the Gaviota Coast there are three awesome State Parks and now a Nature Conservancy Preserve.

The trail from Gaviota State Park will never happen.

Finalize the settlement.

It’s a gift.

David Levine

949.497.0931 (o)
949.887.9765 (c)
To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this e-mail is to express my strong opposition to the proposed settlement in Pappas Et al vs. The State of California, Et al, SBSC Case No. 1417388. The long pending litigation should be taken to a trial. Too little is being gained by this settlement and too much is being given up. It has been taken this far, the arguments of the interested parties deserve to be heard in front of a trier of fact and a public record preserved.

The Hollister Ranch is a unique property which was purchased by surfers with the specific intent to keep non-owners out. I attended UCSB in the 70s and was occasionally lucky enough to be invited in by an owner or friend of an owner. The surf and beaches in the Ranch are unique to the Southern California coast. The consistent offshore winds and remarkable configuration of the ocean bottom make for one of the best surfing areas on earth. The beaches and land inland are beautiful and lush. The people who purchased the land knew this and intended to keep others out. They wanted to keep the place as their own private playground. Their tactics to keep people out ranged from verbal harassment to violence. The proposed settlement rewards this intentionally wrongful conduct.

The courts of the State of California recognize the unique value which our beaches have for the public. Allowing public access via the ocean to a small strip of beach does not recognize the rights of the public. If anything, it will put the few intrepid people who make the journey at risk by forcing them to take the dangerous journey on the water. Any hope for safer access is forever lost. The Coastal Commission has previously required beach front owners to allow reasonable public access and this settlement will do nothing more than to strip the public of its rights and embolden other coastal property owners to fight hard to extract a similar resolution.

Take it to trial. No matter how difficult the facts, it should be heard and not settled.

Paul D. Krausz, Esq.
Law Office Of Paul D. Krausz
15915 Ventura Blvd., Suite PH-4
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 990-6332
Please represent the people of CA by granting overland access to the beach at Hollister Ranch at the upcoming CA Coastal Commission meeting. I though the CA coastline belonged to the people; why segregate this coastline from that principal for a few too-rich elitists? (and I am a huge fan of Jackson Browne). What precedent will a decision in favor of the rich guys set with regard to the situation at Half Moon Bay and Vinod Khosla?

Gary Peck
Laguna Niguel, CA
Coastal Commissioners...Please! Expand rather than constrict coastal access everywhere on the California coast. Lynda B. Stuart
California Coastal Commissioners,

We’re relying on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of everyone to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our coast.

Rebecca Ricketts
932 French St
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Dear Coastal Commission and Judge Stern

I hope there will be a principled, transparent reconsideration of the decision to make it near-impossible for non-residents of Hollister Ranch to access the beach there. By every account I have read, one can get there only at significant risk of life. Surely this is a very different vision than we (including me) voted so strongly for, when the Coastal Commission was set up in the 1970s.

The problem back then was that wealthy people could make beaches near their properties essentially private, by preventing the "99.9%" from getting to them. It seems obvious that this is exactly what is happening in this case (and others, e.g., Khosla). Is it any wonder that there is widespread cynicism about government? No matter what we vote for, money can carve out exemptions for itself - even when Democrats nominally dominate the appointments. Can anyone imagine (say) Carpinteria residents getting such consideration?

There may be genuine concerns about the effect of too many visitors. If so, they should be expressed and justified, in public, with documentation, studies, and plenty of opportunity for counter-arguments.

If the concerns are real, not just NIMBY-ism, then there are several ways to deal with them other than this life-threatening all-or-nothing approach. One is to have a walking trail of (say) 2 miles from a parking area to the beach; the likelihood of casual vandals going to this trouble seems small, especially if people on the trail can expect to be seen by residents. If necessary, this could be combined with a reservation system. I've never visited Hollister Ranch (though I'd like to), but I assume there is already some kind of security system in place that could cope with this. Alternatively, there could be a shuttle bus that runs only one or two trips per day, reservations (and modest fares) required. No doubt the Coastal Commission staff can think up better options than these; probably the Ranch's lawyers and lobbyists could too, but don't want to.

I've lived in this area since I was 31; I'll be 80 next year. I've never been able to see that beach, only a few miles away. I'm very aware that, compared to the world's refugees or to families with small children being subjected to deliberately cruel treatment at our border, I don't have much cause for self-pity. Still, even small injustices, when supported only by privilege derived from wealth, should be unacceptable in a democracy.

Thank you for your consideration

--

Allan Stewart-Oaten
167 Lyric Lane
Santa Barbara, CA, 93110-1806, USA
Identical email addresses: stewart@lifesci.ucsb.edu
stewart@ucsb.edu and allan.stewart-oaten@lifesci.ucsb.edu
WARNING: area codes 284, 809 or 876 are for scams
"It's easy to lie with statistics. But it's a lot easier to lie without them." Fred Mosteller.
I really recommend that you open Hollister Ranch to the public by land not just by sea. Access should be available to the CA public maybe with limited hours. Thank you for your consideration.

S. H. Holloway
sholloway10@gmail.com
Having just read today’s Steve Lopez LA Times article on this issue, as well as an earlier one advocating comment, I want to second the position that non-motorized access to Hollister Ranch (“HR”) by “public” hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders be allowed along one or more designated trails. As one who has been driven onto Hollister’s beach by a former resident and one who also owns a home in a “private” subdivision on the Idaho side of the Teton mountain range, a subdivision adjacent to BLM land with a road the same “public” wants to use for Targhee forest and Teton mountain access, this type of agreement — in our case one that took the form of an arbitration settlement between the subdivision’s HOA and Teton County’s commissioners — seemed (and still seems) to me a fair outcome. (I am a native Californian who grew up a regular visitor to California’s beaches; so was my mother, who was the daughter of two California education professionals. While earning my biological sciences degree at Stanford I toyed with being a marine biologist based on this “beach” history, opting instead for a career in law.)

The arrangement I describe has worked well for the 21 land- and home-owners who have to pay to maintain the Idaho subdivision’s dirt roads and bought and/or built long ago in the foothills of the Teton mountains hoping for some peace and quiet, and non-owner persons who like to hike, bike, and ride in the same area.

I urge you to do the same at Hollister Ranch.

Ms. Robin Schlinger
123 Columbia Street
Pasadena, CA 91105
Greetings –

As a Ventura County resident I strongly oppose the Hollister Ranch settlement allowing access to this wonderful beach area by kayak only. This is a very dangerous stretch of coastline to be encouraging novice and beginner kayaking, but the proposed settlement would do just that.

Instead, I would suggest a two-mile hiking trail from Gaviota State Beach parking lot that would allow for wider usage and safer public access while still preserving the pristine nature of the area.

Thank you for considering my input.

Best Regards,

Forrest Huff
1862 Camino Vera Cruz
Camarillo, CA 93010

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Dear California Coastal Commission,

I urge you to include public access to Hollister Ranch via a land-based trail, rather than just access via sea.

Land access will actually provide public access; sea-based access will be very limiting due to the danger involved.

Again, please provide land-based access as part of the deal for this beautiful land.

Jere Gerszewski

Oak Park, CA 91377
I am writing to request you allow public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch via a hiking trail that could be built from the nearest public park in Santa Barbara to the beach at Hollister Ranch. It is too expensive and dangerous to access the beach via boat. I think allowing a walking trail is a fair compromise because beaches in California are not just a playground for the rich, but are a public common space.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Wallace
19241 Jasper Hill Rd.
Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

949-370-0590
To whom this concerns,

I am a California native who has been camping up and down the California coast forty for five years. I have enjoyed so many lovely beaches up and down the coast. I feel everyone should be allowed to enjoy the beaches of California's coast. No area should be blocked off, as this is public land, not private. I am relying on the California coastal commissioners to expand, rather than constrict the rights of “everyone” to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, even along the most secluded stretches of our coast.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Damon
Our Beaches are not just for the rich and privileged.

Sent from my iPhone
I feel this is a crime in California to forbid public access to any of our beaches. One of the many reasons I moved to this lovely state from New York was that the beaches are public. NY has allowed the rich to close most beaches to the public, and most public beaches request payment to enjoy the sand. Give the rich an inch, and they will take miles of our precious coast!

Best,

Sasha Laing

Sent from my iPhone
I NEVER thought I would see trump's version of america in California, but we are witnessing it. The rich get what they want and the public gets shafted. Thanks.
Shayne Dicus
California beaches belong to ALL of us....please do no dilute this ownership by not allowing foot access to Hollister Beach. A reasonable solution to the current situation is to allow people to park at Gaviota State Park and walk the two miles to Hollister Beach. Most people won't take this option, so the beach will remain pristine and we will not be going down that "slippery slope" where the rich try to keep everyone else out.

Thank you.

Peggy Carey Bishop
250 S. Sierra Ave #6
Solana Beach, CA 92075
I support walk-in access to the beach at Hollister Ranch, with a trail starting at Gaviota State Park.
Commissioners,

We are relying on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of everyone to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our coast.

Patricia and Victor Korechoff
Granada Hills, CA.
Dear Coastal Commission,

Public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch should remain open to the public.

In this technological age, too few people are going outside or learning to enjoy nature. Surfing and beach combing are family friendly activities that get people, especially younger folks, out of the living room and into the water. Young people who are introduced to beach activities early in life enjoy a more active and healthier lifestyle and become nature stewards. We need the beaches available for this generation so they will conserve the California coastline for future generations.

Limiting the beaches of Hollister-Ranch to kayaks and boats is not feasible. The nearest boat dock is many miles away in Gaviota. The prevailing winds and strong tides are not conducive to kayaking, and are in fact dangerous.

A compromise would be to define a hiking trail to the beach.

Please leave the public access open to the beach at Hollister-Ranch. California coastline should be available to everyone.

Sincerely,

Cathleen Woodington

429 E. Ada Ave., Glendora CA 91741

626-335-2320

Sent from Outlook
Hello,

The restriction imposed on coastal access any place in California is unwise, counterproductive, and harmful to tourism and commerce.

Hopefully a complete and unobstructed access will be enforced throughout all California beaches.

Sincerely,

Ben S.
Expand rather than contract.

Dave
PLEASE revise the settlement by broadening access beyond what you currently agree to with Hollister Ranch lawyers.

Thank you,
Erica
As a lifetime California resident, I've been justifiably proud of the Coastal Commission's defense of the principle of access to the beach for all. But I've also been justifiably disappointed in the inconsistent way in which the principle has been enforced. Whether it is the wealthy homeowners in areas like Malibu who manage to keep the public out for years or even decades through subterfuge, foot dragging, and by exploiting weak enforcement, or the really wealthy landowners like Vinod Khosla fighting the very principle of public access in court, the reality of guaranteed access has often fallen far short of the ideal.

But how to explain a case like Hollister Ranch, where the Commission has apparently agreed to a settlement which for all practical purposes prevents the public from ever accessing one of the most pristine beaches in the entire State?

Sure, one can get there by boat, or swim, or take a helicopter, or skydive from a plane. But none of these are even within the realm of practicality for "the public". Not that a few adventurers won't try, some of them perhaps getting seriously hurt in the process.

I support the idea of making access sufficiently difficult so as to prevent the area from being overrun by visitors, destroying what is so special about it in the first place. But a better kind of obstacle would be one that requires effort to overcome, but isn't inordinately dangerous or expensive. A hiking trail would strike exactly the kind of balance needed. A 5-6 mile round trip hike would reduce the number of visitors to a trickle, but would still provide a wide cross-section of Californians the opportunity to access this public jewel without needing special equipment or taking dangerous risks. Such a trail wouldn't be very expensive to build or maintain, because there are probably volunteer organizations that would contribute most of the labor.

I urge you to amend the agreement to allow access on foot by trail.

Thank you,

Jack McGregor
23137 Sylvan St.
Woodland Hills CA 91367
One of the things I have always appreciated about California is that it provides public access to the coast. In fact I am proud that we do that in contrast to the East Coast and other places. But access that requires a 2 hour kayak trip is not public access. There are other, better ways of protecting against overuse. The proposed settlement is not a good resolution and sets a terrifying precedent. Please make a better decision. For example it sounds as if there is merit in the idea of a trail from Gaviota State Park beach, which already has public parking. Thank you.
Dear Commissioners,

The agreement currently in place for public use of Hollister Ranch coastal areas allows the public to use a certain stretch of the beach only if they arrive by kayak, surf or paddle board, soft bottom boat, and so forth. No roadways are to be open for vehicles, even though the beach is many miles from the urban areas of Goleta and Santa Barbara. The winds, currents, and waves along this stretch of coast make boating in small craft quite dangerous, and could maroon those on whom the weather changes after they have paddled to the shore.

This agreement must be modified to include easier and safer access for the public of the state of California to exercise its rights to enjoy the benefits of our 1100 miles of coastline.

Yours truly,
Stephen C. Murray, PhD
California Coastal Commission Commissioners:

My wife and I recently returned from visits to Morro Bay and Monterey, where we enjoyed hiking along the coast in Montana de Oro State Park and Point Lobos State Reserve. We occasionally wondered what would have happened or what would happen if developers possessed these parts of the coast or wealthy residents restricted access to the coast. With millions of other Californians, we enjoy our access to the coast, and we urge the commissioners to reconsider the agreement regarding the Hollister Ranch development. You will be meeting next month in Scotts Valley, and I will be paying close attention to the outcome. Please maintain walk-in access to the Hollister Ranch area.

John Gregg

California Coastal Commission Commissioners:

I am a graduate of two Universities of California, my two children graduates of UCLA. I have taught at a CA community college for forty years and am about to retire. One of my hopes in retirement is to continue to enjoy my state's coastline. You commissioners can help me to fulfill that hope: Please reconsider your settlement regarding the Hollister Ranch development. Please allow your fellow Californians to have access to this eight-plus miles of our coast.

John Gregg
10606 Riesling Drive
San Diego, CA 92131
858-578-0302
From: Bruce Hansell
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:59:49 AM
Attachments: icon.png

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
Date: Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 8:50 PM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: brucehansell@gmail.com

Address not found
Your message wasn't delivered to hollister@coastalca.gov because the domain coastalca.gov couldn't be found. Check for typos or unnecessary spaces and try again.

The response was:
DNS Error: 4029563 DNS type 'mx' lookup of coastalca.gov responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: coastalca.gov

Final-Recipient: rfc822; hollister@coastalca.gov
Action: failed
Status: 4.0.0
Diagnostic-Code: smtp; DNS Error: 4029563 DNS type 'mx' lookup of coastalca.gov responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: coastalca.gov
Last-Attempt-Date: Tue, 19 Jun 2018 20:50:55 -0700 (PDT)

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Bruce Hansell <brucehansell@gmail.com>
To: hollister@coastalca.gov
Cc: 
Bcc: 
Date: Tue, 19 Jun 2018 20:50:55 -0700
Subject: Hollister Ranch beach access
Please add my name to those who are opposed to the current proposed 'solution' to beach access. This 'compromise' of water access only is not only unsafe, it is a bad
joke, and I would suspect those who support it of having some personal interest other than serving the public.

In 1972 I was active in getting Prop 20 passed to prevent this type of privatization of public beaches. I agree with Tamlorn Chase that walk-in access is sufficient for public use, no need for parking lots, etc.

I strongly urge the Coastal Commission to do the job Prop 20 was written to accomplish and reject the current proposed 'solution', and provide walk-in access.

Bruce Hansell
I owned 80 feet of beach frontage in Malibu and built a home on my bluff property that shared one of the few privates beaches in California. The Coastal Commission bought an undeveloped lot next to my residence that theoretically allowed the public access to the beach. That was in 1972. Unfortunately, the public still does not have access to that beach area because the Coastal Commission has (1) not constructed a staircase on the lot it purchased that would provide the public access from the private road (parallel to Pacific Coast Highway) to the beach and Pacific Ocean below, (2) not provided any parking, (3) not provided life guards, (4) not provided trash collection, and (4) not provided policing. There is not enough land at the site for public access. However, the Malibu Beach and Tennis club is practically across the Pacific Coast Highway from this lot. Buy that and shuttle the public to the lot the Coastal Commission bought in 1972.

There is enough land at the Hollister beach to provide public access with all the safety issues addressed. The only real issue then is whether the Coastal Commission has the political will and the funding to open Hollister to the public. The proposed compromise public access plan that requires a two-mile paddle board or kayak voyage one way to reach Hollister is a joke. Also burdensome is a two-mile hike from a parking lot. Certainly, the people of California deserve better access than this to Hollister and the Coastal Commission CAN make that happen. Do your job..

I would prefer that the California coastline be owned by the people of California on the ocean side of Pacific Coast Highway. The opposite side of the road should be available for hotels, restaurants, apartments and residential development. This is the model one sees in France. It is not too late for the Coastal Commission to begin better use of California's coast.
Coastal Commissioners,

Open communications between all parties in coming to a solution to allow public access to the Gaviota Coast through Hollister Ranch should be recognized and applauded. However, I do NOT believe the solution, as I understand it, opens this stretch to the public in any meaningful way.

Not many people have the expensive equipment (boats, kayaks, paddleboards) or the athletic ability to reach this ¾ mile stretch of Gaviota coastline via the ocean. Hence, this plan does NOT meet the California Coastal Commission’s mission of ensuring the public access to the California coast.

I certainly understand the private landowners desire to keep this most beautiful, natural, undeveloped coastal land just the way it is, and I support that. However, I cannot support this protection coming at the cost of public accessibility to enjoy what rightfully belongs to all Californians. This stretch of California coastline has been off-limits for most people for far too long.

I believe a walking path accessible to the public is the answer to this dilemma. A walking path precludes the need to develop roads and parking lots. And it would open the coast to more Californians.

As a resident of Goleta, this issue of coastline access is even more important to me, as my local Goleta Beach County Park continues to be closed. Because of the continued high bacteria concentrations from the monumental amount of dumping of the debris sediment from the Montecito mudslide onto Goleta Beach, the beach has remained closed for the past 6 months, and no date to open this beach seems to be in sight.

Please continue to work on this settlement agreement and fulfill every California citizen’s right to coastal access.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Werner
Goleta, CA
Dear Coastal Commission:

The proposed plan to close off public access via land to the beaches at Hollister Ranch is outrageous and is a violation of the whole purpose of the Coastal Act and the Commission. Access means accessible - and getting there on a perilous sea kayak ride does not qualify.

Please go back to the drawing board and make a way for the public to have daily land access to the beaches. It is your job to make that happen.

Thanks --

Jim Burklo
2468 Hollyridge Dr
LA CA 90068
Dear Commissioners,
I write to express my disappointment in the recent settlement that allows very limited access on the Hollister Ranch property. The access offer by boat or paddle board is nothing new except for the fact that guests might have a few more feet of beach above the mean high tide line. Other access is too restricted.
I urge you to consider a workout requirement of an open hiking path from between Gaviota State Beach and this one Hollister Ranch beach. This sort of access to the general public would be more meaningful. Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully,
Janet Koed
Santa Barbara, CA
805-689-7453

Sent from my iPhone
To the California Coastal Commission:

I write with a short and simple plea: Please do not restrict access to our coast by allowing the Hollister Ranch owners to secure the proposed "deal" that they and you have in place.

This is dangerous precedent - and we have enough problems already in California accessing the coast. We do not need this.

Please keep access to all of our coast as open and free as possible.

thank you.

Kevin Patrick
12963 Via Latina
Del Mar, Ca 92014
858.481.9839
Allow me to repeat my wife’s earlier appeal to you, regarding access to Hollister Ranch. The only thing I’d like to add is, please do the right thing, for a change.

Sincerely,

Howard Hawkes, Ph.D.
6731 Mountain Top Ct.
San Diego, CA 92120

Hello Commissioners:

I am writing to let you know how important I think it is to improve beach access for the many citizens of California. I think you should keep this uppermost in your thoughts during all your deliberations.

Concerning Hollister Ranch: it’s wonderful to have a pristine coast line which has been kept that way for many years. Commendable, but at the same time, the lack of access to the Hollister Ranch beaches has been an outright assault on the laws of California.

I don’t think you can find balance in this situation. Things have been way out of balance for way too long. You need to address the rights of the public, rights which have been truly trod upon.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hawkes
6731 Mountain Top Court
San Diego, CA
Please protect the coast for all—allow more public access than currently permitted.

Access via kayak is nearly impossible.

The number of guests allowed for tours is ridiculously small.

Be welcoming of creative solution(s) so more people can enjoy the beautiful beach.

This is California!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone
From: Marsha Epstein
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Hollister Ranch agreement
Date: Thursday, June 21, 2018 4:24:51 PM

Please do not give away our right to access the beach at Hollister Ranch. The current agreement basically keeps it for the wealthy who live there. There is no reason there can't be walk-in access from Gaviota State Beach. A 2 mile walk each way will determine anyone who is not serious.

Marsha Epstein MD
3200 Butler Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90066
I want to lend my name to the chorus who object to the proposed compromise with landowners with property adjacent to the Hollister Ranch beach, as offered by the California Coastal Commission. The proposal is fundamentally flawed and morally wrong.

Under the proposal, the general public would no longer have access to the beach, which flies in the face of the Coastal Commission’s mandate to make ALL beaches in California available to the public that owns it. There’s no exception to this rule; the mandate doesn’t allow for the wealthy to get a pass on the intent and interpretation of the law. To make an exception violates the very principle of the mandate.

The proposal offers as a compromise limited access to certain groups at certain times and in certain numbers — veterans, children and those skilled enough to navigate the dangerous ocean waters to visit the boat by watercraft. That’s simply ludicrous because it’s not a compromise but rather a capitulation to the wealthy landowners in question.

If, indeed, a goal of proposal were to preserve the natural beauty of the 8-mile beach, while at the same time preserving the sacrosanct public’s access, then the model for such a compromise already exists: the Channel Islands. The general public can access those protected wildlife reserves BUT in a limited number. I think most Californians would support an agreement that would guarantee public access to the beach but in a to-be-determined number that would not damage the existing ecosystem.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the rejection of the current agreement offered by the California Coastal Commission.

Kind regards,

Greg Ptacek
2230 Kenilworth Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90039
Dear Commissioners,

There needs to be another way for the general public to access the portion of the Hollister Ranch beach that will be public. Access by kayak, in those waters, is very dangerous and there will be rescues and deaths from that action.

The answer is to require that the landowners construct a trail for foot and fat tire bicycle from Gaviota State Park to the public beach at Hollister Ranch. This would greatly increase public access and in a far less dangerous way than the sea access route.

If such a trail is to be required then there has to be a stated completion time with strong penalties for missing that date. Many times land owners will promise trails and then never actually build them.

Please consider a trail access from the parking area at Gaviota State Park.

Sincerely,
Frank Colver
Newport Beach, CA
Please reconsider the coastal commission agreement that allows very limited access to the coastal land at Hollister Ranch.

A footpath from an adjacent area would be good—and it would allow more people to enjoy this important resource.

Thank you.

Jeff Wallace
To whom it may concern:

We are long time residents of Santa Barbara, and were very disappointed to hear that the California Coastal Commission did not uphold public access to this section of our coast.

We, among many others, will have virtually no access because we cannot get there by sea (at least not without endangering our lives), and are not part of any of the groups which are allowed limited access.

We do appreciate the owners’ good stewardship of this pristine coastline. However, what happens after their properties change hands? And can’t others of us also be good stewards even though we can’t afford to own coastal property.

There should be some better compromise between the current owners' purported wish to preserve this treasure, and allowing some public land access while still protecting what makes this stretch of coastline unique from hordes of visitors.

Other "preserves" such as Santa Barbara Land Trust's Arroyo Hondo allow public access only on certain days/hours; UCSB's Sedgwick Reserve does something similar.

Or the suggestion of allowing public access via a 2 mile trail from Gaviota State Park is a good one. Without being able to park closer, many people won't make the effort and that is self-limiting, yet allows some land access.

PLEASE re-think your decision to block us, and our children and grandchildren, from any enjoyment of this, our area's beautiful coastline.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary and Ender Kuntsal
1067 N. Patterson Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
I want to go on record as opposing the class action settlement between the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch property owners in Santa Barbara County.

The settlement will permit public access by water to a short stretch of beach, while increasing marine life programs for students and non-profit groups.

This settlement will result in the relinquishment of a contested public access way to the beach, while permitting general public access only over water via boat.

It seems to me that the Hollister Ranch property owners are getting the better part of the agreement. The public over land access will be eliminated. Access via water can be dangerous or expensive depending on how one chooses to traverse 2 miles of ocean. This will severely restrict the public access, almost to the point of inaccessibility. Perhaps that is the intent of the property owners all along.

Additionally only a very few, selected groups of the public will have overland access to the coast. This does not seem fair to the general public who are not students or in contact with non-profit groups.

As such, I strongly urge the court NOT approve the settlement. With 40 million residents, California needs more and easier recreational access to the beach not less.

Richard Saretsky
20720 E. Walnut Canyon Road
Walnut, CA 91789
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

As someone who circulated the California ballot Initiative, campaigned for and voted for the Coastal Protection Act, I am appalled by the Hollister settlement agreement under consideration by the Santa Barbara County Court.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BOTH THE SMALL SIZE OF THE BEACH FRONT OFFERED BY HOLLISTER RANCH AND THE EXTREMELY LIMITED WATER ONLY ACCESS.

The Offer insults the public, the state court and the Coastal Commission. It sets the LOWEST POSSIBLE STANDARD IMAGINABLE AND IF ACCEPTED COULD SET THE NEW NORM.

I spent more than 10 years fighting with many others in the 20 year battle at the City, Orange County, the Legislature and California Supreme Court, to SAVE THE 1,000+ ACRE BOLSA CHICA WETLANDS, located on the Huntington Beach coastline.

WAS THE TIME SPENT WORTH IT?  A RESOUNDING YES!
THE PUBLIC’S FIGHT FOR HOLLISTER RANCH ACCESS IS FAR FROM OVER.

--
Lorraine Faber  
562.434.0384
It is hard to see how public access is public access if the public cannot access it. The current plan to allow access to 3/4 mile of Hollister Ranch coastline as long as you have the money, equipment and athletic ability to go 2 miles by water does not meet the CA Coastal commission's mission of ensuring the public has access to the California coastline. No one wants a beautiful area of the California coast to be overrun with people, but it seems a better compromise is possible, one that might limit numbers by the 2 mile distance walking over an easement trail.

Keep California's coast for public use by all.

Thank you.

Janet and Mike Rogers
650 Gwyne Ave.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
I am writing to express my concern over the agreement between the California Coastal Commission and landowners at Hollister Ranch. I feel that restricting access to public beaches is a serious misuse of public land. It would set a potentially disastrous precedence to access to beautiful public land. We cannot allow only wealthy people to enjoy the natural beauty in this state. Hollister Ranch, Half Moon Bay, what next? California has arguably some of the most beautiful coastline in this country. All of the coast was designated to be available for public use. If we allow these landowners to prevent people from reasonably accessing this land, then I feel that we are in violation of the intent of public land. I agree that we want to preserve the coast as much as possible, but there is little chance of this coastal land being overused. It is too far removed from busy metropolitan areas to cause huge swells of tourists. I think that the landowners should be mandated to have easements that would allow foot traffic through certain designated areas to get to the beach. (Perhaps one per mile?) I also feel that these easements should be monitored by Park Rangers and that no commercial buildings be built in those areas. Boat or surfing access to these beaches is too dangerous. What is the value of the safety of people who want to enjoy public beaches? School groups going to the tide pools is too limited. Would the landowners receive a tax incentive since part of their land is used for education? The taxes that we pay should give us reasonable access to public land.

Sincerely,

Frances Tovar
To Whom It May Concern:

As a life-long Californian, public access to the coastline is a fundamental right that has been staunchly defended throughout my 56 years.

The recent settlement with the Hollister Ranch Owners Association makes a mockery of that right, forcing Californians to risk injury and death through unpredictable waters in order to legally access a public beachfront, to protect the financial and personal interests of a few.

There is a reasonable middle ground and this settlement falls far short. A public hiking trail could easily reach the Hollister Ranch public beach from Gaviota, with little impact on the landowners or environment. The Coastal Commission and California Coastal Conservancy have failed their obligations to the citizens of California and should be held responsible for the irresponsible and surely injurious outcome should this settlement become in effect.

Sincerely,
George Harmon
Glendale, CA
I think a settlement without a walking trail from Gaviota State Beach to Hollister Ranch is outrageous! There is plenty of parking at Gaviota State Beach and a coastal trail would be an outstanding public addition to the California Coast which is owned by all California citizens. Thank you, Glen

Glen Brandenburg
409 Hutchison St.
Vista, CA 92084
Commissioners,
Please vote to keep Hollister Ranch access "rights" available to all and to keep development at a minimum.
Thank you,
Gillian P Symonds
I moved to California in 1970, so I was able to vote for the formation of the Coastal Commission. I am appalled at what the current members of the commission have done to undermine the original purpose of the commission. Obviously, you no longer care about how saving access to the beach and ocean would benefit current and future Californians. You've sold out yourselves and the citizens of California. Instead of shaming you, because you probably can't be shamed, I will join efforts to legally remove you members who voted this dastardly Hollister deed into existence. We citizens put you in power to represent us and the best interests of the state. We can and will remove you from power.

Robert Nesbitt
645 W. 9th Street, #505
Los Angeles, CA 90015
As a native Californian, and longtime resident of Los Angeles, I am relying on the California Coastal Commission to EXPAND (not constrict) the rights of everyone to have access to even the most secluded stretches of our coastline.

PLEASE VOTE AGAINST the Hollister Ranch settlement. Save our coastlines for everyone, not just the wealthy.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Matyas
2000 N. Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90068
We are fed up with the lack of beach access for California residents that continues to be limited by the Coastal Commission. We continue to be a nation with a big income disparity between our richest and poorest and the Commission only reinforces this inequity.

Suzanne Demong
cell: 760-585-5944
We have on the books the 1976 California’s revolutionary State Coastal Act set out to protect California’s 1,100 miles of shoreline and the people’s right to access it.

Beaches are not a luxury. Beaches are a public commons that bring people together as equals.

Furthermore, this sets an unacceptable precedent that nearly invalidates the State Coastal Act of 1976 thereby allowing greedy developers etc. to lay claim to more coastline.

California’s shores that are for everyone. We have on the book our State Coastal Act of 1976 that in word and spirit denies a settlement like this.

DO NOT PASS OR AGREE TO THIS SETTLEMENT.
I am writing this letter to support opening the Hollister Ranch beach and surfing area to the public in someway, for example by shuttle, bicycle or for path. I understand the need to conserve this valuable resource, but it just isn't fair that The wealthy are able to keep this area for themselves and keep the public out. This is just not what we do in California, and I am a California native.

Respectfully yours

David Low
Goleta
California

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Gov,

Please expand rather than constrict the rights of everyone, and open up the Hollister ranch coastline for all Californians to responsibly enjoy.

Thank you,

Jagrup Sidhu

Sent from my iPhone
Please expand the rights of everyone to access the Hollister ranch shoreline.

Everyone should have fair access to our coast.

Thanks,
Mackenzie Champlin
Dear Commissioners,

One of the best things about California consists not only of the beautiful coastline, but the general concept that the coastline is the public's to enjoy. Please do not allow private interests to continue creating exceptions to that concept. In particular, the deal reached with the fabulously wealthy owners of the Hollister Ranch is very harmful to the public and to the preservation of the idea that even the poorest among us may enjoy our natural treasures. We need access by land to the coastline of the Hollister Ranch.

Thank you,
Cindy Wyels
Ventura, CA
I am a registered voter living in Santa Barbara. I do not believe the Hollister beach access proposed settlement is acceptable. I believe there should be a walking path from Gaviota State Park Beach. A round trip 4 mile hike is much more doable for an ordinary person than entry from the sea. It is up to the government to protect the rights of the ordinary citizen’s access to California beaches. I urge you to not accept the proposed settlement.

Laura Ciontea
805-964-8551

For secure file transfer, please use the following link: http://dbntm.leapfile.com and click Secure Upload.

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To Coastal Commission:

I have heard about the deal to allow public access at Hollister Ranch only by sea, and not by land.

To paraphrase the title of a children's book -- this is a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad "deal."

Access by sea means perhaps 2% of the population will gain access. What about the remaining 98% of us who aren't accomplished kayakers or surfers? Access for the very elite is not what the Coastal Act is about.

Meanwhile, the homeowners say they'll expand access for disabled veterans. Veterans did not serve their country so that there would be "liberty and justice for a select few".

The so-called "deal" essentially maintains the status-quo -- the homeowners pick-and-choose who gets access to the coast. That is unacceptable, and is inconsistent with the Coastal Act's priorities of access for all and coastal recreation.

A superior alternative -- and one that actually conforms with the Coastal Act -- is access via Gaviota State Park beach and its existing parking lot.

Everyone compromises, yet everyone gains something:

1) The public would gain access to Hollister by land -- a far safer alternative than by sea -- using a 2-mile public trail. The access wouldn't be as direct, but at least it would be *safe* access. The public wins.

2) A public trail would be (passive) coastal recreation and access to the coast -- activities that the Coastal Act specifically favors. Plus, there's an existing parking lot at Gaviota, so there's very minimal development involved -- again, what the Coastal Act favors. The Coastal Act wins.

3) The homeowners would avoid extra vehicle traffic, parking issues, and significant disturbance to their neighborhood. Public access is a minor
upgrade from restricted to limited, as not everyone would be up for a 4-mile round trip excursion. The homeowners win.

In summary -- scrap the "access by sea only" deal because it is clearly inconsistent with the Coastal Act, and adopt "access via Gaviota public trail" as a superior alternative because it is more fully consistent with the Coastal Act.

Thank you.

--

Julie Bixby
Huntington Beach, CA

Engage Romulan sig cloaking device...
There should be NO private ownership of any beachfront property anywhere in the State of California, including Hollister Ranch. Access to the beach at Hollister Ranch should be open to the public 24/7 without any restrictions. The current compromise by the Costal Commission is a farce. The greed of the wealthy few should not deprive the public from the riches these beaches offer. Their ruse of "protecting" the environment is only an excuse for hoarding what rightfully belongs to the public. The Costal Commission should honor the intentions of the original law protecting our beaches from being taken over by the wealthy few.

John Beckman
jbeckman6713@gmail.com
909.263.3604
Regarding the tentative agreement for access, this seems little more than doing nothing. Although this struggle has been ongoing for years, the proposed settlement is not acceptable and should be abandoned as is. Since when do we cave to the demands of the wealthy, elite and cater to an idea that is contrary to your mission? I say go back to the table and the courts if necessary to gain the access the public should have had years ago. I would propose a multi access approach to the more than 8 miles of this coastline, and stick to this concept. To accept this now will undermine any chance of getting a better deal down the road. As a longtime California resident I expect better from the Coastal Commission and am willing to wait.

Thank You
Michael Collier
Dear Coastal Commission,

I am a resident of Santa Barbara and am writing about the limitation of access to the beach of Hollister Ranch. I am a native Californian and in my 80’s. I do not have the means of getting to this beach by water and am offended by this limitation. I urge you to allow for the public to reach the water by land as well as by water.

Thank you.

Donald S. Simons
I am opposed to the closure of Hollister Beach to the general public. If this is unavoidable, then at least consider these suggestions.

Expand the limit of 400 individuals annually to 400 monthly. And if possible, don't close the door on:

1. The state acquiring a parcel in the far future, and accommodating public access through it, or

2. Eventual pedestrian access from the North or South ends, even if coastal topography currently prevents it.

Permit arrival not only via rafts and kayaks, but any self-powered marine vehicle, as well as any whose power is generated silently. (Such a vehicle may not exist yet, but in contemplation of the future.)

Thank you,

Gary Williams
Dear Honorable Commissioners:

The proposed access point or Beach at the Hollister Ranch is about a 3 mile paddle one way from the Gaviota State Park Beach. I hope you are able to take a boat or paddle board from the Goleta State Park and experience the trip to the proposed beach access. I believe you would have a different perspective on how you would vote for this one sided settlement.

Please delay this vote until the you are able to physically take this trip to Hollister Ranch from Gaviota Pier or Beach.

Respectfully,

Mark Sullivan
Re: Ruling on public access to Hollister Ranch

I am writing to express my strongest opposition to the future ruling in the matter of public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch. The presiding Judge was wise to issue a temporary ruling. I urge the court to review this matter and uphold the CA Coastal Commission's mission statement that the California coastline belongs to everyone and not just the uber rich.

The truth is that there is no access by sea to Hollister Ranch. The currents and tides are extremely dangerous to anyone attempting to access by a Kayak, or canoe or small private boat. Access by a bigger boat further restricts the options for anyone who is not able to afford such a vessel. If someone wanted to hire a boat, the cost is prohibitive assuming that a boat captain agreed to the risk.

The wealthy residents, include a successful musician, and film director who have been keeping this case in litigation in an effort to break the CA Coastal Commision. Giving into their concessions sets up precedence for future private interest groups to do the same and it won't be long before the backbone of the Coastal Commision is broken and wealthy lobbyists and private interest developers as well as rich citizens carve out more and more of the coast for their private enjoyment shutting out the rest of us.

I urge you to consider the future access of the California coast as it belongs to everyone. It should not be offered as access by sea which in this case is really amounts to a rouse by the rich keepers of the castle as a challenge or dare, to anyone to breach the deep in an effort to access what rightfully belongs to everyone.

Kind regards,

Dino DeMarco
Los Angeles CA
Your Honor,

I hope you will take my thoughts into consideration on the matter of access to the Hollister Ranch. I owned property on The Ranch for 20 years. My parcel was one of the original surfing partnerships in the first phase of development back in the early 1970s. There were 12 of us partners, all married couples, except for one brother and sister family, who were all friends. We were young. Most of us did not have much money at the time. All of us cared deeply about the environment, its flora, fauna, creeks, hills, and beaches, and some of us were serious surfers - not me. The land was very cheap to purchase in those days. I am stunned that the value increased the way it did. If I was still fortunate enough to have a 1/12th interest in The Ranch, I would not sell - not ever.

My children, now in their late 30s, essentially grew up on the exquisite beaches, hills, and creeks, spending many summer days and early evenings exploring the beautiful, quiet, pristine, unspoiled environs. My extended family had memorable gatherings there. There were so many attractions for my family and me: unspoiled, protected land, pristine uncrowded, un-littered beaches teaming with thousands of shells, starfish, abalone at one time, flocks of birds, cattle grazing in the hills, and a feeling of safety. Ranch owners and by extension their friends and family always showed a deep abiding respect for the land and the beaches. Prior to living in Santa Barbara I lived near the beach in Malibu. I have seen what development, traffic, access to beaches has done. Malibu has been utterly destroyed. Driving along the PCH, there are stretches of road when drivers cannot see the ocean at all. Beaches are littered and crowded. There are few birds, no shells, dirty sand. The Ranch needs to be protected. It is one of the last remaining unspoiled places along the coast of California. It has wicked weather and changeable seas. Please do everything you can to do no harm. I have not been to The Ranch for more than 10 years now. So, I am not being selfish. I just understand what's at stake, and I care deeply the special place that is The Hollister Ranch.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Leslie Gray
I'm not asking for parking lots and amenities but please make land access available to the public, such as by trail, to Hollister. Sea access only is not acceptable to access this land.

Michael de Villiers
Santa Monica
To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Zubi Olin and I am writing you to request you open Hollister Beach to the public.

I graduated from California Lutheran University with a degree in Geology and am an avid SCUBA diver.

To me, being able to visit this beach means I get to study the wonderful coastline and be a steward of conservation for our precious coastal region.

I also find it VERY HYPOCRITICAL that James Cameron is an advocate for the oceans and even has worked closely with Woodshole Oceanographic Institute to educate the public about the ocean yet he does not want anyone near HIS ocean.

Below is a link to an article from Woodshole Oceanographic Institution that discusses the work Mr. Cameron has done with them. You can even watch an hour long documentary on how Mr. Cameron wants us all to be stewards of the ocean, just as long as its not HIS ocean of course! The documentary is about the work he did with Dr. Robert Ballard a geologist from Woodshole.

https://www.whoi.edu/news-release/deepsea_challenger

I am sickened that someone like him can preach about loving and caring for the ocean, yet he wants to keep the ocean by his house off limits to us poor peasants. To me that is selfish and rude.

As a lover of the ocean, a SCUBA diver and a geology nerd, I beg you to open this beach!

Thank you for your time, and email me back with any questions you may have.

King Regards,
Ms. Zubi Olin
To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Santa Barbara, CA, I strongly object to the Hollister Ranch settlement on the grounds that it prevents public beach access. As a sixth generation Californian and resident of Santa Barbara County, I think this settlement violates one of the rights guaranteed to all Californians and non-residents: that our beaches are accessible to all members of the public regardless of income, race, or identity. One of the things that makes our state great is that we believe in equal access to nature and its beauties; that our coasts are not simply something that can be monetized for corporate interests or a space of class segregation that only the wealthy can enjoy.

While I do not support development of Hollister Ranch, a path to the beach that is freely accessible to all without deterrents like private security, hidden entrances, etc. is a small concession to make. As the beach is already public land, it shouldn't be so egregious to the residents of Hollister Ranch that they have to commingle with us lesser citizens who cannot afford property there. In a moment of growing income inequality, I find this decision even more troubling. I am in my early 30s and while well-educated am far from a position to buy property now or in the future. Many of my peers are in similar positions and the stance of the Hollister Ranch residents only seems to be regressive, elitist, and selfish in our current moment. Instead, we should be promoting California as a place that is progressive and forward thinking, in which the preservation of our coasts and equal access to all is part of our legacy.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Floyd

Virus-free. www.avg.com
Dear Coastal Commission members,

I read the article which explained that the commission was approved to make the settlement with Hollister ranch which would make there be no public access at all (except pre planned, very few school children escorted tours very rarely).

We are writing because the judge in the case left a time open for public discussion, and I am glad, because I speak for all of us in California who will never own anything exclusive when I say, PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS because once one very very rich person gets a way to own beach front property on the California coast WITHOUT having to let the public on it at all, that will become the new standard for the very rich, and our coast will be broken up.

Until this year, with this settlement, and with the Vinod Khosia case in Half Moon Bay, I thought the commission struck a perfect balance and the State Coastal Act of 1976 ensured the preservation of the California coastline, and more importantly, the right of the public to access it. The fight to keep people's right to cut through hollister ranch has gone on and on but the settlement gives away more than just that slice of land, if this settlement goes through, because it sets a legal and a richy exclusivity precedent that will impact our coast up and down the state. Richies will all want this and that will become the new standard - anyone can have beachfront, oceanfront, only we, the Rothschilds, have exclusive with no peasants.

So please don't make this deal, keep it open for the public.

Sincerely,

Sarah
and Brian Birchler Orange County CA
It is so dispiriting that rich and powerful people have been able to convince the CA Coastal Commission and the CA Coastal Conservancy to give up the (long) fight for beach access, as a wonderful thing about CA is the public access to the coast. But since this has happened, please at least preserve beach access via a trail, wherein people could hike to the beach.

I just read Steve Lopez's LA Times article about how dangerous a kayak trip to that area of beach is, so there is effectively no public access if a trail is not made available.

Appreciate anything you do to maintain citizen access to the CA Coast, as that is an irreplaceable treasure.

Sincerely,

Deborah Malcarne
How are non-wealthy people supposed to be able to get to parcel 104...
http://www.hollister-ranch.com/hrmap/hrmap.c5.html

...to be able to enjoy what used to be thought of as nature in the public trust? http://www.hollister-ranch.com/images.html

##

References

"...Increased development along the shorelines of the United States threatens the access of the public to one of our nation's most treasured natural resources, the ocean. Disparities in socioeconomic position are leading to significant deviation in terms of access to the nation's common resources...

"The United States must look beyond protection of acknowledged and existing access routes toward the realization of ancient public rights in accessing the ocean. The public trust doctrine is firmly embedded in Anglo-American jurisprudence, as adapted from ancient Roman ideals.

"These rights are pre-existing rights and are, therefore, takings-proof. It is time for the legislature and the courts to recognize the doctrine's utility in solving modem problems, especially in terms of beach access in the United States.

"As the New Jersey Supreme Court declared, "The public trust doctrine, like all common law principles, should not be considered fixed or static, but should be molded and extended to meet changing conditions and needs of the public it was created to benefit." ...

"When states are presented with the option of providing reasonable rights of way, or being removed as trustees of public trust properties and forfeiting federal stipends, states may begin to provide reasonable access. If not, the states should be removed as trustees. Without such a threat or incentive, many states will not act in the best interests of the public regarding public beach access."

https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3167&amp;context=flr

California Coastal Commission:

The proposed settlement agreement which would allow public access to the Hollister Ranch coastline by water only is worthless. Only a miniscule percentage of the California population has the ability and qualifications to make this treacherous trip. Access to this coastline by foot, would be the best balance between preserving this scenic area, and providing public access. However, the entire Hollister Ranch coastline should be accessible, rather than the small portion in the proposed agreement.

Rick Danchuk
Montecito, CA
805-320-6673
I object to the proposed agreement. There needs to be a way for people to hike to the beach. Not everyone is physically or financially capable of arriving by water. A land route is less expensive to use and much safer. Please reject the agreement or amend it to include access by a reasonable land route. We need public access for all.

Simon Robertshaw, Realtor  
Residential Construction Certified  
Certified New Home Specialist  
Pinnacle Estate Properties SimonRobertshaw@gmail.com  
www.RobertshawHomes.com  
(805)328-5031
June 18, 2018

Your Honor:

As a California attorney, active voter and California native, I respectfully ask that you do not approve the proposed settlement agreement with Hollister Ranch.

This Agreement deprives citizens of any sort of meaningful access to the California Coast in the area involved. I believe the suggestion made by the Gaviota Coast Conservancy is one that does allow public access while at the same time protecting the "reasonable" rights of those who own property in Hollister Ranch, while also protecting the area from a harmful overuse.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this matter.
Best regards,
John F. Reid
Is essential. Please consider a walk-in option.

That's a win for all!

Elizabeth BARNETT

Sent from my iPad
Please allow access to public beach! This is California. History will be your judge. For your consideration.
Mr. Joseph P Schulz
Sent from my iPhone
Coastal Commission, and Coastal Conservancy, you have failed us, California citizens, if you limit access to the California coastline and insist that we can paddle out, in dangerous waters just to have access to the .75 mile of beach of the Hollister Ranch. These beaches belong to us, California dwellers, tax payers and beach lovers. At 79 yrs, it is unlikely that I will be able to paddle out, even in a smooth sea, but I would like to walk on the beach ---all 8 1/2 miles of the coast that is denied to me. Imagine, Commission and Conservancy, we are about the most populous state. We have many millions of people who are being denied access to what is their right to enjoy. The public deserves and IS ENTITLED by law to have access to all the coastline. Why aren't you doing your job and making sure that California's citizens enjoy the coastline, and not just the rich with their helipads and their ability to drive their vehicles on the beach.

shaing2@verizon.net
This method appears to be a perfect compromise. Attempting access via kayak or surfboard is too dangerous.

I support Gaviota State Park Trail and use of the park's small parking area as the best method for allowing limited public access to Holister Ranch.

Sincerely, Dr. Kenneth Daponte

Rancho Palos Verdes
CC-
I support the current public access agreement. Thank you for the dedication to the cause, I look forward to kayaking up the coast.

HR is a sensitive ecosystem, it needs to stay that way.

--

Colin
"The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination."

We respectfully request that your focus in the matter of public land access at Hollister Ranch on the Gaviota coast be solely on present and future generations not on a few overweening individuals. Please do not allow a small group of wealthy people to take away or restrict public land access to this or any part of our public California coast and ocean. Access to this location only from the sea is untenable. Gates to our greatest natural gifts should never be built and must never be locked, available only to the wealthy. Public access to the ocean and to all land seaward of the mean high tide line in California, is guaranteed in the state’s constitution and mandated within the Coastal Act of 1976. Please protect our coast and ocean for all of us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Bright Family
Sincerely,
Allison McSurely
2263 1/2 Duvall St
Los Angeles, CA 90031

On Tue, Jun 19, 2018 at 11:05 AM, Allison McSurely <allison.mcsurely@gmail.com> wrote:

How are non-wealthy people supposed to be able to get to parcel 104...
http://www.hollister-ranch.com/hrmap/hrmap.c5.html

...to be able to enjoy what used to be thought of as nature in the public trust? http://www.hollister-ranch.com/images.html

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References

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"These rights are pre-existing rights and are, therefore, takings-proof. It is time for the legislature and the courts to recognize the doctrine's utility in solving modern problems, especially in terms of beach access in the United States.

"As the New Jersey Supreme Court declared, "The public trust doctrine, like all common law principles, should not be considered fixed or static, but should be molded and extended to meet changing conditions and needs of the public it was created to benefit." ...

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-https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3167&context=flr
To whom this may concern,

Having read the recent article in the LA Times by Steve Lopez, I thought I would drop an email, at his suggestion, as to what my stance on public access is based on recent court decisions. I agree with the court’s decision to not allow walking aces onto the Hollister Ranch. I do this for environmental reasons and not to support the “surfers country club” mentality of many of the people who have had the good fortune of private access for many years.

I have surfed the Hollister Ranch and The Cojo Jalama Ranch since the 60’s and I have always felt that the waves are there, you just have to put a little effort into getting to it. I was lucky enough to grow up During the San Onofre club member only era. It made for a better environment in the water and on the beach. Trestles was still illegal to surf but we enjoyed the adventure of going. Having this area now open to walk in surfers has created an inferior experience for all. Crowds, trash on the beach, Sanitary issues to name a few. I would hate to see the Hollister Ranch go down the same path.

If people really want to surf there, they do. The only people it limits are the people not willing to put a little extra effort to go somewhere where it’s easy for them to frequent.

The Hollister Ranch are excellent stewards of their environment. I’m for public access for nearly every other situation except here. The Nature conservancy that has now been given the rights to manage the old Bixby Ranch has got it right much like the channel Islands. Preserve and protect. It’s worth saving.

Regards, Jeff Timpson
I am stating my opposition to the proposed public access for Hollister Ranch and asking for a more reasonable public access, such as a walking trail to the beach.

Corey Folsom

408.205.5915 (phone & text)
Hello,

I am a tax paying resident of the state of California. I believe that there should be a legal route by which any resident with the necessary fitness can access the hollister ranch coastline.

Regards,
Brian Paden
I am emailing my support for equal access for every person for all beaches in this state. Beaches should not be exclusive playgrounds for the rich and entitled. I support access by land to the beaches at Hollister Ranch. The California Coastal Commission must stand in support of the people’s right to easily access these beaches by land.

Sandra Wilson
I think it is an outrage to deny reasonable access to the public land of Hollister Ranch beach. To allow the super rich to get away with this is unconscionable. All it would take is a single walking trail.

I think the state should pay to create and maintain the access trail. The state should use eminent domain if necessary.

Richard Correll
Irvine
Hello,
First, thank you for your service to our great state.

RE: access for the public on this "private" strip of coastal paradise, we think it's deeply unfortunately that the public has to expose themselves to danger to enjoy what should be a public treasure. For many, hiring a boat or taking a kayak to get to a beach is not "access." That a handful of wealthy people have this treasure to themselves should be an affront to the committee. There should be public parking and no privately--hired security guards to keep people out. It is our hope that the committee address this inequity as only you can fix it. Please do so.

Respectfully,
David and Mary Ellen Bobp
Agreement for public access to Hollister Ranch
Granting greatly limited access is a bad decision influenced by fame and fortune. Your decision is not for the people. You are truly feckless and have no sense of responsibility.
Judge Stern,

As a citizen of the State of California, I want you to hear my voice in regards to the recent decision to limit access to Gaviota State Park.

Personally, I have no invested interest in the actual use of this beach but on a greater level, as a community of citizens, I am disgusted, appalled, and beyond frustrated to see the power of money by a small minority persuade and muscle beach access because they can.

What’s so ironic about these privileged, indulged, self-serving Hollister Ranch homeowners is that they are most likely not occupying their homes one full-time bases! Biking the boardwalk in Newport Beach with palatial homes within walking distance to the beach supports my argument- they sit there EMPTY- and I bike there all year long.

This is the first time I have felt compelled to personally write someone in a position of powers to make the RIGHT, FAIR, and JUST decision. It’s a simple decision; apply the rules we all learned in kindergarten
1. Keep your hands to yourself
2. Share nice

A walking trail, shuttle bus, docents, the options are numerous.

Sincerely,

Jane Herold
from my iPad
I scratch my head and wonder at this one. What gives employee of the State of California the right to bargain away my legal right to coastal access in California? The law states I should have access. That is what I should have. Access. Not damn near impossible access. No appointed judge should be giving away rights of the people of the Great State of Californian.

Lee Ballard
Dear California Coastal Commission members,

I am writing to express my disappointment in the decision to limit public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch on the Gaviota Coast. The residents of Lompoc are also starkly limited in our ability to enjoy Surf Beach, and your decision is a missed opportunity for the well being of the whole Santa Barbara County and its visitors. I hope you will reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,

Rev. Randal Working, PhD
Cityview Community Church
1600 Berkeley Drive
Lompoc, CA 93436
Wait, wait! Do not let this privatization of OUR beaches begin. Will economic privilege take away our sacrosanct right to enjoy the coastline which has been declared as belonging to we the people. Shall our beaches become the exclusive right of we, the privileged few?
Is it not you duty to protect our beaches for us? For all of us?
I beseech you, please do just that and do it now.
Thanking you in advance with much hope but diminishing faith,
Patricia Garrett

Sent from my iPhone
I support California’s Coastal Act, which has established strict rules governing preservation and access and ensured the ideal that in California, the coast is a public treasure, not a private playground. Protecting beaches includes environmental and economic threats. Do not approve private entrances at Hollister Ranch!

Lisa Ash
Longtime coastal visitor.
8 miles of beach
8 miles of access
Power to the People

Sent from my iPhone
Our beaches are a California treasure. They are precious and belong to all of us EQUALLY.
Our coast belongs to all of us not just the rich. Please try to keep that in mind as you bend over for the wealthy. DO YOUR JOBS AND PROTECT THE COAST FOR US ALL! P.S. Pay your own legal bills your the crooks after all!
From: Daniel da Silva
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: Fight for our rights to access!
Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018 1:11:19 PM

The very reason the Coastal Act was authored in 1976 was for a moment just like this. The California coast is a right for everyone, not for a well-pocketed few. The "agreement" for limited access to the PUBLIC BEACH at Hollister Ranch flies in the face of rationality and is complete nonsense. Allow access to the beach, period. This egregious pending agreement essentially says that the only qualified stewards of public land are rich individuals who 'own' land in the vicinity of that public land - bunk. Wealth is not a virtue, public access for all is not a crime. It's simple what needs to be done, ensure access to the public, period.

Daniel da Silva
Lifelong CA resident
Please reconsider the beach access all the way up to bixby ranch. I'm 64 now and have many stories to tell of attempts to access this area. Had my surfboard runover...been arrested...beached a sinking boat at ranch house. We are the 99%. They control our access to this priceless resource. Please don't let landowners dictate who can and cannot enjoy these beaches.

Thanks, Kurt

Schmidt

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
The recent arrangement of the Hollister Ranch / Gaviota coast defies any reasonable accommodation for the public to access the coast. A two mile kayak trip eliminates 99% of the California public who have a right to visit and use the beach. Does this seem reasonable....” Hey honey....load up the kids and the ice chest into the kayaks and head into dangerous currents and winds for two miles to the beach.....oh, and don’t forget Grandma”. I think not.

This arrangement does not come close tom passing the smell test.

Dan Rhoden
Restaurant Tea Service, Inc.
800-962-5559
This settlement is unconscionance in view of the hard-won establishment of the Coastal Commission and its mandate. Limiting access in any way—and agreeing to a non-land access alternative—is unconscionable. I don't have a rubber raft, nor do I have the means to get there via paddle board or canoe (I'm 64 years old, and in good shape, but not THAT good shape) so I need to be able to have land access to this wonderful beach. The contemplated settlement is a sellout, and I (as an attorney in my 40th year of practice) won't stand for it!

Gary Brewsaugh
Mission Viejo, CA\
Corruption and fraud!!!!
Vote No!!!!

Sent from my iPhone, please excuse bad grammar, misspelling, & or brevity...
From: Hans Geiger  
To: Coastal Hollister  
Subject: Hollister Access  
Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018 5:02:19 PM

Please allow public access to Hollister Ranch. The beach should be available to anyone who wants to enjoy it, not just the people who can afford it. And to those people attempting to block access to the public - shame on you!

Hans Geiger  
Hermosa Beach
Give hollister beach back to the people !!!
Come on man. Talk about coastal corruption. Hollister beach should not only be open to the elite. Of course the area should be protected, but at what cost, should all the non elite be shut out? Surely the Commission could have held out for a more fair deal. I just hope there is plenty of shouting at the upcoming Santa Cruz meeting. It is indeed a crying shame that it has come to this. Joe Silvey Ventura California.
Dear Coastal Commission,

I am a 48 year old lifelong California resident. I am currently a homeowner in Santa Monica. I pay well over six figures in taxes every year and vote in every election. I am proud to share my beach in Santa Monica with millions of visitors every year. Any land owner in Hollister Ranch can drive down to my beach and have a great day. Where is the reciprocity? I would love to spend a day up at the ranch surfing and swimming with my children. However, if I showed up by land or sea I would not be welcomed. A guard or entitled owner would block my family from a entry. This has NOTHING to do with safety or the environment. It is about a bunch of entitled wealthy surfers localizing a precious resource. I know the truth, they do and you do as well. Thanks for making our society less egalitarian! Nice job! Hope that all the $ that motivates your political decisions helps you to sleep at night.

Fondly,
Larry Glasser, M.D.

Sent from my iPad
To the coastal commission:
You have sold us out! You have knelt before the big money interests of the Hollister owners association and given away the access rights of the people you claim to represent! This is big money talking and a primary reason so many Californians today are losing faith in government. Do you really feel that a two mile paddle is legitimate access? Do you really feel that you have best represented the interests of the public in this matter? It is no wonder your meetings were held in private without public input, and now what recourse does the average beach goer have? Members of the coastal commission will not be up for reelection, therefore they can not be held accountable for this decision. Understand that there is no doubt you have failed the public in this decision. Your ruling will be to blame for the injuries and possible deaths of those attempting this access. That is to say nothing of future lawsuits. If it is not too late reconsider and go to battle with the big time legal team you have undoubtedly been run over by in your initial negotiations. If you can not make this right then it stands that the rich shall rule the coastline and the commission is merely a rubber stamp for their desires!
Mark Fissori
Lifelong California Resident and Surfer

Sent from my iPad
I am writing to express my shock, alarm and complete resistance to the pending settlement. This is money talking, this is prestige talking, this is people in Hollister Ranch who think they are so special that who no one can share the area they live in.

The California coast is for everyone. Let’s not essentially shut down a huge and scenic stretch of it for the benefit of millionaires. Please rethink this settlement which provides meager crumbs to the public.

Thank you Nicholas Eckelberry
Greetings,

I am writing to let you know how disappointed I am in the Commission’s decision to restrict access to the beaches at Hollister ranch. As a long time surfer who is 52 I have never had the opportunity to surf one of the most premier California surf spots and now it looks like I never will because of the Commission. I find it really ironic that one of the land owners there, singer songwriter Jackson Browne sings about freedom, justice and the common man and you actually help him separate Californian’s from their beach.

This has been an extremely disappointing move by the Commission and it appears they only favor the wealthy.

Regards,

Joe Carton
Norco, CA
As a lifelong Californian, UCSB alum and avid beach goer I must DISAGREE strongly with the decision to continue limiting access by the public to Hollister Ranch beach. California beaches are for ALL and your commission should not be swayed by the privileged few fortunate enough to own property near this area. PLEASE RECONSIDER!
I am a native of California since 1951. I love my state and its beautiful natural resources. Once on my travels I took a trip to South Carolina, I was appalled to find how difficult it was to access the state's beaches due to overdevelopment and limited access points! It made me glad to live in a state where public access to California's beaches is sancrosanct. Or so I thought.

I was extremely upset to learn about the recent agreement that is being proposed by the California Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch Owners Association. These owners may own their homes but they do NOT own our beaches. They should not be denying access to our, NOT their beaches. The Coastal Commission should be looking out for the interest of the public and not of these private owners.

Essentially, it is being proposed that the public access the Hollister beaches via ocean access. It would be extremely difficult and dangerous to access the beaches by surfboard, paddle board, raft or kayak. It could be monetarily prohibitive to own or charter a boat to arrive at the beaches. The proposal discriminates against those Californians, like myself who are landlubbers and cannot swim for two-miles to get there. Finally, the proposed agreement violates the Americans with Disabilities Act by narrowing access to just a few students who are allowed access to the beaches by land. What about disabled adults?!

In short, I go on record as being opposed to the Hollister Ranch Agreement and urge the Coastal Commission to withdraw from consideration of this ill-thought-of proposal. It is a bad solution and sets a terrible precedent for our state. California beaches should remain free and accessible to all!

Albert J. Milo  
813 S. Sapphire Lane  
Anaheim Hills CA 92807 USA  
1-714-998-4347  
al.milo@stanfordalumni.org
I am completely opposed to the proposed Hollister Ranch beach access settlement. The Coastal Commission needs to assure reasonable access to public beaches, and the settlement as proposed is totally unreasonable, unworkable and unfair to Californians. Preserve beach access for all Californians, not just a select few!

Kenneth McGuire
To the California Coastal Commission:

I object to the proposed agreement with the owners of Hollister Ranch to only allow beach access by water. This is unacceptable and impractical as attempting to access the beach by water craft often can be dangerous and has the practical effect of keeping the public out.

This settlement, if approved, is contrary to California law which allows public access to beaches up to the high tide mark. A better solution is to allow walk-in access to the beach by the trail from Gaviota State Park beach. The two mile hike to the beach using this trail would by its very nature limit use and reduce potential negative environmental impacts. This would fulfill both the spirit and letter of the law allowing public beach access rather than illegally keeping it in the hands of a small number of private owners.

Sincerely,
Ravid Raphael
5546 Berkeley Rd.
Goleta
Hello,

I’m sending this email to vocalize my disapproval of the recent agreement with the Hollister Ranch Homeowner’s Assn. Beach access is a right of every Californian, as stated in the state’s constitution section 4, article x, and it is setting an alarming precedent to allow an agreement where inland beach access is prohibited. Our constitution states that “no individual, partnership or corporations...shall be permitted to exclude the right of way to such water whenever it is required for any public purpose,” and furthermore it states that “the Legislature shall enact such laws as will give the most liberal construction to this provision, so that access to the navigable waters of this State shall be always attainable for the people thereof.”

Our constitution mandates that “access”, “access to the navigable waters..shall be always attainable for the people.” The agreement with the Hollister Ranch Homewowner’s Assn does not provide access that is always attainable for the people. Coastal waters, weather, finances, and equipment availability, exact limitations on the people’s ability to access the beach under the current agreement. A hike from Gaviota State Park would be the best option. Inland beach access is what I want to see in the finalized agreement, and I hope, like so many of my fellow Californian’s, that you’ll hear our voice.

Thank you,
Jack Guimon
C: (630) 267-5044
Dear Commissioners,

As a long-time resident of California, and a current resident of Santa Barbara County, I know it has been decided over and over in our state that landowners do not own adjacent beaches. The beaches are public lands that belong to everyone. There is no reason for Hollister Ranch homeowners to be granted an exception so they can restrict or fully deny access to the beach abutted to their properties. Everyone in the state has the right to enjoy those beaches. Beaches are public lands, NOT the property of the uber wealthy.

Thank you for listening.

Maura Mitchell
408 Los Robles Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
I respectfully urge you to keep fighting for walk-in access to the Ranch. Waterside only access is like no access. Few people have the skill and money to paddle a boat into the ranch. And, as a pragmatic matter we've always had boat-in access. Keep fighting. The people of California and future generations deserve better.

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern,

Please respect the property owner's rights by keeping the public's limited access to this stretch of coast. This area, because of the current law, is pristine and beautiful. It is a California of old, a land worthy of limited exposure. We don't need access to this area as a public, but entities that preserve and protect our native lands.

As a surfer, father, professional, I can only hope for our future generations that lands are preserved, even at the cost of accessibility. Thank you for considering this important issue.

Respectfully,
John Joseph Bacino, D.D.S.
Please do not approve the pending settlement. The area should be open to the public to enjoy. Whether you have money to gain access should not determine who gets in. REJECT THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT!
California Coastal Commission,

I am deeply disappointed in the agreement that was made regarding the beaches of Hollister Ranch and public access to these beaches. The beaches are meant to be public spaces. The public should have a safe means for accessing these beaches. Shame on you for falling down on your job! This is a wrong that needs to be corrected.

Denise Kaprielian
Huntington Beach, California
To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 51 year old native California resident. I attended UCSB and spent many years living in Santa Barbara. I have had the good fortune to enjoy the California Coast, beaches, and the Pacific Ocean.

I believe that beach access is a public right. I do not agree that the public is represented by closed session votes, or by appointed commissioners in the pockets of the wealthy.

To put it plainly, you’re all bums for making such a bad deal for my children and the future generations. They deserve better, and they deserve the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful coast. Shame on those that rip our state treasure from the grasp of the many for the posh few. A pox on your houses.

This settlement does not in any way represent me, my views, or my children’s rights. I protest your actions.

Yours truly,

Neal Goldman

Sent from my iPhone
I demand that you restore public access to the beach at Hollister.

Diana Cosand
7697 Haven Ave A
Rancho Cucamonga
CA 91730
Sirs:

Please add me to the list of those who strenuously object to the beach access “settlement”. Your capitulation was a spineless dereliction of your mandate. Shame.

Roger H Lustberg

Sent from my iPad
To Whom it May Concern,

As a California resident, and as a beach-lover, I am shocked and dismayed at the pending settlement concerning Hollister Ranch. I am specifically appalled at the relinquishing of the disputed easement. I will not venture into the technicalities of the case in this email, but I have been following the general dispute for years. Briefly, in bartering away this crucial right of access for a few tiny crumbs, it appears obvious to me that the State defendants have not adequately represented the interests of the public in access to this part of the coastline.

The Coastal Act is one of great jewels of California law. It provides, both in letter and in spirit, clear rights of access to the beach for the general public, in broad terms. It’s something we got right, and one of the reasons I’m proud to be a Californian.

The pending settlement essentially annihilates this right of access at Hollister, in perpetuity. I have never personally been to this beach, and if this settlement passes, I quite clearly never will. I’m an adult, not an elementary school student, so I won’t qualify for any school access programs. I don’t anticipate that I would necessarily be able coordinate my schedule with a guided group tour by a non-profit nanny group run by hostile local homeowners. I’m also not a paddle boarder who wishes to brave 2 miles of rocky surf to reach the southern stretch. Nor do I own a sailboat that I could use to travel to this stretch of coast. And even if I did own a sailboat, I don’t own a second soft-bottom boat that I could use to reach land in the way permitted under the settlement! Finally, incredibly, adding insult to injury, the three quarter mile stretch of southern beach that is “accessible” under the pending agreement is mostly underwater much of the time, depending on the tides. The notion that this settlement enshrines any meaningful access insults common sense.

There are times when the appearance of profound corruption in a legal process is, for public purposes, virtually indistinguishable from actual, legally proven corruption. This settlement appears to be one of those cases. There may be no smoking gun, in which a commissioner is demonstrably shown to have taken a bribe, but the outcome of this case is so toxically weighted towards the Hollister Ranch Owners that it can only damage public trust in the public process. A small gang of millionaires at Hollister have obviously conspired to circumvent the Coastal Act, using all available legal pretexts. To any objective outside observer, it represents a disgusting victory of private cash over the well-defined public interest.

I grew up on the sprawling beaches of Santa Monica, a democratic place where no one has ever been denied access because of non-membership in a homeowner group. People of all types and backgrounds meet and mingle on the Santa Monica beach. It’s one of the truest melting pots I have ever experienced, a little microcosm of all the best things about America. It’s colorful, messy, weird, and I love it.

People who don’t want to participate in this melting pot, and don’t like the messiness that comes with living next to a legally protected public treasure shouldn’t buy property on the coast in California.
For all of these reasons, I wish to voice strong opposition to this settlement.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Lord
Los Angeles CA
These people paid a lot of many for the land. It is theirs and they want to keep it. Open it to the public and you have trash, accidents, and lawsuits. They own the road to it and they want to keep it private. I agree with them.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I have camped with my family along this area, as have so many others. This beach should remain open to the public, as should the entire coast of California.

Why should a few wealthy people get to own and enjoy this stretch? It is not in keeping with the mission of access for all.

Please rethink your decision; I’m sure the Hollister Ranch Homeowners will still be able to enjoy the CA oceans. They have enough money to enjoy beaches all over the world, I’m sure. Let’s go for a fair compromise, please! Keep beaches accessible for ALL to enjoy. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Lynn Sosa,
Los Angeles, Ca.

Sent from my iPad
Please don’t change calif law by limiting public access to Hollister ranch beach.
Dear Coastal Commission,

As a California native and land owner, I strongly object to the negotiated agreement with the Hollister Ranch property owners. Access by sea only is very exclusionary, (not to mention dangerous), and goes against the spirit of California's coastal access provisions. It sets a horrible precedent that could result in more and more coastline becoming inaccessible.

Establishing bicycle and pedestrian access, and ensuring dawn to dusk access is the absolute minimum, and is essential.

I condemn the commission for thinking the “sea access only” agreement is acceptable or in keeping with California values.

Respectfully,

Jed Harrison, Chief Fruit Officer
Harrison Ranch / Schuyler Citrus
(559) 827 2040
I have been following this issue for some time. To me, as someone who moved to California in the mid-70’s, one of the glorious things about California has always been its recognition of the public’s right of access to the beaches and coastline of this unique and beautiful state. I have depended upon the California Coastal Commission all these years as our public protector of this wonderful and, I thought, inalienable right. How sad I am to read that the current Coastal Commission has made some kind of secret deal with the multi-millionaire owners of the Hollister properties that allows them to significantly curtail our public right to enjoy the beauty of this 8-mile stretch of coastline. This is a very dangerous and hurtful precedent, and I will do whatever I can to support those groups that are fighting this decision.

Bob Gillespie
75 Buena Vista East, No. 502
San Francisco, CA 94117
It isn't worth it
Please start over

Sent from my iPhone
18 years ago I moved from Texas to California to put down roots. Used to the dusty plains, the golden coast of California brought tears to my eyes. On first glance of the Pacific Ocean, I knew I was home.

My daughter, Cecily, was born two years ago. I will never be able to afford to live on the beach. but, giving her access to the coast and an opportunity to fall in love with CA; teaching her conservation and appreciation of a world greater than her; that I can do. The natural beauty of the ocean is my gift to her after years of struggling to thrive in this big beautiful, incredibly expensive place to live. With access. Public Access to the coast is the only remaining promise of the California Dream. Please don't deny her access. Or any other children.

It's going to take all citizens to protect California's natural beauty and resources in the future. But why would our children want to care for an ecosystem that was denied to them.

Thank you for considering all of us.
Bridgette
I grew up dreaming of going there, it was/is an epic surf spot and one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, not just California.

Please don't keep the "regular folks" out. We want to enjoy the beautiful coast too!

Thanks.
--
Marjorie Lewis
Don’t turn California into the awful East Coast where you have to pay to go to the beach. That sucks.

Thanks,
Matt McMahon
Manhattan Beach, CA
310-486-4527
What has happened to coastal access? This settlement favors the rich at the expense of the rest of us. Why can’t access be provided at a controlled point through a corridor via public transportation?
Dear Commissioners

I was appalled to hear of the terms of the proposed settlement relating to Hollister Ranch beach access.

As a proud resident of California for 57 years, I took a lot of pride in telling people from other areas that California did NOT allow private beaches along our Pacific coast. This “proposed settlement” turns back important safeguards and begins an unraveling of our special access provisions thanks to the Coastal Act of 1976.

I implore you NOT to move forward with this settlement.

DO YOUR JOB!!

Respectfully,
Gordon Hasenbein
949 910-5077
Commissioners:

The law is clear, the will of the people is clear, your mandate to guarantee both is clear. California’s beaches belong to everyone, not just the wealthy and powerful. Restricting access to these public lands sets a terrible precedent that no doubt will be used again and again. Do your job. Do not let these already wealthy, selfish, privileged individuals to hoard what Huell Howser used to call “California’s Gold.”

Robert Huber
20095 Nob Hill Dr.
Yorba Linda, CA 92886
714 702-9475

Sent from Robin's iPad
We are an active beach-loving couple, born in 1938 and 1939. We have lived in California since 1965 and have visited the beaches of California over and over and appreciate what God has given us.

We need to remind you that the Hollister coastline belongs to ALL of us and that includes us - active, healthy seniors who love our California coastline as much as anyone else.

But we don't think many of us could paddle in to the beach from two miles away.

California's coast is for EVERYONE...not just the rich and famous AND it is not a private playground for those lucky enough to live along its shores.

The settlement between the Coastal Commission/Coastal Conservancy and the Hollister Ranch Owners Association is simply ridiculous.

Go back to the drawing board and while you're working out a much fairer resolution, please remember us seniors who also love the California coastline.

We'll be watching! Thank you.

Roger and Judy McClure
Santa Clarita, California
To the Coastal Commission:

I moved here in July of 1981 with my daughters who were in first and sixth grade. We’d get our chores done in the early morning and head to the beach. A neighbor told me that everyone had beach access in this great state because there was a law promising access.

Until a few years ago, this law appeared to be honored by your commission. I’ve been paying attention. The Coastal Commission appears to have lost its way. You appear to be selling out and it makes me sad and quite frankly, angry.

How can you mess with something as pure and wonderful as beach access for ALL? That 8 1/2 miles of coastline of the Hollister Ranch belongs to all of us. Compromising on this law is pure nonsense and you know it. Shame on you.

Seriously,

Linda Scott Sanders
9062 Geraldine Place
San Diego, California 92123
Dear Sirs: I think it is an outrage that a small group of wealthy homeowners have prevented the public access to Hollister Beach. There should be a path from Gaviota State Beach so beachgoers don't have to risk their lives trying to paddle there in a kayak. Steve and Jordan Asimow

Note to Steve Lopez: the hollister@coastal address doesn't work; windows insists a person's name be in the box too. Thanks
To the California Coastal Commission and any other relevant people:

I read that the California Coastal Commission has let us down again. The California coast should be accessible and open, at least to the high water mark. I thought this was our legal right. However, it seems that yet again the Commission has made some deal with a few wealthy that is not in the public’s interest, whom they are suppose to serve (along with California’s wildlife). The Commission’s legal obligation is to protect the coastline for ALL – not just the rich and privileged.

My wife and I deeply enjoy trips up the central coast of California, visiting the out-of-the-way as we search for birds, marine mammals, and take in the spectacular coastline at all times of the year. We have always wanted to explore the Hollister Ranch area but there has been no access. The idea of a long trail along the shoreline starting at Gaviota seems like an excellent compromise. I hope the Powers will take this idea seriously. We are not asking to turn the Ranch into a crowded public beach, rather for access to those few who are willing to walk some distance – from the Gaviota State Beach and/or some other access point.

Reid C. Johnson
10492 Colina Way
Los Angeles, CA 90077
rcjohnson@mednet.ucla.edu

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES IMPORTANT WARNING: This email (and any attachments) is only intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. You, the recipient, are obligated to maintain it in a safe, secure and confidential manner. Unauthorized redisclosure or failure to maintain confidentiality may subject you to federal and state penalties. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify us by return email, and delete this message from your computer.
No no no. They own nice land already. They do not effectively get the ocean, too, thrown in by default.

Please keep our access open.

If not then that fake surf-themed ride at Knotts Berry Farm May soon be all that California has to offer for recreation.

John Maloney
Architect

Sent from my iPhone
I firmly believe that all people should have access to enjoy and visit any part of the coast. I do not believe that wealthy landowners have the right to limit public access. I hope that this ruling is challenged and changed.

Marilyn Stollon
12 Eldridge Ct
Kensington, CA
Please defend access to surf breaks.  
I do not want to find that a fake ride at Knots Berry Farm is the new substitute for this unique, valuable and natural California experience.

We just lost a second surf break to lava near Hilo Hawaii but that was an act of God (well Pele). Please please do not allow a few property owners to effectively extend their private holdings out to sea.

Sent from my iPhone
From: Warren Wagner
To: Coastal Hollitzer
Subject: Access
Date: Monday, June 25, 2018 12:30:57 PM

My name is Warren Wagner and I live in Venice, California at 90291.

I am a surfer, scuba diver and lover of the ocean. I am also 60 years old and have traveled the California Coast for many years.

On what basis would the CCC make such a deal with the devil? How does this jive with the mission of protecting our access to the beach? Why do these very rich folks get to keep having it their way? And why would we trust the Commission to have our best interest in mind, just trust them...........maybe someday when they deserve my trust.

I would like to surf there, but I can not paddle that far in dangerous waters, nor can I afford the boat trip. So exactly how is this public access?? Nothing has changed except somehow the Ranch has gotten the CCC to leave them alone???

Please do not approve this deal as it is not consistent with the mission of your Commission.

Thank you,

Warren Wagner
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in protest to the settlement with Hollister Ranch homeowners regarding beach access. This settlement is another step down the slippery slope of privatizing our public beaches. A land access must be allowed for the public. The coast belongs to all of us, not just the wealthy.

Sincerely,
Laura Whipple
I am writing as a sea kayaker and as a California citizen to urge the Coastal Commission to do the right thing, and preserve public access to the Hollister Ranch area.

The action to close access is contrary to established law and precedent. Part of what makes California a great state is the open access to the ocean, in contrast to many other coastal states.

Please renegotiate the closed room deal to be fair to the rest of the California public, not just the landowners in this area.

Sincerely,

Susan P Pines
4109 Donald Dr
Palo Alto, CA 94306
I am very disappointed in our coastal commission. I thought you were supposed to be looking out for ALL Californians not just the rich ones. The coastline should be for everyone not just a privileged few. Don't bow down to money.

Marcia Tulledge
Beaumont, Ca
mmtulledge@netzero.com
Please keep Hollister Ranch beach access to all of us!!
I am writing to express disappointment at the limited access to this beach. From what I can tell you have caved in to wealthy people at the expense of all the people of California. Please reconsider. Please do the right thing, not just the right of a few, but right for all.

Thank you,

James M Vaughn

Sent from my iPhone
I don’t live near this but am shocked that our beaches are being bargained away.

I’m sure you have rationalizations for this but you are a commission who is charged by the taxpayer to protect this. It is not your place to give away what the commission doesn’t own or what it is entrusted to protect.

I will follow this and post each Commissioner name on my social media. You all have to take ownership for these decisions.

Miriam Preissel

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Coastal Commission,
As a native Californian, I am appalled at the settlement you have reached with the Hollister Ranch Owners Assn. of giving away our legacy of public ownership of our coast. Our beaches are for everyone not just millionaires! Let them buy coastal property in Florida if they want to keep people away!
Sincerely,
Laurie Hartstein

Sent from my iPhone
We don't believe that the Hollister decision was prudent, nor consistent with the Coastal Act.

Don't give in to eletism.

Keep fighting for access to _all_ the state's beaches.

Pristine land and shores are meaningless if the general public will never have the right to access and appreciate it.

Do what is right, and be fully transparent in all your duties.

John Watson
805.795.6152
Claims of coastal access for everyone seem very exaggerated to me. A couple summers ago I drove down the coast between Monterey and Morro Bay and there was almost continuous barbed wire. Places that I remember visiting as a child were inaccessible. Some tiny progress has been made in a few places, like Malibu, but the Hollister 'solution' is a huge setback. Access for the masses in the form of 400 schoolkids a year and the ability to come by kayak? And what will the Coastal Commission do after a family of kayakers disappears? Obviously, the Coastal Commission will rename the beach to honor the dear family, and then close the access completely for the protection of the public.

Something like 25 million people live in Southern California and there are probably 200 miles of coastline. That is over 100,000 people per mile of coastline and not all of it is beach. Having a few dozen people owning eight miles of beach is about as 1% as you can get! And, like Malibu, most of them don't even live there. The property is an asset that they visit a few times a year. The exclusivity is worth a lot of money to them, the unspoiled surroundings, not so much. (If they could get the permits to develop this property, they would take the cash.)

While Governor Brown is more competent than the last governor, there is a sort of creeping corruption under his watch. For example, the Public Utilities Commission appears to be run for the benefit of the utilities, not the public. Similarly, the Coastal Commission allows cozy interactions between wealthy landowners and commissioners to waive coastal access rights for the masses without compensation. Is it not fair to say that if one part of Hollister Ranch is walled off, some part must be made accessible? What did the one percenters give up here? At least the kid that sold the family cow came home with a handful of beans. The Coastal Commission sold the cow and in exchange we got a sliver of inaccessible beach. If this is such a good idea, let's put the Coastal Commissioners in individual kayaks (no guides allowed) and have them make this journey ONCE on a random summer day and see what happens.

Dan Hager
Dear Commissioners, 24 June 2018

Just hoping to add my voice to those who are saying that we citizens are relying on you to expand, rather than constrict, the rights of all we voters to enjoy the slosh of cool water on our bare feet, along ALL, even secluded, stretches of our wonderful coast!!

This will fulfill our best expectations!!

Bud Stuart DVM
Good Day,

I am a seventh generation California tracing back to the Jose Raymondo Carrillo and Jose de la Guerra y Noriega families in Santa Barbara. My great-great grandmother is buried at the Santa Barbara Mission. Suffice it to say I care passionately about the Santa Barbara coast. I feel the proposed public access including kayaking two miles is too onerous to be considered public access. We have public access to our Judiciary; imagine requiring us to kayak two miles to a courthouse.

Please improve the settlement.

Allen Arata
1534 Kelton. Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
-----Original Message-----
From: Tina Doiglas <cmdouglas18@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 24, 2018 1:44 PM
To: Ainsworth, John@Coastal <John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Access

I am one of the thousands who are shocked by the concessions made by the CCCommissioners regarding the access to Hollister Ranch. I agree with Susan Jordan who has been an advocate for public access for years and who has worked tirelessly for our beaches. When my brother was the Executive Director of the CC she was always in the forefront fighting to keep our beaches for US, for all of us. Please reconsider the the concessions you have made-keep the beaches for everyone, they are the best treasure California has.

Tina Douglas

Sent from my iPad
From: Bob Gillespie <rgille@pacbell.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 23, 2018 2:54 PM
To: Ainsworth, John@Coastal <John.Ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Please allow public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch

I have been following this issue for some time. To me, as someone who moved to California in the mid-70’s, one of the glorious things about California has always been its recognition of the public’s right of access to the beaches and coastline of this unique and beautiful state. I have depended upon the California Coastal Commission all these years as our public protector of this wonderful and, I thought, inalienable right. How sad I am to read that the current Coastal Commission has made some kind of secret deal with the multi-millionaire owners of the Hollister properties that allows them to significantly curtail our public right to enjoy the beauty of this 8-mile stretch of coastline. This is a very dangerous and hurtful precedent, and I will do whatever I can to support those groups that are fighting this decision.

Bob Gillespie
75 Buena Vista East, No. 502
San Francisco, CA 94117
Coastal Commissioners:
You seem to have failed utterly in your mission to protect, safeguard, and provide access to the California coast for the public good. It looks as if you have thrown up your collective hands when faced with wealthy landowners and pricey attorneys, instead of remembering the people whom you represent. How can landmark legislation be trampled so easily? Maybe a legislative solution is needed? I live within a few blocks of an access point to San Francisco Bay with a Coastal Commission sign. Perhaps the neighboring homeowners just need to threaten legal action to get it closed down. You have damaged the public good and set a bad precedent for the future.
Sincerely,
Sara Tobin
Sent from my iPhone
Public Beach Access is the smartest thing that California did. To make beaches accessible to all makes for a healthier population, better tourism trade and better control of environmental preservation. To let one small wealthy community control access is wrong. Especially when you can create a hiking trial that will have minimum impact on their privacy and scenic landscape. I ask the Coastal Commission to reconsider the current plan limited plan of access to public school groups and kayakers.

Denise Petricig
Laguna HIlls, California 92653
petricig@gmail.com
I hope this message will unite and resonate with the many others already sent as a plea to maintain our beautiful coast a place for all.

In my humble opinion no privileged access should ever be granted.

Sincerely,
Xavier Darzacq

Sent from my iPhone
Ladies and gentlemen,

As a California resident for the past 48 years, and a lover of the outdoors and the coast, I wish to advise you that I do not approve of the settlement reached between the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch Owners Association.

California’s Coastal Act makes the coast of California accessible to all Californians and visitors to California, not portions of the coast. The Hollister Ranch Owners are fortunate in being able to live near the beach. They do not have the right to block access by those of us who do not live there. Yes, they have the right to privacy on their own property, but under the Coastal Act the beach below the mean high tide line is NOT their property, cannot be their property, and should not be reserved for their use only.

I am deeply concerned by the precedent this agreement would set. How many other stretches of beach would property owners want to reserve for themselves?

Access by kayak or boat to approximately 10% of the Hollister coastline is not enough. From news accounts it appears that this journey would be dangerous even for experienced boaters or paddlers.

I’m a longtime hiker and understand that there is a trail from Gaviota State Park to Hollister Ranch that could be opened to the public. This would be preferable to access by boat only. (Few people drown on dry land.) I would prefer to see access for those unable to hike several miles, but understand that it may not be possible to provide access by vehicles.

Please revisit this settlement. It is unwise, potentially dangerous, and provides a privilege to a few people while rescinding a right enshrined in state law for all other Californians.

Best regards,

Tessa Lucero
16912 Canvas St.
Canyon Country, CA 91387

CPCU: Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter Education * Experience * Ethics
Dear California Coastal Commissioners:

The success of the California Coastal Act depends not on your ability to administer and enforce the easiest cases, but on your willingness to tackle the most powerful and intransigent holdouts.

Your power depends largely on the trust and goodwill of voters throughout California. If they don’t believe you’re protecting and enhancing their right to enjoy the coast despite difficult circumstances or tenacious opposition, your ability to do so going forward is diminished. Every exception, every carve-out, every compromise weakens the Coastal Act, especially in a case as highly visible as Hollister Ranch, and with such obvious overtones.

One only has to look at what’s happening with CEQA for a warning; the biggest projects, with the greatest need for environmental evaluation, are now routinely championed for exemption by legislators.

Please do not let the California Coastal Act slide into this sort of abuse. The Hollister Ranch has extraordinary coastal resources, including some of our premier surf spots. They belong to the people of California. You are our trustees.

Yours truly,
David Ewing
Venice, CA 90291
I do not agree with the proposed settlement.

Like most other access agreements, they one should allow reasonable walking and/or driving access to a significant amount of the beach we all own.

Limited access via unreasonable transport methods is not reasonable and in no way a good faith effort to allow public access. It reminds me of the many other wealthy elites who have tried to lock out the public from accessing public beach in front of their homes.

If you want a private beach go to New England and buy some beach front property. That's not the way we do things in California.

Thank you.....Brett Garrod
Dear Costal Commission:

This email is to express my concern over the proposed settlement with the Hollister Ranch Company that effectively denies the public costal access guaranteed under California law. I cannot see any reason except corruption for the Costal Commission to have reached this outrageous settlement.

Please fulfill your duty to the citizens of California and reconsider this settlement.

We all deserve access to the coast, not just the wealthy few.

Thank you

Patrick Cockrill
Dear Colleagues:

I am not a surfer, nor an ocean/beach person BUT I cherish California and its protection of public access to our wonderful natural resources. The agreement with Hollister ranch property owners abrogates the public trust in the ability and commitment of the Coastal Commission to serve the public good. Please reconsider this agreement and the very ill-advised precedent it sets.

Thank you,

Barbara J. Finlayson-Pitts, Ph.D.
To: California Coastal Commission

I am a native California strongly opposed to the proposed settlement of beach access at Hollister Ranch. As a native Californian, I cherish public access to our beaches. All beaches. No amount of money or influence should be able to stop this public access.

I support the landmark Coastal Act. The coast is a public treasure not a private playground.

I do support access via foot, bicycle, or shuttle which provides a relatively easy access. Having to access via the two mile trek via ocean waters is ludricrous and frankly unrealistic, unreal and unsafe.

Please rethink this settlement in favor of reasonable access for the public.

Thank you.

Cathy Bezek
Even in a remote corner of a Santa Barbara County, protection of the public right to beach access is precious. Please! Do your job and assure this right is protected!
Thank you,
Richard Ryon
Monterey, CA

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App
I object to the California Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy’s proposed class action settlement with property owners at Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County. I object to the settlement agreement which involves relinquishing a disputed public accessway to the public beaches.

Mr. E. Arias
Hollywood CA 90068
Please keep beach access open to ALL>

Carlos Hirschberg
Dear Commissioners,

I am appalled about your recent ruling on the Hollister Ranch access for the public. California's
Coastal Act of 1976 provides public access to our coast for all people, not just the rich landowners,

land developers, and their high powered lobbyists. Access to Hollister Beach should be by land,

and NOT by the dangerous water route allowed in the agreement between the Hollister Ranch

owners and the California Coastal Commission.

The coast belongs to ALL Californians, not just those with money enough to hire top attorneys, and

lobbyists, and influence the Coastal Commission. What has happened to the Coastal Commission

that has fought for public access to all of the coast below the high tide line?

It appears to me that SOME of the commissioners have become the lap dogs for the wealthy land

owners who want to deny our rightful access to the California coast.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Sanders
9062 Geraldine Place
San Diego, CA 92123

858-560-7142
June 24, 2018

To the Coastal Commission:

I urge you to work for better public access to the Hollister Ranch coastline.

As a resident of Santa Barbara I regularly go through this area and want so much to be able to get out to the coast. I am very disappointed by this proposed agreement, which is simply inadequate and insufficient.

I know many of my friends and family members feel the same way, whether they take the time to email you or not. Thanks to the Coastal Act, as Californians we feel confident in our public access to our coastline. Please don't let us down.

Thank you,

Mary Byrd
To Whom It May Concern:

I am appalled by the settlement the Coastal Commission has apparently agreed to that severely limits public access to the beach at Hollister Ranch. The primary purpose of the Coastal Act is to protect the public’s right of access to the beach along the entire length of the California coast. That would include the stretch of beach along Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County. Whether it’s Malibu, Monterey, Santa Cruz or Hollister Ranch, the rich and powerful constantly fight to prevent us regular folks from setting foot on “their” beaches. The Coastal Commission should do its job and ensure that the public has substantially more than the miserly access to the beach that the good people in Hollister Ranch have deigned to grant us regular folks. Time for the Coastal Commission to grow a backbone and stop kowtowing to the rich and famous.

Mark Mead
I join with the majority of my fellow citizens in decrying the one-sided settlement reached with landowners at Hollister Ranch.

Owning beachfront property is a privilege that is available to but a fortunate few. That said, no one twisted the owners' arms to buy. They had to know—and this must continue to be made clear to future purchasers—that in California, such a purchase includes the provision of coastal access to all.

Very few of those folks are likely to do so without prodding. The Coastal Commission is supposed to be our representative in ensuring beach access for the many, not just the fortunate few.

I fear that a dangerous precedent is being set and urge further consideration and review about the meaning of the Commission's mandate.

Al Bonowitz
Huntington Beach, CA
Dear Coastal Commission, I support the current agreement with the Hollister Ranch as a necessary balance between public/private land use.

Thanks, Dan Wapner

Los Angeles, CA
As a life long surfer and sailor, I am happy the Hollister ranch remains free of public access. I am not a land owner, but voat access has been available for 40 years. People regularly access by boat and this agreement doesn’t change that.

Public parks are way overcrowded and unmanageable. This is pristine coastline, so you might call the Hollister Ranch owners for what they are, Stewards, Conservationists...
The articles incite envy and jealousy, the worst of all human emotions.

Bill Menninger
Roth Capital Partners
949 720 5754
bmenninger@roth.com

Please access the attached hyperlink for an important electronic communications disclaimer:

Open the beach up to those of us with handicaps

Sent from myMail for iOS
It’s unbelievable that the one percent can keep people away from the beaches at Hollister. Open it up, provide parking and amenities NOW!

Sent from my iPhone
This is a horrific "compromise " which effectively concedes everything to the wealthy landowners. It is not a California public solution, and should and must be undone.

Victor Kenton
23411 Park Hacienda
Calabasas, Ca
91302

Sent from my iPhone
Please scuttle the agreement to keep Hollister beach access restricted and don’t let California become an enclave of private beaches like the East coast.
Shameful that the Coastal Commission is giving up on letting all Californians walk on the beaches of Hollister Ranch. I've been there many times as I know a homeowner there and it’s disgusting how they illegally enforce their “Rules” and keep out the public.
The beach you've agreed the public can access is a shame since it’s unreachable.
Let Californians walk or bike in.
What's the Commission for if it makes deals like this?
Who fights for the people?

Sandow Birk
Adding my voice, I am firmly against the Hollister settlement. The beaches belong to all of us, not the select few. Please reconsider your decision.

Amy Schweiger

Sent from my iPhone
Californians need more access to our beaches not less and we need to fight to uphold the doctrine that the beaches belong to the people.

Hollister Ranch boasts incredible coastline in an area where there is already quite limited access to the coast. Please reject this settlement. There should be permanent land access to this coastline. It is worth fighting for. The crumbs the state is being offered in this proposal are a joke as well as horrible precedent.

Sincerely,

Russell Marquez
Los Osos, CA
I grew up in the Los Angeles area in the 50’s. One of our family treats was to take the red line to the beach. You didn’t have to be rich the coast line on the ocean side and it’s beaches belonged to the people.

The guidelines for “public access” in the settlement was an insult. Basically the beach will remain private. And we’ll hopefully no one loses their life attempting the dangerous ” public access”.

I have traveled in other countries and seen the preservation of the beaches for the people with private development on the opposite side. This didn’t happen in CA. Back to the development of the Marina which privatized everything except the insulting sliver that became known as ” Mother’s Beach”

Thanks
Sandra Lokman
S.e.lokman@gmail.com
Hello,
How can I find out exactly where and when the July hearing will take place?

Thanks,
Beth Anderson
You should be ashamed. Tell us what the pressures put on you were. Tell us whose pockets were lined to agree. Tell us what actions we can take to fight the agreement. And if you think it is iron-clad (lawsuit-proof) tell us why. Why no loopholes if ill-will or bribery found. Let the population of California know all details of why we were screwed.

Sent from my iPhone. Cathleen
510-334-2789
Take it easy.
Dear Coastal Commissioners, I wish to add my support to the Commission if it opens the Hollister Ranch beaches to general public use. As a one-time geology class student at UCSB years ago our class visited and walked the Ranch beach on a field trip with Prof. Douglas Woodhouse. Later I visited it as a parent with small children. California beaches are for all Californians, not just a few. Please support open access.

Thomas Martin
1220 Los Robles Drive
Sonoma, CA. 95476
707-938-5025
tvmsonoma@att.net
Open hollister RANCH beaches.
It is a crime that the coastal initiative is being undermined at the behest of a few rich landowners north of Santa Barbara.
A true crime worthy of our criminal era is taking place.
Stop it and stop the precedent it sets.

Sent from my iPhone
Our ocean and beaches should not come with a price tag - open our beaches to public access NOW!!!!!!!

William Osborn
Greenbrae, CA
760-604-0701

Will Osborn
760.604.0701 cell
To Whom It Concerns:

I am a resident of Santa Barbara County. The proposed settlement agreement between the Hollister Ranch property owners and the Coastal Commission is NOT in the spirit of our state’s commitment to public access to its coastline. In fact, this agreement is a clear violation of the law’s intent. Furthermore, public access as written poses a danger to anyone wishing to visit the limited beach access. Do you realize if someone dies – the result of channel weather fluctuations – that the state will be responsible? Not to mention the moral responsibility to be borne by those property owners.

Finally, I see that the public hearing is to be held next month in Santa Cruz: about a four hours’ drive from the Central Coast. Typical. How often have state agencies held public hearings hundreds of miles away from the locales that are directly affected. I request that you move the hearing to Santa Barbara County, so that those affected may address you face-to-face.

Do not move ahead with this proposal. It violates the spirit, the intent, and the actual language of the state law written to enable access for all visitors to California’s Pacific coastline. If you ultimately approve this agreement, you are establishing a dangerous precedent (consider Half Moon Bay). Not to mention a slap in the face to California’s citizenry.

Celeste Barber
4065 La Barbara Drive
Santa Barbara, CA. 93110

celeste.barber@cox.net
To whom it may concern,

The proposed Hollister Ranch agreement does not adequately provide for the public access to the shoreline. Only an agreement that at a minimum allows for walking access along the shoreline should be accepted.

John Rivera
Los Angeles, 90045
Access should be full and free. Coastal Commission is betraying the public trust!
Tom

Sent from my iPhone
How fun it is to head to the beach, either alone or with your family!
The smells, touches, sights invigorates your whole body and soul!
When my father in law was dying, he asked to be taken to the beach.
He came home with a smile on his face.
Please keep the whole coast open. Thank you.
Steve Lopez: "Public treasure, not private playground." Yes. Don't make us die to reach the beach sands and waves. Go back to the 1981 plan to save access by foot, bicycle and shuttle. Please be responsible in the public trust.
As our society is getting more polarized and the gap between rich and poor is widening, we need to take the strongest possible stance to allow EVERYONE to benefit from our valuable natural resources. Please preserve open, public, easy access to Hollister Beach and the entire California coastline.

Thank you for your work to preserve our beautiful coast.

Sincerely,
Hilly Kravitz
hilitkravitz@gmail.com
Santa Monica, CA
(773) 715-1113
To: Coastal Commission,

The beaches of California are for the people of California, not an exclusive resort for Hollister Ranch residents. To say there is access if you have a boat or can paddle a surf board 2 miles is ridiculous, particularly considering the dangers of weather, heavy seas and fog. At a bare minimum, regular California citizens should be able to hike to the beaches, with adequate parking facilities for those who have to drive to the trail. Even under such conditions the beaches would not be inundated with people. This would still exclude many who cannot walk that far, but at least would allow able bodies persons to have access to a California beach. This is a no brainer unless you are not looking out for California’s citizens, and instead placating the millionaires of Hollister Ranch.

Phil Beauchamp
Chino Hills, CA
I am writing this in protest of the settlement reached by the Coastal Commission and the Hollister Ranch Owners Assn. As a native Californian, I personally reject this sham of a settlement which laughably gives the public a "right of access," but only via the water. The concession of the expansion of the after-school tide pool program and the organized tours for nonprofit groups gives access to about 400 people a year. This is shameful. Please do your job and act in the interests of the public; not a privileged few.

Cheryl

Cheryl Abel
Greetings,

As a resident of Venice Beach for over 33 years, I enjoy frequent access to our beautiful California beaches. And, have watched many battles unfold over public beach access, which I wholeheartedly support.

I am very disappointed in the recent developments over access to the 8.5 miles of beach located at Hollister Ranch. It is a mistake to give away public access in exchange for a couple of paltry programs that are merely bones thrown by the rich homeowners of the Ranch and the offer of a tiny portion of beach accessible only by boat under dangerous conditions! It is unreasonable to expect people to risk their lives to enjoy a beach, but obviously that is what these selfish homeowners are counting on to keep down the number of visitors.

The Coastal Act exists partly to protect the public's right to experience the coast and should be adhered to.

Of course this pristine area, Hollister Ranch, should be protected and not overrun. A better compromise would be to allow the public to enter but restrict access to boats and pedestrians - no vehicles of any kind. The walk in could be part of the nature experience.

In these current times, when the 1% are getting tax breaks at the expense of those less fortunate, housing prices lock out all but the wealthy, etc etc, this is an opportunity to stand up for what is right, fair, and legal!

PLEASE, INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS TO HOLLISTER RANCH!

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

Blue McRight

Venice, CA  90291
After reading about the issue in the Los Angeles Times I felt I needed to write and voice my concerns. Land use is such a sticky wicket. Does this set a precedent that more public land will be acquired for private use by those who have the financial means to do so? I hope not.

Like in most dealings, compromise seems to be needed, how about
1) put restrictions on the owners to be good stewards of the land, they should be responsible for upkeep and keeping the lands pristine (no driving on the beach) is the heliport causing any damage to wildlife and the surrounding environment? No development that would impact the natural state of the ranch.

2) no tax dollars should be spent on maintenance and upkeep-the owners must be responsible for all of that without a cent from taxpayers.

3) a small access trail from Gaviota State Park could work, it is about a two mile hike from Gaviota to Hollister Ranch. Tamlorn Chase, kayak guide, suggested that. Then there could be two ways of access-by water and by trail.

Keep limited access to the public and hope everyone behaves in responsible ways to protect the coast.

thank you for reading my email,

Bianca Richards
South Pasadena
Dear Commissioners:

I am utterly appalled by your agreement to the virtual privatization of Hollister Ranch's coastline.

California's coast has been open to ALL since 1976. Can you truly want to open the door on duplicating the dreadful, greedy example of for example, Miami Beach?!?

This decision nullifies our proud inclusivity and democratic embrace of all people's right to a most precious resource.

Please do everything you can to terminate the truly heart breaking error you've made in capitulating to the exclusive interests of the wealthy snd powerful. This terrible decision opens the way as a horrifying precedent.

Yours most sincerely

Dr. Laura Ferguson
135 South Van Ness Ave.
Los Angeles, CA. 90004

Sent from my i ay ay
The California Coast should be accessible to everyone. The latest Hollister Ranch compromise is not acceptable. Please reconsider. Thanks, Lisa Mirisola

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: lisa mirisola <lisamirisola@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 25, 2018, 12:55 PM
Subject: CA Coast is for everyone, Sunday June 24
To: <steve.lopez@latimes.com>
Cc: <letters@latimes.com>

I just returned from a camping vacation through Oregon and was pleased to find out that all of the Oregon coast is public land up to 16 vertical feet above low tide, upheld by the OR Supreme Court in 1969. Thanks for your coverage of this issue; news media coverage increased public outcry in Oregon and helped enact their law. Lisa Mirisola
As a (very) long time resident of Southern California, I am writing to oppose the current proposed settlement around access to Hollister Ranch/Beach. While understanding the rights and concerns of the Ranch owners, I believe the beach should be made available to the public via walking trails, bicycle and shuttle transportation. This beach and access to it should not be made so difficult that only a very few will be able to enjoy it. Please give credence to the hundreds that have weighed in directly to you. Thank you for you consideration.

Greg Thompson
Chatsworth, CA
GregT98@msn.com
Dear Sir/Madam,

The people of California have a right to access any beach per the Coastal Act. It is appalling to circumvent the letter and intent of the law. The simple act of walking down a beach, allows you freedom. You are not restricted by a sign that says "private property". In Hawaii, a lot of beaches are closed to the public due to the fact that the beaches are private property. However, this is California. The beaches are owned by the people. They have the right to access any beaches anywhere. The deal with Hollister Ranch restricts this beach access, against the intent of the Coastal Act. Please discard the Hollister agreement. It sets a bad precedent.

Sincerely,

Erwin Villanueva
Love it! Fabfabfab stance! Again!
IMhere

On Jun 25, 2018 01:20, "David Ewing" <seriousbus@aol.com> wrote:

Dear California Coastal Commissioners:

The success of the California Coastal Act depends not on your ability to administer and enforce the easiest cases, but on your willingness to tackle the most powerful and intransigent holdouts.

Your power depends largely on the trust and goodwill of voters throughout California. If they don't believe you’re protecting and enhancing their right to enjoy the coast despite difficult circumstances or tenacious opposition, your ability to do so going forward is diminished. Every exception, every carve-out, every compromise weakens the Coastal Act, especially in a case as highly visible as Hollister Ranch, and with such obvious overtones.

One only has to look at what’s happening with CEQA for a warning; the biggest projects, with the greatest need for environmental evaluation, are now routinely championed for exemption by legislators.

Please do not let the California Coastal Act slide into this sort of abuse. The Hollister Ranch has extraordinary coastal resources, including some of our premier surf spots. They belong to the people of California. You are our trustees.

Yours truly,
David Ewing
Venice, CA 90291
Lazy scumbags! Do your job! Meanwhile: Drop Dead.
Check the Coastal Commission website - coastal.ca.gov

July 13, at 9 AM in Scotts Valley (Santa Cruz County)

-----Original Message-----
From: Beth Anderson [mailto:retrogirl1954@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 5:46 AM
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: July hearing re: Hollister Ranch access

Hello,
How can I find out exactly where and when the July hearing will take place?

Thanks,
Beth Anderson
The settlement between the California Coastal Commission, the Coastal Conservancy and Hollister property owners is wrong on several levels. I am a native Californian who has hiked many of the state’s beaches. This settlement will deny thousands of people like me who don’t have money to rent a kayak, don’t surf or aren’t members of a few lucky youth groups access to this beautiful stretch of beach. That seems to me to violate the sentiment of Chapter 3, Article 2 of the Coastal Commission Act which promotes public access.

We don’t have $300,000 to hire lobbyists to fight for our cause – the way Hollister Ranch did to oppose the Clinton administration’s proposal to declare the area a national seashore. It is unbelievably pious, offensive and arrogant for the plutocrats of Hollister to think they can protect the beach better than we mere mortals can. We love California’s natural beauty enough to drive several miles, hike, swim, etc. to see it, many of us are active conservationists – we don’t just land on our helipads, ask the maid to prepare a cocktail, sit by the window and enjoy the waves under the delusion we’re saving the planet.

This settlement will be the spark that ignites a slew of litigation that guts public access to California beaches as greedy landowners realize if they have enough money they can buy anything no matter the law, justice or the public good.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to comment,
Patricia Davis
Woodland Hills, CA

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
To: CA Coastal Commission
As a concerned California resident, please revise the access plan and open Hollister beach to the general public. There is no excuse to close off certain beaches to public access, and in this case, making it almost impossible to access Hollister beach under the current deal. This deal was NOT made with the public interest in mind and should be re-examined.
Thank you,
Mark Borinstein - 12250 Addison St., Valley Village, CA 91607
Please make sure the California Coastal Commission falls prey to the elitists of Hollister Ranch. It has become this nation’s folly in that our trusted leadership has become invertebrate-like spineless buffoons. And that is exactly what the coastal commission has evolved into. A group of individuals catering to and cowering before elitist, entitled, wealthy phonies. The California coast is for everyone. And that means access for one and all. Period. Simple. No disclaimers.

Gerald Svedlow, MD, FACP
I strongly oppose the very narrow minded settlement at Hollister Ranch. Somehow this area needs to be open to the public in a reasonable way, not just by some type of paddle boat. I am 64 years old and would not feel safe trying to get there by that method.

From time to time my husband and I take road trips up the coast from our home in Diamond Bar. I would like to know that we could stop to experience the ocean at Hollister Ranch. It should not just be for the rich. This sets a dangerous precedent for the future of the California Coast.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Eng
I object to the preliminary outline of the "agreement" being made for access to at least some of the beach areas of the Hollister Ranch and the Owners Association there.

The public access should not be so limited as seems to be outlined in the early summary I've seen.

Public access by bike and/or walking trail is essential.

You -- the Coastal Commission -- are tasked with protecting public access to the beaches of our state, and you seem to be waffling in that task. Stop giving away the beach access to wealthy landowners who are, really, just being selfish because they can afford to own land in this scenic and special area. You are denying increasingly-precious beach access to over 99% of your customers (the citizens of the State of California), so please re-focus on your mandate.

Thank you --

Paul Rayton
4313 Palmero Drive
Los Angeles, CA  90065
Tel.: 323-257-1355
Public access is a must. Hollister Ranch must be more accessible to the public; not less. Simple truth.

Patrick Hasburgh
Encinitas, CA
Simple decision is award unrestricted access by land, sea or air to this stretch of shoreline for what has and always must be for the general public of California.

Respectfully Submitted,

Russell Wilson
How very sad this outcome. Good didn't win over evil and "right" didn't win over wrong.

On Sun, Jun 24, 2018, 5:14 AM Barb Messina <bbmessina@gmail.com> wrote:
How incredibly sad this outcome . . . Good didn't win over evil and "right" didn't win over wrong.
Hello,

As a resident of California for last 43 plus years, I'm very disappointed at the Judge's Stern decision to restrict public access to Hollister beaches, it's a regressive decision that goes against the grain that made California beaches public for any and everyone to enjoy, please start the repeal process of his court decision at once.

Concerned citizen,

George Abuhamad
The settlement does not benefit the citizens of California, nor does their position on short term rentals. A commission that should be protecting citizens is doing the opposite.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Dear Coastal Commission,

It appears you’re throwing in the towel with this Tentative Agreement on Hollister Ranch, but please keep fighting for public access! The Tentative Agreement is not a compromise, it’s a win for the landowners over the public. The idea of a trail beginning at Gaviota State Park is an excellent compromise. The beach should be accessible to all of us. It’s fine with me if I have to work some to access it, but to close it off completely (I don’t believe “water access” counts as public access) to the vast majority of us is just wrong.

Thank you,
Jennifer Bolton

Sent from my IPad
Jennifer Q. Bolton
You should be ashamed of trying to limit access to something that you do not own. The beaches are for everyone and Everyone should be asked if they agree with the settlement. Put it on the November ballot and let the people decide, not some shady backroom deal that obviously benefits the few privileged and treads on the many.
To Whom It May Concern On The Coastal Commission:

My wife & I strongly oppose the recently proposed agreement regarding the lack of any but oceanic access to the beach at Hollister Ranch. Please do not cede our birthright as California citizens to access any beach in a manner that involves making it difficult to access & enjoy our beaches. The proposed agreement entitles the rich to easily visit the shoreline at the expense of the citizens of the State Of California. This president is a terrible model for any current or future agreements.

My wife & I were both born & raised in California. The Coastal Commission was founded to insure beach access to ordinary citizens like us. We do not possess a boat, kayak or canoe. As California citizens, we have a right to this beach as much as anywhere else along the coastline, without restriction. Please do your job as the protectors of our rights as citizens properly. What you’ve agreed
to is a complete abrogation of your duty to protect our access to the beach, unfettered. This agreement simply put, doesn’t pass the smell test. It reeks of money doing the talking. The Coastal Commission has already been tainted by the ex parte communications scandal. Don’t let this shoddy agreement be another example of what appears to be monied interests overriding the Commission’s duty to protect the rights of simple beachgoers like ourselves.

To sum up our feelings: We vehemently oppose the proposed agreement. It cheats the public & demeans the Commission’s purpose as protectors of our beaches.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(Electronic signatures)

Robert L. Stone, D.V.M. & Barbara C. Stone
San Clemente, CA
To whom this may concern:

I am a native California who enjoys living in this great state for many reasons. One reason at the top of my list is access to the Pacific Ocean and its public beaches. The Pacific Ocean is our Central Park - a place to unwind from the crowds, mediate, and just bask in the beauty of nature.

I was overjoyed when I heard that the public was finally going to get access to Hollister Ranch. That was until I read Steve Lopez's article in the Los Angeles times.

Kayaking to Hollister Ranch from Gaviota State Park is too difficult for most beach goers, and it sounds like it could be quite dangerous to boot.

Please consider having walk-in access to Hollister Ranch. A suggested trail that begins at Gaviota State Park Beach is a good compromise.

Our California beaches should be accessible to all, not locked up behind gates and guarded by private security for celebrity and wealthy land owners.

Thank you,

Carolyn Vreeland
Los Angeles resident
As a family who've enjoyed Jalama Beach for decades, it's been a dream to visit the Hollister Ranch coast. What a sellout this "agreement" is! For shame.

Ian, Alicia, and Kealii Denchasy
919 N. Inglewood Avenue #8
Inglewood CA 90302
3109991977

Ian Gordon Denchasy - An American Writer
There should be walk in beach access to hollister ranch beach. The coast belongs to all of us!!!!!
Please do NOT assign off on the by-Sea-deal. Keep pushing and open the coast.

My name is Moore,
Roger Moore
A walking trail from the Gaviota beach to the Hollister Ranch beach would allow actual access with minimal problems with parking or too many people.

Please insist on a trail.

Kyrie DeMille
the Steve Lopez article in LA Times Sunday edition. I know you are exhausted from this fight with rich people... but what they are giving just is not enough. This is not a done deal. PLEASE support access to OUR beach with a trail. Thank you for your consideration.
Please don't give up the fight for people's right to pass through Hollister Ranch to reach the isolated 8.5 mile stretch of Central Coast. Beaches should remain in the public domain.

Thank you

Teresa Gemmer
Commissioners:

I put it to you that as a group the Coastal Commission has never met a multi-millionaire they didn’t admire and who they wish they were.

You are not. You have been entrusted with protecting California’s coastline. If mandating access to the Pacific coast offends your pretensions to be in the 1%, may I suggest you get a real job?

En masse, you are a pathetic disgrace to the position to which you were APPOINTED! The State Coastal Act of 1976 (commemorating a significant date in American history where the rabble you would have detested overthrew the royalty you would have served) was passed by the citizens of California.

QUERY: DID YOU, OR WOULD YOU HAVE, VOTED FOR THE ACT?

If the answer is no, quit the Commission. You do not deserve the position. The Commission should not be in the hands of hypocrites.

But what’s the point. You have already decided. Frankly, should I ever have to invite any of you to my home, you won’t leave until I count the rugs, the spoons, and my fingers. Get the picture?

I pity your children.

Jas. F. Johnson

Jim
I am a resident of Santa Barbara. I write to voice my disappointment over the terms of the Settlement. I believe that all residents of the State should have access by land to the blue waters of the Pacific. I urge you to reconsider your decision limiting access to the beach only by the water. Access to the water should be available to all of us.

Hopefully you will be open to reviewing the matter. Thank you.

Donald S. Simons
To Whom It May Concern,

It's unconscionable that high tax paying citizens and eco conscious locals like myself cannot access these beaches.

How would any moral body of government allow these illegal restrictions to further endure?

-David Sands
I arrived in Los Angeles in January of 1945. At that time most of Santa Monica had open stretches of beaches all the way up the coast. Gradually, private homes began to emerge all along the coast and, as a consequence, restrictions and access were instituted. Now there are long stretches of the beach that are inaccessible to the public.

Beaches and the water afford a welcome respite from the rigors of urban living, and as such, are essential public parks for recreation and decompression, and must not be restricted to private enjoyment—they should be open to all. My family and I, therefore, urge you to EXPAND, NOT RESTRICT, access to the beaches and shore in the Hollister region that should be open always to the public.

Donna & Jack Salem
923 Teakwood Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
Peace be with you.

From reading the court information from the cc website and newspaper articles it appears that the only way for the public to access a small 3/4 mile portion of Hollister Beach is by water.

I am a Very Strong Supporter of Public Access to All California Beaches. I prefer that there are virtually No Private Beaches.

I believe the Coastal Commission can do a much better job of promoting Public Access to Beaches.

I vote No to the agreement.
Dear Commissioners:

I am relying on you to expand the public access to California beaches as is the stated purpose of the Coastal Act. Please reconsider your proposed settlement for the Hollister Ranch as I believe it is extremely restrictive of the public right to beach access. This is a bad settlement and a dangerous precedent which has in my opinion been severely influenced by non-public and selective interests.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Peterson
From:      MS Schacht
To:        Coastal Hollitser
Subject:   Walk in access please from the state park 2 miles away. Not too much to ask Jackson Brown or Mr. Cameron
Date:      Saturday, June 16, 2018 5:25:46 PM

MS Schacht
Divemaster & Videographer
Green Divers Productions
Albany CA 94706 USA
www.markschacht.com
Cell/Text:  510-812-5399
Fax:       510-528-2653
msschacht@yahoo.com
Please don't limit or block the general public's access to the beach. That would go against the spirit and intent of the Coastal Act.

Best,
Roy Rivenburg
Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne,
My name is Mike Evans, I live in Chino and grew up in Long Beach. I also spent four
years in Santa Barbara late 70's and heard stories about the militia at Hollister
Ranch.
It is not right that california residents can be restricted from the beach anywhere in
the state.
So the way it stands in some places Hollister Ranch, Dana Point, Laguna, Malibu,
and Half Moon Bay the public do not have full use of beaches in these areas, and
maybe others that I do not know about.
If you come to this country with money and buy property at a beach you can restrict
the California residents from using their beaches.
I think full beach access should be the responsibility of the builders and landowners.
With standards established by Surfrider Foundation, and other like minded
organizations.
The local cities or the state should maintain these beaches.
It is our right as tax paying Californians, and USA citizens. If the closure or restricted
use is endorsed by the courts, there will be a bonanza for the undeveloped areas of
California shoreline.

Thank You,
Mike Evans
sumrecsvc@gmail.com
909 762-8888
3926 Bryce Ct.
Chino, CA. 91710
I live in Ventura on a lane that anyone is welcome to access the beach. The only thing that I don't appreciate are the people that leave their trash on the beach. We are relying the coastal commissioners to expand rather than constrict the right of everyone access to the the beach. Where ever it be on public land and not at the whims of ultra rich people.  James Hough

Sent from my iPad
We, the 40 million people of California, are relying on you to protect our right to access the entire California coast line, to sit on the sand, build sand castles, swim and surf in the water, and jog along the beach. These experiences shouldn’t be restricted to those of us who have the most money and can afford to buy homes and/or land along the coast, and then prevent the rest of us from access to that coast. One of the most wonderful things about California is the fact that the California Coastal Commission has championed our right, all people's right, to access to the beautiful California coastline. I urge you to continue that tradition.

Thank you,
Veronica Krautheim
San Diego
Hi

Do ensure that ALL people can enjoy our coasts regardless of the area.

Thanks
Linda Huetinck
I am appealing to you to expand rather than constrict the rights of all people to access the 1,100 miles of California's shoreline.

Carole Slucki
Los Angeles
Dear Commissioners,

The coastline of any nation should be treated as "common-wealth," a natural resource that belongs to all citizens, even all of humanity. We are all responsible for safeguarding it. Please safeguard our access to the coastline so that it is not the property only of the richest among us.

Professor emeritus John G. Paton, 16823 McKeever Street, Granada Hills 91344
we need access to our beaches, please expand access to all of us.
we are committed to voting and taking actions to support our open public beaches.

thank you.
Coastal Commissioners -

We the Public of California, as well as other states and countries which bring tourism dollars to California, need access to OUR beaches. Please maintain and expand access to all of us.

Appreciatedly,
J.Kurland
I read with much distress of the recent ruling to allow Hollister Beach to become a haven for the money rich Californians. NO one should be allowed to own ANY beach ANYWHERE....the only thing that Californians have in common is our ability to drive to a beach and let nature recharge our batteries. That fact is NOT allowable only to the rich, but to ALL.

Allowing Hollister beach to become what you have decided will set in motion the continued decline of many beaches by those of us who don’t have bank accounts in the millions, if NOT billions.....!!

NO one should be able to buy a beach....that’s just not right.....!!

Stop giving away California to the wealthy....!!

Thank you.

Doug Roberts
To the California Coastal Commission:

The Hollister Ranch agreement should not be finalized as it is written. The idea that water access to this area of the California coast qualifies as reasonable public access is a ridiculous assertion. The entire purpose of the Coastal Commission and the State Coastal Act is to ensure public access to the state's beaches in the face of private property owners attempts to control that access.

What has happened in this case is a "win" for the property owners. For a few concessions to educational and escorted groups the result is legitimate public access (by land) has been ceded to the property owners.

There must be a better (and more legitimate) plan that manages both the interests of the general public and the property owners, but ultimately delivers land access to this section of the coast.

This is the job of the Coastal Commission. This responsibility is eroded with agreements like this, and it is one more step toward private instead of public control of the coast.

Insist on what is right, not what is expediant.

Sincerely,

Scott Heiss
Woodland Hills, CA
818-704-5524
I strongly believe that public access should be allowed at Hollister Ranch for the entire public and not just those who can boat in or escorted school groups. I live in San Clemente, and I will more than likely never visit Hollister Ranch; however, it is a matter of principle that I feel this way. The entire California coastline needs to be accessible to the entire public. Thank you.

- Bill Brooks
San Clemente, California
Dear Coastal Commission,
Please count me as one of the many members of the public who value and appreciate the work you do protecting the California coast!

I would like to add my voice to those of others in letting you know that we are relying on you to expand the rights of the public (including my family and me) to be able to access our California beaches, our bluffs, the waves and brisk ocean water, our beautiful coast, including at Hollister Ranch.

Many thanks!
Leslie Reuter
(818) 451-9175
Chatsworth, CA
lreuter@sbcglobal.net
Dear Coastal Commission members -

Please reconsider your decision to limit public access to the Hollister Ranch only to folks who arrive by water. This is nearly as restrictive as allowing no public access at all to this treasure. Most people would arrive by land. At a minimum, the public should be offered off-highway parking, outhouses, and a reasonably-well maintained path to the beach.

Your role is to serve as a watchdog for the public, to protect and enhance California's coast and ocean for current and future generations. It appears that some of you have become more concerned about enhancing private property claims. Please stand up to special interests, and do the right thing for all of the citizens of California. The public deserves more access than you have proposed in your recent tentative decision.

Thank you.

Sue

Sue Hollingsworth
PO Box 3428
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-3428
(209) 402-5989
sue@shollingsworth.com
From: Greg Cooper
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Hollister Ranch Access
Date: Thursday, June 07, 2018 4:03:16 PM

It is the duty of the coastal commission to safeguard our beaches and assure access to our magnificent beaches. I urge you to expand access to Hollister not restrict it. As is becoming evident every day in California the divide between the rich and everyone else is increasing. All Californians have a right to access our beaches and the wealthy few should not be allowed to buy this rite. I have been fortunate to surf at the Ranch and can tell you it is a beautiful place that should be open to all Californians. Just as should Martians Beach, Broad Beach and others. From first hand experience I can also tell you the Ranch Dwellers are not as concerned about there environment as they pretend. I have observed collections of Chumash artifacts in houses and witnessed half a dozen vehicles driving on their precious beaches heading to surf so they would not have to walk a few yards to enter the water. As a native Californian, lifelong surfer and sailor I employ you to seek an agreement to expand access to a unique stretch of coastline for all Californians.

Gregory Cooper
Dear California Coastal commissioners,
We, the citizens of California, are depending on you to ensure that we ALL have access to ALL of California’s beautiful beaches, not just the wealthy few who want to restrict the rights of everyone else. Thank you for standing up for us.
Rochelle Skolnick
10964 Fullbright Ave
Chatsworth, CA

Sent from my iPhone
I urge you to reconsider the current proposal for access to beaches in the Hollister Ranch area, which would be a major betrayal of the intent of the Coastal Act. Every bit of the coast of our great state should be accessible to everyone.

Sincerely,
Alan Weiss
Carpinteria

--
Alan Weiss
Alan.Weiss@alum.swarthmore.edu (please use this address no matter what you might see in the From: header)
This proposed settlement is disappointing; it does not allow the public genuine access to a stretch of California's precious coast. The very limited, controlled access that would be allowed by the settlement is not in the spirit of ensuring all the public can enjoy one of our most important natural resources. Landowners have rights that should be respected, but our amazing coastline belongs to the public. I am proud to live in a state where everyone can enjoy our stunning natural resources, and I am also concerned at the precedent this proposed settlement sets. The Coastal Commission can do better.

-Patricia Kohler
During this period of public discussion, I am hopeful and trust that the California Coastal Commission will decide to expand the rights of Californian´s access to even the most secluded stretches of our California coast. There are 40 million of us in California. We all need our beaches.

--

Mark Sevold
1001 Sherwood Court
San Dimas, CA 91773
Please ensure that this stretch of beach is protected for ALL to enjoy. Keep it open to the public.

Thank you
Ava Thomas
3103937091

Sent from my iPhone
Please ensure that this stretch of beach is protected for ALL to enjoy. Keep it open to the public.

Thank you
Ava Thomas
3103937091

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners,

Access is the most important aspect of your actions! I don’t surf as much as I used to and I don’t even go to the beach as often either. However, limiting a Californian from visiting our “public beaches” is a crime and should be treated as such. The rich and famous have access to beaches all around the world that the average Californian will never be able to afford - I’m happy for them! Giving a particular class or a specific group access to a beach in California is not in the best interest of the State.

California has been fighting President Trump since he took office - some good fight, some silly fights, but in every case, the State fights for the average citizen or the repressed minority or even the disparaged immigrant. Please keep fighting the good fight by not granting exclusive access to a California treasure to a few wealthy individuals. Compel Hollister to increase the number of access routes/paths to the sea so all Californians may continue to be amazed at the splendor that is the Californian coast!

Sincerely,

Chuck Skiko
Concerned Californian for 35 years
Redondo Beach, CA
Please vigorously **enforce** the *California Coastal Act of 1976*. Please **protect access** by the common people to our beaches including *Hollister Beach* and Half Moon Bay and Malibu beaches and all California beaches.

Thank You,
Heather A. Lindquist
30431 Via Festivo
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
949-487-9023
The Coastal Commission has the duty to allow access to all of the beaches in my state. Hollister Ranch included. Do the right thing and protect the citizen's right to use their beaches.
Dear Coastal Commissioners and Judge Sterne,
I have been lucky to have visited the Hollister Ranch nearly 35 years ago, frolicked in the waves while visiting an owner. Many times since then I've driven by wishing I could visit the beach again if only for an afternoon. I am asking you to provide some time, perhaps between certain hours and times of the year, to allow coastal access to the beach for people who don't live there. Is it too much to share the California coastline that belongs to all of us?
Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Davis
San Clemente, Ca

Sent from my iPhone
Shame on you, the beaches belong to the people of California. You should not be kowtowing to the people who have a lot of money, and own property along the coast. If you do not reverse your decision, we will do our best to get you off the commission.

Sincerely, Larry Pollgreen
Please expand the rights of everyone to enjoy our beaches in California not just the wealthy.
Please make sure our California beaches stay accessible to all Californians, whether rich or poor. As a lifelong Californian, I have lamented the fact that our coastline has slowly come under ownership by the very wealthy but am thankful for the role that the Coastal Commission has played in ensuring access.

We need you to fight hard to protect our beaches from being shut off from the public and from access areas being overdeveloped. Once that is lost, there is no going back. Please do not give up the fight at Holister Ranch (or anywhere else).

--
Ariana Seldman Hawbecker
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I wanted you to know that we are relying on the Coastal Commission to expand rather than constrict access the rights of all California to enjoy access to the beach along all stretches of our glorious California coast. As a native Californian, I have always enjoyed beach access. I'm sure that access can be worked out in such a way that the landowners will not be disturbed and I appreciate the opportunity to give input to the discussion.

Please don't take away access to the California beaches.

Sincerely,

Judith Tuch
A California resident
(301_ 849-9795)
Commissioners,

Please oppose any effort to restrict public access to any beach. California beaches should be enjoyed by all people regardless of their means. Thank you.

Steven Barker
You should be ashamed at keeping parts of the California coastline reserved for people with money. You are further widening the gap between the haves & have-nots. Why not do something truly fair and help keep beaches free for all? What is you excuse for not doing this?
Ann Halpin
Please keep all of California’s beaches, including Hollister Ranch open to the public.

Scott Leyva
Palm Springs, CA
Greetings. I am urging you to do all you can to maintain free access to the public on ALL of California’s beaches. Thank you. Mark horn
Sent from my iPhone
Please expand the rights of everyone to enjoy our California coast!
Do your job. California beaches should be accessible to everyone.

Neta

Neta M. Gagen
neta.gagen@gmail.com
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Cell: 714.904.8252
Your plan to restrict access to 8 and a half miles of public beach is a betrayal of the people of California. Your job is to ensure and expand the rights of Californians NOT restrict our access. Please do your job!

Thank you,
Sarah Nichols

The Rev. Sarah W. Nichols
837 S Orange Grove Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91105
The ocean is free access to everyone and selling parts to the top 1% of people is not right! BEACHES ARE PUBLIC PROPERTY!!!!

Sent from Melanie's iPhone
I live in Laguna Beach and I support coast access for everyone. A small group of people persisted and opened much of our community with coastal access. It’s especially enjoyable to see and talk with visitors from the inland empire, who have as much right as me to enjoy our coast. PLEASE support access for EVERYONE!
Please honor the full intent of the State Coastal Act of 1976 and keep all 1100 miles of California shoreline accessible to all, specifically now the Hollister Ranch shoreline. The recent "deal" preventing public access is a serious failure on the part of the Central Coastal Commission to remain obligated to the Coastal Act. Please take this deal off the table and honor the public's rights that were intended for all to enjoy ALL of the coast!

Thank you!

Dick Pritchard
The beaches and coastal access belongs to all of us!

Sent from my iPhone
Attn: Commissioners

The current plan for access to shoreline is not compatible with intent of State Coastal Act of 1970. Periodic visits by groups is not access for the public. There should be permanent dedicated access for the public during daytime hours.

I AM RELYING ON YOU TO EXPAND RATHER THAN CONSTRICHT THE ABILITY OF CALIFORNIANS TO ENJOY ACCESS TO THEIR SHORELINE.

Please reconsider your decision and listen to all Californians. It is your duty to protect our beautiful coastline.

Gloria Labow
Native Californian
Hello,

It disturbs me that the residential owners' effort to restrict beach access for the public through the Hollister Ranch is even being considered. The beaches are public property up to the mean high water mark. Limiting access for those not rich enough to buy a piece of waterfront or Ranch property is wrong & contrary to your responsibility to maintain the coast for the benefit of all, not just the wealthy elites.

Carol Bartlett
From: greg grinnell
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: Hollister Ranch access
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 9:50:38 AM

The access through the ranch to the public beach should be maintained. The established easement should be recognized. To allow access by water only is absurd and dangerous. Greg Grinnell

Sent from my iPad
Coastal Commissioners,  
Please allow public access to Hollister Ranch beach. Follow the original objective of the coastal commission to have the California coastline accessible to Californians. An inconvenient parking lot and long walk would be great. The land owners could have a fence to keep public off their properties but allow access to beach. Please reconsider and reverse your last decision on Hollister Ranch.
Sincerely,
Nancy Richgels

Sent from my Phone
To California Costal Commission,

I request more, increased access to the Hollister Ranch coastal waters. It is insufficient and too limited as proposed. I relying on the the Commission to expand rather than constrict the rights of everyone to or the ocean edge access.

I helped gather signatures to establish a Coastal Commission for rights/access to beach usage, limiting developments along the coast.

Mitchell Lachman
Coastal Commission,

NO ONE HAS THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

Your JOB is to guard those rights and stand up for the folks who are not in the 1% who are trying to shut all the rest out.

Access to the coast is a right not a privilege. Please do what you were asked to do when you joined the commission. Do not cave in to monied interests with this part of the planet that belongs to all of us. Protect us and our inalienable rights to be able to enjoy these beaches and to pass on that right to our children.

I look forward to your doing your duty to provide for the public good over private entities.

Sincerely,

Robert Grycan
Dear California Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy:

I urge you to back off the Hollister Ranch settlement and go for a new agreement. Launch a dawn to dusk shuttle for the general public on the YMCA access road, with appropriate provision for restrooms. Make the shuttle by-reservation or first-come, first-served, and limit the number served on any given day, if in your judgment this becomes necessary. Look to reasonable beach protection and safety rules—whatever appropriate. This is what our California state government of, for, and by the people, can and should do.

But it is inherently offensive for an elite group of landowners to dole out concessions to underserved groups and school children in exchange for blocking general public access. It is a terrible precedent for the state and, specifically, the Coastal Commission to accept this. Stand firm on public access! It’s absolute nonsense to limit access to people who can get there by boat.

Janet Nippell
Pasadena, California
Please see the attached.

--
Larry Naritomi

Phone: 626.757.4822
Fax: 888.271.1655
Commissioners.

I am writing to request you reconsider your position on public access to the beach through the Hollister Ranch development. The California coast is a valuable public treasure that should not be controlled by nor used only by a handful of wealthy individuals.

Charlie McLeod
336 Otero
Newport Beach, Ca. 92660
Cell: (603)661-4619
Please expand rather than constrict the rights of “everyone” to our coast. Amelia Lackie and Kay Kurzeka

Sent from my iPhone
We, as citizens of California, should be working to increase the ability of all, especially the most humble of us, access to our massive and awesome beaches. Money should not be able to keep us out. It is our job to make sure no one can buy our fabulous coast.
Please add my name to the multitudes who urge reasonable public access to the beaches at Hollister Ranch. Along with such wonders as the Golden Gate and movies, coastal access makes our state its marvelous, unique self.

Please remember the purpose of the State Coastal Act of 1976 and preserve every person’s right to enjoy what nature has created.

Sincerely,
Deborah Rogers
255 Por La Mar Circle
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commission Members,
It is just unthinkable that you have allowed a small group of people to essentially wall of public assess to such a beautiful stretch of coast that has been easement accessible for so long. Restricting access to this beach to paddle-in or formal groups restricts access to most of us.

I have never been a strong believer in "slippery slope" theory, but because of this absurd and cowardly decision, I can now imagine all the wealthy coastal residents using this as precedent to restrict coastal access so that most of us have to eventually travel many many miles to find a way to the beach.

I can understand that Hollister Ranch residents would rather not see hordes of people with loud music and huge cooler chests crowding the beach. But I don't either, so I go to the beach when the fewest people will be there. Hollister Ranch residents should do the same.

There has to be a better agreement than the one you are proposing that effectively locks out 99% of California residents. What a dangerous legacy you will leave, if this unprecedented cave to wealth is allowed to become law.

And hopefully, the beautiful beach at Half Moon Bay, also easement accessible for so long, will not be blocked as well.

There is a trend here. I hope you are wise enough to see it and stop it now.

Sent from my Galaxy Tab A
Dear Commissioners,

Please grant public access to the beach in Hollister ranch. I'm sure this can be done without seriously invading the privacy of the residents of Hollister Ranch.

Public beach access should be a right to all!

Thank you for your consideration,
Richard Engel
I went to UC Santa Barbara and walked the beaches there when the pressure got tough. Do not take that away from future generations.

Just because somebody is rich doesn’t mean they have the right to steal the rights of many. Stand up to them. Do the right thing.

Keep the easement. Is protecting someone’s infinity pool really more important that protecting our natural resources? No.

Thank you.

Dorrit Ragosine / Founder
Social Change Public Relations & Marketing
Dorrit@SocialChangePR.com / (213) 509-7748
http://www.socialchangepr.com

"It took millions of individual acts to get us to where we are today. It will take millions of individual acts to bring us back."
Commissioners: Please revise recent decision re: Hollister ranch. I do not feel it allows adequate public access. I have enjoyed our beaches and public camping facilities since I was a boy, 80 years ago. Please protect our coastal public treasure.

Richard W. Roberts
Dear Coastal Commission,

Hollister Ranch public access should not be limited to a handful of escorted groups. Respect the State Coastal Act of 1976 which protects California’s shoreline and the people’s access to it. Do not allow our shoreline to become inaccessible to the public. This includes the property near Half Moon Bay belonging to Vinod Khosla.

Thank you,

Julia Quinn
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Sent from my iPad
Hello,

I'm writing to share my thoughts and strong opposition in regards to the recent settlement prohibiting public access to vast swathes of coastline in Hollister Ranch.

These beautiful lands -- for of course, none of us can truly lay claim to these lands if we do not have indigenous blood -- deserve to be shared with all. They are an opportunity to inspire, to connect with others, to delight in the sun and spray together.

With our great bounty and great fortune to live in this state comes the obligation and responsibility to ensure everyone can experience them.

Please reconsider.

Thank you,
Bianca Cockrell
To: CA Coastal Commission

Please work to provide a better solution for Hollister Ranch that better protects the shore and the peoples right to access it. We need access to our beaches. We rely on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of the normal folks to access the most secluded stretches of our coast. Help protect us from wealthy owners and commercial developers along all of California's 1,100 miles of shoreline.

Thank you for your work,
Stuart Imai
Sunland, CA
From: Penelope Jones
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Hollister Ranch is for all
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 11:10:55 AM

I beg you to reconsider creating a special exemption and allowing Hollister Ranch to privatize the CA coastline, or at least make it inaccessible to most people.

I was born in CA, the most beautiful state in the union. What draws people are its beauty and opportunity to enjoy the bounty of nature. We are protective of CA natural resources and as stewards of the coastline you need to act on behalf of the people, not the few rich property owners of Hollister Ranch or Malibu.

Our beaches and coastline should remain free and open to all, as they always have been.

Why this should even be debated is a travesty that smacks of elitism and big money.

Do the right thing as you were appointed to do.

Penelope Jones
Artist and Educator, born in San Francisco, lives in Los Angeles
I am writing to express my shock, alarm and complete resistance to the pending settlement concerning Public Access through Hollister Ranch to the Beach there.

It is my understanding that the gate/access will be guarded and closed. That there will be guided tours of selected (what paying?) individuals to the coast. That they will allow access to all those who can reach the shore by way of sea.

We have on the books the 1976 California’s revolutionary State Coastal Act set out to protect California’s 1,100 miles of shoreline and the people's right to access it.

Beaches are not a luxury. Beaches are a public space that provide a different set of rhythms to renew public life. Beaches are a democratic commons that bring people together as equals. People swim and splash in the waves, “people watch,” surf, wile away the afternoon under an umbrella, scamper between tide pools, or gaze off into the sunset.

Furthermore, this sets an unacceptable precedent that nearly invalidates the State Coastal Act of 1976 thereby allowing greedy developers etc. to lay claim to more coastline.

**DO NOT PASS OR AGREE TO THIS SETTLEMENT.**

Not that many people get up there to Hollister Ranch, this is money talking, this is prestige talking, this is people in Hollister Ranch who think they are so special that who no one can share the area they live in. This is not California talking. **This cannot set dangerous precedent.**

This settlement stands completely against Californians will and way of life here in this beautiful golden state with it's glorious shores that are for everyone. We have on the book our State Coastal Act of 1976 that in word and spirit denies a settlement like this.

**DO NOT PASS OR AGREE TO THIS SETTLEMENT.**

Most sincerely yours,
Karen Roberts

Karen Roberts
C 310-721-0337
O 424-259-1383
Skype: klroberts1
I would appreciate your considering my opinion on the question of accessibility regarding the Hollister Ranch beachfront properties. I have lived in California for nearly 70 years. During that time I have frequently enjoyed our stunning beaches, returning over the years to bring my children, and then my grandchildren, to repeat the experience. I have always wished that a BROADER representation of families in our state could enjoy these wonderful resources. Please do not allow a small group of private land owners to restrict what should be the public right to access the common wealth of our beautiful beaches. Sincerely, Suzanne Stein (Los Angeles)

Sent from my iPad
I am vehemently opposed to any agreement that blocks anyone from getting access to our coast. This settlement is a sellout of the concept that birthed the State Coastal Act.

The California coast belongs to everyone, not just wealthy landowners. This proposed settlement should not be allowed to happen.

Craig Clifford  
4208 58th St.  
San Diego, CA 92115
I am writing this email to request that the coastal commissioners who are appointed to serve the people of California, who are to have the citizens of California their priority, not the property owners, when considering access to and use of the beaches, do their jobs.

Hollister Ranch beaches should be accessible to more than just students—all citizens should have the right to have reasonable access to Holster Ranch beaches. Public access roads and/or trails should be available at least every mile, through Hollister Ranch, and parking should be made available, so that the "access" isn't just lip service but really available to citizens. Signage is needed to declare the access points and parking areas.

The private property owners should not be able to harass people who use that beach in any ways, including guards, threatening/misleading signs or fences. Signs by the parking lots and other prominent places should explain what access belongs to the citizens, and what belongs to the property owners, so that citizens understand their rights.

Property owners who violate the citizens rights should be punished in meaningful ways. Citizens who litter the beaches or don't pick up after themselves should also be punished in meaningful ways.

Please confirm that the commissioners have received and read my email.

Thank you,
Elaine Kaufman
Kaufman.elaine@gmail.com
Dear Commissioners,
Help me understand how the beach access through Hollister Ranch has been blocked except for a limited number of escorted groups of children. Please re-examine the Coastal Act’s purpose and give all Californians the right to their coast.
We’re counting on you to do the right thing.
Sincerely,
Pam McLendon

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Sir or Ms.:
California's beach should be available to everyone. Please expand the rights of all Californians to enjoy this very large stretch of beach abutting Hollister Ranch.

Sincerely,
Thomas R. Moore

Sent from my iPhone
Commissioners:
Regarding Hollister Ranch, please protect the public’s right to California beaches. There must be public land access to Hollister Ranch beaches! The intent of the state coastal act of 1976 was to ensure the public has the right to land access to California beaches.
Kathy Moro
Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you please uphold the rights of the public to access the coastal areas in California. The public's right to beach access was set in 1976 and must be upheld to the benefit of all people living in California. Hollister Ranch should not be any different.

Thank you for you attention,

Leane Kahrs
Dear People Who Make Decisions That Affect Many People:

Please make Hollister Ranch accessible to all of us.

Public access to the beautiful ocean is one of the great joys of living in California. I grew up in New York City in the 1960s so I can attest to that. We were surrounded by inaccessible or polluted water. As a young law student, I worked with the ACLU on beach access to the “private” town beaches if the Long Island Sound in Westchester and Connecticut and on building low income housing in Westchester. I’m pretty sure you know how those issues ended up. There is virtually NO beach access and very little low income housing in those places, to the detriment of everyone.

I am privileged to live in Pacific Palisades, above Will Rogers beach. I bought my house in 1978, a 2-bedroom teardown that I could not afford to fix up for many years, for the then-huge sum of $151,500, when the Palisades was a sleepy town of mostly small houses (the good old days). I use the beach all the time, now with my old lady beach pass, which makes it free for me to park during the week, which I greatly appreciate as a retired person with little income. Back when I was young, I could walk or bicycle to the beach. My children grew up in the water, and my son has passed the stoke to many children who have never before seen the ocean through Boardinghouse Mentors, a volunteer organization that brings these children to Will Rogers Beach and gets them up on surfboards with individual volunteer instructors.

We do have great beach access in Los Angeles, and lots of parking and reasonable bathroom facilities. But there is nothing like going to an empty, less urban beach, like Broad Beach (what is left of it) where I was yesterday with my son and daughter-in-law and their new baby. It is difficult to get access to Broad Beach and very limited parking, but still it can be done on an overcast week day in June. While we were there (for 2 hours since there are no bathroom facilities), we saw exactly one other person on the beach, and not one person in the mansions on the shore except two gardeners at one house, and yet the homeowners are militant about keeping people off THEIR beach and in the past I have seen motorized patrols hazing folks like us off the beach. No one uses that beach most of the time. I imagine that the same would be true of the eight miles of beach in Hollister Ranch.

Like the homeowners in Broad Beach, I understand why people want to keep THEIR beach in Hollister Ranch exclusive. But I don’t understand why you, our government representatives, would permit them to do so. It is your job to balance equities for all of us. There is not enough beauty to go around unless we share it.

Thanks for listening and I sincerely hope you do the right thing. The world is already much too divided between haves and have nots. This would be a small step in the right direction.
Karen G. Fairbank, Esq.
538 Almar Avenue
Pacific Palisades, California 90272
310-459-4275
kfairbank@earthlink.net

This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If it has been sent to you in error, please reply to advise the sender of the error and delete the message. Thanks!
Dear Commissioners,

I am a filmmaker and surfer from San Diego, California.

As a native Californian, I have seen the way that our state has been devastated over the last 30 years by development and a privatization of the natural world. We are in real danger of eradicating what makes California and Californians unique, progressive and caring. Making stuff private does nothing but exclude people and accelerates harmful destruction of the natural world.

*I am relying on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of “everyone” to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our coast.*

It is a paradox, but by closing off the 8 1/2 miles of public beach along Hollister Ranch, it would not actually protect ocean, but cause more and more beaches to be closed off and before you know it we will live in a privatized world that the California state constitution fought so hard to protect. I would be akin to stealing our lively hood as Californians and deprive our children of what is rightfully theirs.

I call upon you to allow public access to these beaches.

-Nathaniel Pope
Dear Coastal Commission,

Please protect the State Coastal Act of 1976. It’s the nature of people to want to own something that’s beautiful and finite. Okay, they own the land but our coast is for everyone to enjoy. They don’t own the ocean. There needs to be an access road to it. If you allow this area to be blocked off by these owners you will be undermining the intent of the Coastal Act. Already there are other parts of the coast that organizations have made very difficult to access the beach. It shouldn’t be like that.

That’s all I have. We need our beaches to remain accessible.

Sincerely,

Christine Aichelman
Lifelong California resident
Good morning, commissioners. My name is Mike Gray and I am a 66 year old kneeboarder from Temecula. The Hollister Ranch is a beautiful place and I have had the good fortune to surf there 5 times in my lifetime. The first time as an undergraduate at UCSB, I walked in from Gaviota with my brother in law, probably 3 miles, to Razor Blades which was an amazing 6-8' and perfect. The second time was in a little boat launched from the beach with my 2 best friends, to surf at St. Augustines on a sunny flawless 3-4' day on great grandma's 90th birthday, an experience I will never forget. The 3rd time again was St. Augustines, this time driving in with my nephew and friend Mike, whose dad owned a parcel right next to Jackson Browne's. We still had to hide the surfboards under gardening tools to avoid alerting the guard that we were really there just to surf. The 4th time was about 8 years ago, this time again driving with several family members and Ranch Mike, surfing 3-4' Little Drakes, perfect hollow glassy waves that were almost too fast to ride. The only 3 foot wave that ever scared me. I commented in the lineup that it would be the only time Tyler, Ashley, Uncle Steve and I would ever surf there together. My company computer password remained Drakes for the rest of my career. The last time I surfed the Ranch was probably 6 years ago with Uncle Steve and Mike. It was a cloudy foggy winter morning and the surf everywhere was flat. We drove to St. Augustines and took a walk down to Rights and Lefts. It was too foggy to see the waves but we paddled out anyway. We found 3-4' perfectly formed rights which were almost impossible to see until they broke as it was so glassy. It was one of the most memorable surf sessions of my life. There was one other person in the water. I have been very fortunate to have experienced this wonderful place. The Hollister Ranch is a treasure. We never hassled the owners and they never hassled us. I strongly encourage you to vote to open up this beautiful place to regular folks like me and my family. I think it would great to visit again and catch a few waves.......
Please do the right thing and expand the rights for everyone to enjoy our coast.

John

John Michael Burrows
http://www.burrowsart.com
949-230-1239
Im tired of you giving our precious ocean land to private interests. All ocean beachfront must have EASY access to the public.

Chuck rocco
2298 clover st
Simi ca 93065
805 522 7003

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy Tab®|PRO
Dear Coastal Commissioners:

I am a long-time California resident, and I approve of the aims of the Coastal Act. I want you to preserve access for the public along the shore of the Hollister Ranch in central California. Please do not cut off our public access to California's wonderful coast! It can be done—Hawaii has successfully preserved access to its shoreline for the public. Surely California can do as much!

Please vote to preserve public access in Hollister Ranch!

Jeanine Frank
Cardiff by the Sea
From: gina_hanna101@gmail.com
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: I am furious that the top 1% thinks that they can take parts of the beach. As a resident of California I have the right to access the beach.
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 11:52:23 AM

Sent from my iPhone
Greetings:

I came to California in 1970 to attend Art Center College of Design (then in Los Angeles, now in Pasadena). Seeing Californians playing on the beach in magazines and on TV, and becoming an early, passionate and lifelong fan of the Beach Boys, the idea of the Pacific Ocean off California was a potent lure. I wasn’t here a full day before making my first pilgrimage to the beach.

I don’t make it to the beach nearly as often as I’d like, but swimming in the Pacific is one of my greatest joys. Enjoying the air, the light, and the scenery of the shore ranks up there, too.

When I became aware of California’s law that the beach (up to the mean high-tide line) belongs to every citizen only made me love my adopted home state more. It is undeniably the RIGHT THING to do. Money can buy many pleasures in this world, and the rich have access to many exclusive enclaves where they can enjoy privacy, but California’s limited coastline should not be one of those places.

Please honor the right-of-way through Hollister Ranch to the ocean for everyone.

Thank you.

Mike Diehl
Glendale, California

Mike@MikeDiehl.com
818.552.4110
Please keep California beaches accessible for all Californians to enjoy! Wealth and celebrity is hardly a criteria for exclusion yet they are powerful influences on your decisions! Please represent the people who look up to you for this basic right to enjoy the beaches!

Sent from my iPhone
And have been meaning to send this email to implore you to keep on working to expand access to the beach rather than constricting it in this area! Please.

Randy Farhi

Los Angeles

323-533-6704
Dear Coastal Commission,
Please don't start the trend of inequality that is being considered at Hollister Ranch. You know why, we all know why. The beaches belong to everyone.
Jamie Taylor

Sent from my iPhone
We are relying on you to keep the coastal land open for the public at Hollister Ranch.

Philip and Elaine Chipman
Costa Mesa California
Dear Commissioners,

Please don't allow the Hollister deal to go through. All Californians deserve easy access to the beauties of our state. If you allow this, it dooms our access to other beaches. It will set a precedent that will allow wealthy people to close other beaches. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jan Kimbrough
I object to the Coastal Commission's shameful "relinquishing a disputed public accessway to the beach."

Riparian rights are restrictive enough. Closing the public access prefers the selfish interests of property owners to the public's right of access to the coast line.

The task of the Commission is to expand rather than constrict the right of access of the public to our beaches.

This is one of Governor Brown’s most undemocratic legacies. It is time to replace every single commissioner who voted for this disgraceful so-called settlement.

Sincerely

Graham E. Berry

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I object to the Coastal Commission shameful "relinquishing a disputed public access-way to the beach." 8.5 miles of pristine California coastline!

Riparian rights are restrictive enough. Closing the public access prefers the selfish interests of property owners to the public's right of access to the coast line.

The task of the Commission is to expand rather than constrict the the right of access of the public to our beaches.

This is one of Governor Brown’s most undemocratic legacies. It is time to replace every single commissioner who voted for this disgraceful so-called settlement.

Sincerely

Graham E. Berry

Graham E. Berry  
Attorney at Law  
3384 McLaughlin Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90066-2005  
Telephone: (310) 745-3771  
Mobile: (310) 902-6381  
Fax: (310) 745-3771  
grahamberryesq@gmail.com
We are relying on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of “everyone” to feel the slash of cool water on bare feet along even the most secluded stretches of our coast!

Sent from my iPhone
As you can guess by the header I am for the RIGHT of beach access for the public. It is the LAW and should be upheld.
PLEASE do not be just another board of "sell outs"
i have lived in Ca and surfed all through out and have never yet see Hollister except from a car. I do not want this to be the ONLY way WE the People can ever see it.

Respectfully hoping that we can respect you in the future, or will your names go down in infamy?

Patrick
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

Please protect our access!

Thanks,
Rocky Bowman
We "riff raff" love the coasts more than the rich do. If you really love something you have to let it go (to other people as well).

--

Paula K. Perry

Onward and upward!

paulakayperry@gmail.com

(323) 874-1443

(213) 595-8578 - cell
Dear Commissioners --

Without adequate public access, our constitutional right to enjoy the ocean is meaningless. Just as has been done in Malibu, there is a practical way to preserve access, while still protecting the rights of the nearby Ranch landowners. Yes, it requires careful balancing, but the task is not impossible.

Thanks for considering these comments!

Dan Schechter
11292 Wallingsford Rd.
Los Alamitos CA 90720
Dear Coastal Commission,
Please restore and preserve public access to the coast at Hollister Ranch. I can see a justification for exceptions in cases of significant public safety issues where no other remedy is readily available, but that is not the case. Outside of that, I believe it is vital to uphold a bright line on coastal access, without exceptions.
Best,
Chris Tilly
Los Angeles, CA

--

Chris Tilly
Professor of Urban Planning
UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
337 Charles E. Young Dr. East
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1656
Department phone 310-206-7150
Email tilly@ucla.edu
Web http://luskin.ucla.edu/person/chris-tilly/
California beaches belong to EVERYONE, not just rich homeowners who can afford oceanfront property. Please restore unfettered public access to Hollister Ranch’s beautiful stretch of California coast. Open access to our state treasures is what makes California great.

John Rosenthal
3016 HIghland Ave
Santa Monica, CA 90405
310-396-3979
To whom it may concern at the California Coastal Commission,

As a native Californian, I am concerned about the decision to severely limit public access to the beach near Hollister Ranch. Although I am sympathetic to the desire of the residents to protect this special coastline from potential degradation, that cannot trump the public’s right to freely access our coastline. The compromise currently sought is insufficient, as it precludes the vast majority of citizens from enjoying this public land. A decision like this reinforces the idea that your rights in this state are a function of your economic status - that the wealthy are indeed first among equals. I believe that is wrong and contrary to the values of our state. Despite the inconvenience it may pose to residents of Hollister Ranch - and certainly noise, trash and disturbance of solitude are all real consequences of public use - it is our responsibility to preserve the rights of all citizens.

-Ana Liza Muravina
Please do not cave to the Hollister Ranch development that will restrict beach access to the public. Protect citizens right to access the California coast. That is the spirit of the California Coastal Commission. Thank you.

Paula Poll
Edward Poll & Associates, Inc.
9452 Telephone Road, #186
Ventura, CA 93004
310-827-5415
From: Catherine Bibeau
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Access to Coast
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 4:13:50 PM

Please do not permit private property owners to keep the public off of any of the coastline.
I am writing to urge you to legally grant Beach access at Hollister Ranch. I own land on a beach in the US Virgin Islands where public access paths are readily available. Sure, the disadvantage of having strangers on the beach can seem like an invasion of quiet privacy, but it is far out weighed by knowing that all citizens should be entitled to enjoy the beach - it's especially rewarding to see children having a wonderful time on the beach with their families!

BTW, most people leave the beach by the end of the afternoon, so beachfront residents are not greatly inconvenienced by cooperating with the spirit of the public access laws.

Thank you,
Patricia Platt
Pacific Palisades, CA

Sent from my iPhone
Please secure the beaches for all of us. California beaches should not be owned by individuals ever. Marilyn Myerly
Dear Commissioners:
I, with my surfing family, am relying on you to expand not constrict the rights of everyone to enjoy all the beaches of California. Even Hollister Ranch beaches...

respectfully,
Judith Blocker
1724 Sunset Avenue
Santa Monica

Sent from my iPhone
Please make it easier for more public access to the Hollister ranch beach than the current deal reached between the ranch and the coastal commission.
We are counting on you to expand the rights of everyone to feel free to use the sand even on most secluded stretches of CA coast. How unfair it is to restrict access to so many folks who can't afford a lot of entertainment but can enjoy a free day at beach.

Helen Naughton

Sent from my iPad
Please allow everyone to enjoy time at every beach along the California coast.
Thank you and may God guide and bless each of you.

Kathleen Daly
California's beaches are some of the most marvelous natural sites and I am proud to say I grew up enjoying most of them. Now, I am asking that you not relegate the use and access of these wonders to the few, but expand access to everyone for eternity. What a shame it would be that my grandchildren and future generations may not have the same joys of the ocean, the waves chasing them back to shore, building sand castles or just frolicking in the water. How can one imagine a future where but a few are allowed to dig for crabs, walk in the surf, swim in the ocean.

Please expand all beach front access.

Thank you.

Ann Ruz
A concerned citizen
Dear Sirs,
Please consider coastal towns like Cambria, Carmel, Monterrey, and the magnificent coast of Big Sur between. Why is Hollister ranch being "granted" a beach deal that's different from these places? Beach ownership in California rightly rests in the hands of the Public. This is consistent with the CCC's mission. Please do the right thing!
Respectfully yours,
Ron Kopp, Ventura
805-647-6093
Please keep access to the coast open for all, not only wealthy land owners. One of California's abundant riches is its beautiful coastline with beautiful beaches, tame & wild, free to be explored & enjoyed. Nature provides needed peace & tranquility & the freedom to experience it at the meeting of land & sea has been one of our state's unique features. Please do not allow that to be stolen from the many by the money of the few.

J. Carole Atkin
Long Beach, Ca.
Please leave easement to isolated stretch of beach open to all. We are counting on you to protect the rights of all to access this beautiful site.
Sent from my iPhone
Privatization of our beaches is a bad idea. It is really a bad idea if it is irrevocable and for perpetuity. Beware of what you give away and to whom! When did Californians bequeath or forfeit their sandy beaches? If we are deprived or denied access, it is tantamount to privatization of the beach (except by boat or submarine!) The beaches, like our rivers and waterways, are natural resources public welfare general good or advantage. Public schools, parks, roads, highways and infrastructure like City sidewalks and sewers, are man-made resources for the general welfare good or advantage. Are we going to sell air rights, sky rights, or view rights next? California’s beaches should remain the property of all Californians- not just rich, entitled, or select people because they have more wealth or influential connections. I ask our Commissioners to ask yourselves if it is yours go give away?

Steve Mathis - Associate Manager  
Coldwell Banker- Beverly Hills South  
166 North Canon Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90210  
Tel: 310.273.3113 - Office  
Fax: 310.278.4934 - Office  
Direct: 310.859.5386  
steve@stevemathis.com  
BRE #00583506
California Coastal Commission:

I’m writing to strongly protest the proposed Hollister Ranch Settlement. The Commission and the Court must ensure that the public has access to the beaches along the coast of the Hollister Ranch. I believe that this settlement is not in the public’s best interest, would set back a long history of providing coastal access, and create a dangerous precedent which will lead to further restrictions along the coast. I love going to the beach and frequently surf in the Ventura/Santa Barbara area. It is only fair and just that Hollister Ranch provide unrestricted, land access to this coastline as has been successfully done all along the California Coast. Don’t block us out from California’s greatest asset!

Sincerely,

Andy Welcher
andywelcher@yahoo.com
Dear Gentlepeople,

Please, some of us were born without rich family and LOVE California for its inclusive nature. We realize that without robbing a bank or other "get rich quick" we could never afford beachfront property, but in-fact just struggle financially to survive in this current environment.

Well, access to the beach when I am not working, is what makes life enjoyable and tolerable for me (and not just survivable).

Please help maintain public access to our most valuable resources, coastal California. And just to set the record straight, I am not a lazy person that lives off the work of others. I came to California in 1979 as a medical doctor and have been working very hard since and don't believe in buying property without a 20% downpayment because of financial exposure.

I have not been able to afford a beachfront property in this area and have doubts that I ever would. (local, regional, state and federal taxes and the high cost of just living in Southern California has been helping me not accumulate the required downpayment) ...and I have been working primarily as an emergency physician and caring for the needs of others. Please consider caring for the "regular" residents of Southern California, those that can't pay Hollister Ranch for "exclusive" access to the beach, but nevertheless draw strength and solice from the beaches.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Reiter, M.D.
Emergency Physician and Beach Lover
cell (310)989-4111
Commissioners:
I was dismayed to read in the LA Times that the Hollister Ranch area along the coast may be restricted from public access. I urge you to keep these lands open to all the public--40 million Californians and the millions of tourists and visitors to our state. Please keep Hollister open for everyone.
Frank Harper
Topanga, CA 90290
I'm an older surfer who doesn't get a chance to paddle out much anymore. My home, my business, my family, my dogs and our foundation work all need attention. Nevertheless, there is always the dream that, one day, I'll be able to ride my longboard in pristine conditions along a gorgeous stretch of the California coast. That would be the Ranch. Your expansion of access is the only way that's going to happen. Please support people like me and generations of beach-goers to come. Expand access!

Thank you.

Bryan McMahon
Los Angeles

--

Bryan McMahon
Two Hands Four Paws
310.475.8555 off.
California Coastal Commissioners,

I am emailing to you to request that you expand our rights to access California’s beaches rather than restrict them.

Hollister Ranch must be accessible to all Californians and visitors. Do not restrict access to the few who live in the Hollister Ranch Development. Those wealthy owners must be obligated to continue to respect the easement that predates the development of their neighborhood.

Just because they are rich, they do not have the right "own" a California beach.

Sincerely,

Margo Hamilton
Resident of Los Angeles and California Taxpayer since 1998.
In a period of increased disparity between those who have the financial means and the security and options that go with the privilege of same, it becomes all the more imperative for government to protect all of our rights to equal access to basic freedoms. The California Coastal Commission has the unique opportunity to fulfill that imperative as well as sustain pre-existing law and precedent by supporting expanded access for all in the Hollister Ranch ruling.

Thanking you in advance for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Karotkin, PhD
Our beaches belong to all Californians, not just to the wealthy few who can afford to buy coastal land. Ownership by the public requires public access.

The desire of the wealthy for privacy does not trump the desire of the public to enjoy the beaches that, by law, belong to them.

Sincerely,

Eric Dahl
964 W. Campus Ln.
Goleta, Ca 93117
--

Eric Dahl
(805) 685-7414 (h)
(805) 450-3574 (m)
ericldahl@gmail.com
Please make sure that the coastal commission does not relinquish the public right to access the beaches at Hollister ranch. Beach access should be a right for every Californian. Regardless of wealth or stature. This is a public resource, and should not be snatched up by wealthy land owners. Thank You.

Richard Hiltzik
MPI
818-954-5233 (office)
818-620-5764 (cell)

"Its amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit"
Harry Truman
33rd U.S. President
As a California resident my thoughts are that costal access should be available to all tax paying residents.

Respectfully Richard Hess
6635 Jouglard St
San Diego, Ca. 92114
Dear Commissioners -
As a constituent who is proud of the fact that California protects its beaches from overdevelopment and also makes them accessible to all of its citizens, I was disturbed to read about Judge Sterne’s recent decision regarding Hollister Ranch. I am writing to remind you that the legacy left by Peter Douglas is one worth protecting: please make that beautiful stretch of coastline accessible to the public. Thank you for your time and hard work.
Sincerely,
Kris Evans-Degen
28810 Top of the World Drive
Laguna Beach, CA. 92651
You have given the wealthy landowners on Hollister ranch California private beach access that was never a private beach by not giving citizens of California full access to Hollister Ranch. David Geffen was sued to give access to Malibu beach you will be too.
The right of all of the people to access the stretch of the Central Coast of California through the Hollister Ranch should be respected due to the easement that predates the Hollister Ranch. The people are relying on you, The California Coastal Commission, to expand and protect the rights of everyone when it comes to access of our California coastline. The easement should be left open so that all of the people can experience the beauty and serenity of this portion of the California coastline. Please do the right thing for all of us and leave the access to the coast through Hollister Ranch open.

Peter Pfeiffer
Altadena, Ca.
Dear Judge Sterne and Coastal Commissioners,

I have been GREATLY DISTRESSED by the reports of the proposed Hollister Ranch settlement. I am a native-born Californian who learned to surf at southern California beaches. I taught in public schools in Santa Maria for 36 years. In my retirement years I have taken up stand-up paddling/surfing along the central coast.

I have long been fascinated with the Hollister Ranch coast. My father worked over 40 years for the Southern Pacific Railroad, retiring as Supervisor of Bridge and Building for the Southern Division. He literally built the rail line that traverses the coast. When I was a child, we lived in a converted box car that was moved to wherever his current job was located. I love taking Amtrack between Santa Barbara and Guadalupe. The scenery is beautiful and I am reminded of my family heritage. But it's a melancholic trip, because for every beautiful beach and surf break I see I am reminded that I CAN'T GO THERE. I see a few cars and a few permanently parked Airstream trailers and I wonder "who are these lucky people who have access to these wonderful beaches?" Not me!

According to the terms of the agreement, I'm one of the lucky plebians. I live less than an hour's drive away. I could hop on my SUP and paddle a mere two miles up the coast to visit The Ranch. Last summer we camped with our grandchildren at Gaviota State Park. It was nice, but the tiny beach was extremely crowded, so I paddled (alone) as far north as I felt safe. Not even close to two miles!

This is about far more than Hollister Ranch. If this agreement is allowed to stand, it will encourage the elite land barons up and down the coast to continue their efforts to keep the public off of "their" beaches. Those are OUR beaches, and we should be able to visit them without restrictions.

My hope is that someday soon I will be able to share the beauty of our coast with our grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Gary Prober
119 E. Camino Colegio
Santa Maria 93454
(805)264-1523
gprober@yahoo.com
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Your decision to approve the request for Hollister Ranch owners to exclude a land-based public access is not in keeping with the long tradition of your Commission to provide such public access.

This decision will have future implications for additional applications from private property owners to exclude public access. This also might effect the current Supreme Court case regarding access at Half Moon Bay.

What is your reasoning for such a decision? Please understand when you meet privately with landowners and do not declare these conversations, you damage the trust between the Commission and the public.

Sincerely,
Gary Domnitz
Dear Commissioners,

As you convene to consider the question of public access to Hollister Ranch’s eight miles of California coastline, please remember your mandate, “to protect the California Coast.” That means for ALL of us, not just the wealthy and privileged.

PLEASE do the right thing. We are counting on you.

Thank you,

Justice O’Neil
Please make sure that the coastal commission does not relinquish the public right to access the beaches at Hollister ranch.
Beach access should be a right for every Californian. Regardless of wealth or stature. This is a public resource, and should not be snatched up by wealthy landowners.
Thank You.

Richard Hiltzik

--
You are special
(And I don't mean wearing a helmet special)
One of the primary jobs of the CA Coastal Commission is to protect public access to the California coast, and in particular, to ensure that beaches are not reserved as exclusive playgrounds for those who can afford expensive coastal real estate. The Coastal Commission erred in restricting access to the beach adjacent to the Hollister Ranch, and decision of Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne to give the settlement even preliminary approval compounded the error. It is wrong, it violates the spirit of the law, it is discriminatory, and it sets a terrible precedent. As final approval has not yet been granted by the court, you, as members of the Commission, have the chance to do the right thing and correct this error by enforcing the easement that predates the Ranch's formal development and protecting the public's right to access these beaches. Please do so.

Steven Goldfinger
San Anselmo
Please keep public the coastal access to the Hollister Ranch beach (8 miles)...this is way too large to keep from the public - there is not enough beach access right now and depleting it only hurts California as a state.

Thank you,

Vee V. Molinari
22981 Caminito Linda
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Dear Commissioners,

Please maintain full public access to the beaches belonging to the public that border Hollister Ranch by enforcing the historically established easement accessing these beaches. The Coastal Commission was created by citizen's mandate after years of hard work to protect and guarantee access to the California Coastline. It has been appropriated by moneyed interests to prevent public access.

The proposed compromise prevents me from ever accessing this section of the coast as I do not have a boat or a dinghy to safely navigate the surf from ocean to shore. Neither am I a school child who would have access to a private tour. This private tour program is a sham as you are well aware. Legal precedence is on the side of maintaining full unscheduled access to all California beaches. Please side with the vast majority of citizen's who entrusted you to protect our access versus the very few individuals who simply want to "win" over doing what is right.

Thank-you,
Dennis White
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please consider that the vast majority of our citizens cannot in any way shape or form afford the luxury of a residence on or near the beach.

yet they all deserve to seek out and find that blessed proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

Please keep this in mind and act accordingly- do not allow only the most wealthy among us the opportunity to access our coastline’s riches.

Thank you in advance -
Micki and Mike Nozaki
Laguna Niguel
Dear Coastal Commission,

We're campers and hikers, and we believe we should have access to beaches. Please expand access, not limit it. Everyone should have the right to enjoy the beauty of the beaches. Thank you.

Curtis Graham
310-283-3549
Please act according to the purpose and spirit of the State Coastal Act of 1976 which assures public access to our beaches. Sadly, money and prestige often win out over the public interest in environmental matters. Please make your final decision about beach access at Hollister Ranch an exception to the usual outcome in such matters.

Mary Hruby
Santa Monica, CA

Sent from my iPad
I was quite disturbed that preliminary approval has been given to the Coastal Commission settlement which provides for no public land access except for a limited number of escorted groups. There was an easement that predated the 14,000 acres’ formal development of Hollister Ranch, which the owners were obligated to respect. The legal battles have been, as I understand it, going on for years. The State Coastal Act of 1976 protects California’s 1100 miles of shoreline and the people’s right to access it. It appears that the Coastal Commission has abrogated its responsibility to uphold the law and protect public access to our coastline. I hope that approval will not be given to this settlement and the State Coastal Act of 1976 will prevail.

Vivian T. Nelson

Reference: Los Angeles Times article Hollister Ranch for us all dated June 6, 2018.
It is my fervent hope, having read Bob Sipchen's op-ed in today's *Los Angeles Times*, that the Commission will work to ensure that all individuals have the right to access the beaches everywhere in California - including the secluded coast at Hollister Ranch. I'm adding my voice and hope it is heard.

Diane Karrel  
2251 S. Beverly Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 0034
To The California Coastal Commission:

The publicized proposal is a travesty. Do your jobs...follow the original purpose related to the creation of your Commission: "Public Access To Our State's Beaches".

It isn't a complicated concept. The complications are canards created by rich property owners' legal teams to forestall public access.

California brags about its beach protections. I am originally from the Oregon Coast and Oregon's protection of its beaches in regards to guaranteeing public access is far more complete and successful than California's.

I am strongly against the proposed pact and urge you to revisit this issue and push for a guaranteed land access for the public to the Hollister Ranch beaches.

Regards,

Harry E Antoniou

I

Sent from my iPad
I write to express my strong opposition to the recent CCC settlement of the case concerning public access to Hollister Ranch.

I have been a California resident for all of my 71 years. I have always had a love affair with the ocean and California's beaches and have spent most of my time near the water and exploring the California Coast. I support the Coastal Act which was adopted in 1976 to protect the California Coast and public access to it. I have become fairly familiar with the Act as I have been active in related causes for decades. So I understand the battles over access-related issues which generally relate to situations where wealthy landowners try to keep our Coast for their private use.

I had the good fortune to spend one glorious day exploring the Coastline adjacent to Hollister Ranch. That day remains a very fond memory. It is truly a shame that beach and nature lovers are not allowed to visit and experience those wonderful beaches. The access restriction at this stretch of Coastline is not unlike various other beaches where access is contested by owners of private property contrary to provisions of the Coastal Act with one very significant exception. **This closure affects access to 8 1/2 miles of pristine coastline and beaches.**

The terms of the recent settlement are utterly and totally unacceptable. We were hopeful that the new Commissioners would make a sincere effort to enforce the provisions of the Coastal Act and side with the public in these important access cases and situations.

Please reconsider the recent decision. There are better solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Freedman
Commissioners:

The importance of allowing the public access to the coastal area of the Ranch has caused me to write to you this morning. I am a native Californian, and have been a small real estate developer since 1984. I know the importance of the housing shortage in California and I know the difficulties of "penciling" a development project to make an adequate return on the investment. I also am aware of the significance of allowing the public access to California's wonders. Those magnificent features of California that our state has been trying to preserve for future generations to come. The coastline is one of the most important. Please do not take away the right of the public to not share in any portion of our coast (security of our state, nation and the public issues excepted). As a person who backed away from developing a 40 acre property in Avila Beach, CA, because it just was not the right thing to do to this land, I made a significant financial sacrifice as I have very moderate means. Those involved in the ownership of this land must also make a difference to preserve this area as a California treasure meant to share with the world. It’s the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

Anthony Matthes - Broker/Associate
BRE Broker Lic # 00358501
Realty Executives Valencia
26650 The Old Road #300
Valencia, CA 91381
Office Fax: (661) 253-1393
Cell: (661) 816-0663
Home: (661) 254-3750
e-mail: acmatthess@gmail.com
Please do the decent thing and allow public land access at Hollister Ranch. You know in your heart it is the right thing to do.

Maureen Higgins
Dear Coastal Commissioners
I have lived on the beach in Venice CA since 1973 and know that the beach does not belong to me but to all Californians. I believe that is the law of this State and the recent decision by a judge to limit the public to this area should be considered as illegal. I hope you step in and do the right thing. Make the Hollister area open to all Californians
sincerely,
Sheila Goldberg
15 Via Marina
Venice CA 90292
Please Please, we are relying on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of "everyone" to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our OUR coast. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad
Coastal Commissioners,
Like Bob Sipchen, the author of the LA Times Op-Ed piece, I too hope that the commission as well as Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge, Colleen Sterne will reconsider the approval that has been given to Hollister Ranch. The coastline and surf belongs to all of us not just to those who have the means to purchase a piece of paradise. Please put back in place the public easement that predates the ranch development. I will be watching closely to see if we are given a chance to enjoy the coastline or if this beautiful paradise will continue to belong only to a chose few.

Sincerely,
Lori Sullivan
What a disappointment it was to read that the Coastal Commission had caved and cut a deal with the wealthy coastal property owners so that the public has no access to the 8-1/2 mile stretch of the Central Coast. Give me a good reason why only they should enjoy the beauty of the coastline? Why now did you cave?

The California coast is for all, not just the wealthy. The public is relying on the Coastal Commission to do its job of protecting California’s miles of shoreline and the people’s right to access it. In recent years the Commission has been far too cozy with rich and politically well-connected developers. Your agreement is my proof that you have abandoned the intent of the State Coastal Act of 1976.

I hope that you will take the time given by Judge Sterne to reflect on what you’re doing by acquiescing to the wealthy property owner’s demands. Please keep in mind that we depend on you to fight for our interests. We depend on you to expand rather than constrict the right to access California’s beautiful shoreline.

Thank you,
Regina Barnes
California Resident
California Coastal Commissioners,

I urge you to follow the mandate of the Coastal Commission to make ALL of California’s beaches open to ALL Californians.

Reserving even a small number of our beaches for the wealthy is just plain wrong!

The beaches at Hollister Ranch must be made accessible to ALL!

Thank you,

Dr. Michael Cohen
19741 Elmcrest Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92646
Dear Commissioners,
I was aghast that you did not do your job to protect the California coast for ALL of the people of California.

I sincerely hope that you will re-consider your view and allow access to the coastline to all people of this country.

Cordially,
Deborah Valles

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Coastal Commissioners,

PLEASE do not close off the public’s access to our coast. For many years the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy fought to establish and preserve our right as citizens to enjoy the coast. Please do not roll back the clock and allow only a few property owners to enjoy what should be a commons. Allowing only a few school groups access is not sufficient. Forcing people to paddle 2 to 10 miles to access some beaches makes it impossible for most of us. The coast is like air — it belongs to all.

Thank you for preserving a basic human right.

Sincerely,

Bill Powning

Sent from my iPhone
To: California Coastal Commission,

I encourage you to uphold the limits in the original coastal commission law, without exemptions. Everything within 1000 feet of the California coast is totally accessible to the public. That’s what the voters intended when we passed the law – with no exceptions.

Sincerely,
Dave Pierce
Commissioners,
With alarm and dismay I’ve been following the fight over right to access the Hollister Ranch beaches.

On behalf of my family and the many, many Californians who treasure the coast, I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed settlement.

The extremely limited access you propose to grant the wealthy owners, excludes the vast majority of Californians, the handicapped, and non-handicapped veterans like myself.

Aboard the USS Wilson, I recall many hours gazing at the shoreline, enjoying the beauty that could only be seen from the water. Drinking with my eyes, feeling closer to God then I ever had in church.

Without surfboard, kayak or boat, nearly all Californians will NEVER be able to appreciate the sublime beauty of this unique piece of our coast.

It’s the simple pleasure of a day at the beach, that all Californian families can manage and afford.

Commissioners, DO the right thing. Keep fighting to keep the beaches open for all.

Michael Jarocki
US Navy veteran

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartpho
6-6-2018
To Whom it May Concern:
The California Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy have reached a proposed class action settlement with property owners at Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County. This settlement, which requires approval by the Santa Barbara County Superior Court, will allow the public to access by water to a stretch of beach and expand programs to bring students and non-profit groups, including those serving underprivileged groups, to the property. I strongly support this settlement and believe that access to the California coast should NOT be limited to just a few, ultra wealthy, entitled few.
Sincerely,
Walter Cronin
Dear Coastal Commission,

Do your job. Keep fighting to allow public access of the Hollister Ranch area. The beach and waters near coastal properties belong to all of us, not just the nearest property owner. If you do not feel like you're up for the challenge, resign and allow others who are better suited to do the job take on the challenge.

Sincerely,

Amir Karimpour
Los Angeles
Mr. Howell,
I am reaching out to you to express my displeasure at the Commission’s recent decision regarding the very limited beach access at the Hollister Ranch property. Limiting access to all except some school field trips and possible by boat (how many California citizens have that ability?) seems to be in conflict with the very mission statement on the Coastal Commission website ‘to protect and enhance California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations’.

The decision seems to be more about protecting and enhancing the coast for a few privileged and wealthy individuals.

Thank you,

Chris Heyer
Baumann Insurance
818-704-6625 Phone
818-704-9820 Fax
cris@baumanninsurance.com
22019 Vanowen St. # G
Canoga Park, CA 91303
License # OF13003
A Member of Pacific Interstate Insurance Brokers

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Dear Folks:

My wife and I urge you to expand the rights of all people to access the California coastline. That includes the Hollister Ranch area.

Your legacy will be forever tainted if you fail to do this.

Good luck and thank you,

Richard & Judy McCurdy

Richard R. McCurdy
Post Production Sound
4405 Riverside Dr., #104
Burbank, CA 91505-4050

818-260-9544 (office)
818-618-7388 (cell)
818-260-0954 (fax)

richardmccurdy@earthlink.net
mccurdysound.com
To hollister hollister@coastal.ca.gov

I beg you to reconsider creating a special exemption and allowing Hollister Ranch to privatize the CA coastline, or at least make it inaccessible to most people.

I was born in CA, the most beautiful state in the union. What draws people are it’s beauty and opportunity to enjoy the bounty of nature. We are protective of CA natural resources and as stewards of the coastline you need to act on behalf of the people, not the few rich property owners of Hollister Ranch or Malibu.

Our beaches and coastline should remain free and open to all, as they always have been.

Why this should even be debated is a travesty that smacks of elitism and big money.

Do the right thing as you were appointed to do.

Michael Arata  
Artist and Educator, born in San Francisco, lives in Los Angeles
Dear Commissioners,

I grew up in Santa Barbara. And, no, my family did not live in a mansion, drive expensive cars, or have much money. But, we had the beach! We picnicked, waded, swam, played in the sand, and took long walks together. We discovered and explored the beauty of the coastline from Avila to Malibu. We listened to my parent's childhood stories of trips from their Central Valley homes to the coast to adventure and camp. As adults, my siblings and I feared for that freedom as we watched more and more access to these areas fall away. With the formation of the Coastal Commission, we felt validated that the State of California recognized that access to the coast belongs to ALL the people, not just a privileged few. Then came the horrific revelations of the Commission's problems and involvement in more loss of beautiful open spaces and access to our coast.

Now, with a new reorganization, our hopes have soared again. Please continue in a positive direction. Please honor the sacred trust put into your hands by ALL the people of California. Don't let access become a barrier to the mean high tide line and beauty that belongs to us all. Please preserve our heritage. Please preserve the magic.

Thank you, Ruth Gammons Graf

Sent from my iPad
Please change your decision to exclude general public access to the Hollister Ranch beach. I am a resident of Santa Barbara County and look to the Coastal Commission to value and support the statewide interest for all resident access, not just a handful that can afford to own large properties adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. Our beaches are great equalizers, please continue to honor the California Coastal Act of 1976 and not limit where the coast can be enjoyed.

Susan W. Sheldon
462 Stanford Place
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
shellsu@gmail.com
Commissioners,

Re: Hollister Beach

Please consider expanding the rights for public access to all beaches.

Thank You for your Consideration

Bill Skresvig and family

Thousand Oaks CA
I like millions of Californians can not afford to live close to the beach. Property close to the beach has long been only available to the very wealthy. Please do not make it possible for these very wealthy residents to now be able to buy our beaches. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

lawrence gervase
I've been lucky to experience the beauty of the Hollister ranch waves and pristine land both by boat and by invitation in past years. I don't believe it should be an exclusive right of the land owners there.

I respect the desire to protect the land, but it does no harm to allow the relatively small number of people who go out of their way to visit to have access.

Please consider opening up the small bit of access that is proposed.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCarthy
1206 Grant St
Santa Monica CA 90405
Dear Coastal Commission--

We, the beach-loving taxpayers of California, need you on our side to protect public access at Hollister Ranch!! You are our only defense against coastal landowners with money who care only about their own "exclusive" access to the beach. The California coastline is a treasure that belongs to ALL of us to enjoy.

The very limited public access in the proposed settlement is not adequate. Please do not settle this lawsuit in such a way that it precludes all but a handful of escorted groups from enjoying this lovely stretch of coastline.

Thanks you for your thoughtful consideration.

Felice Sussman
Rossmoor, CA
Dear Coastal Commission,

Please keep all the beaches of California open to the public. This is every Californian's right and should be the case at Hollister Ranch.

Thank you

Steve Mlynarczyk
Please uphold the preexisting easement that allows access to the coast through the development known as Hollister Ranch.

—Dan Moody
Professor of English, Reading, and ESL
Southwestern College
900 Otay Lakes Rd.
Chula Vista, CA 91910
As a reasonably affluent physician, I am writing to say that the proposed settlement is not at all in keeping with the spirit of the Coastal Act and is pandering to the wealthy interests who have selfish personal and/or financial interests to protect. I will personally vigorously support any lawsuit which seeks to overturn the ruling if you confirm it. Please do the right thing for the People of California and give them reasonable access to the coast as required by the Coastal Act. Thank you, Elliot Felman, MD
Dear Commissioners,

The 1976 coastal act demands greater access than is proposed before Judge Sterne. You hatched this still too restrictive proposal in secret and only now can we tell you how horrible a precedent it would be. Call it off. Go back and study the intent of the voters. Deals like this will further corrupt the process. We deserve better. Thank you.

John Brooks
Oak View California
Please support at least one access route to this beach. Perhaps only daytime hours? What is left of the CA beach should be open to all; not just the able bodied who can paddle over. We voters decided long ago - the shoreline belongs to all. I live near a school. What if I had the money to fence the sidewalk because I don’t want noisy students and their trash twice a day? It is ludicrous to block all unfettered access because some do not want anyone there. One path, perhaps at the edge of the whole property, well fenced and maintained, perhaps even by the ranch association? That is not too much for the people of the state of CA to ask. Thank you for your attention to my comments. Constance Rumer

Fear eats the soul. Rirkrit Tiravanija
From: Linda M.
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Protect public access to the few remaining "wild" places along our coastline!
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 12:21:38 PM

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE device

----- Original message ----- 
From: Steve York
Date: Wed, Jun 6, 2018 11:04 AM
To: David Grace;DNColven;Ellie;Jane Tully;Karen Kaiser;Marty Krebs;Mike Zoradi;okemo;Paula Farrington;RCasaly;RZelanzy;Roy kite;Richard Haro;Donna Haro;Deborah Rogers;Sue Hollingsworth;pattimonroe@me.com;Lin Math;Gordon Hartwig;Susan Suzuki;czzahm@gmail.com;Bill Friedman;neilpolans@gmail.com;sjmail33@cox.net;George Welik;Ray Goodner;susanhcase@icloud.com;Ray Olmstead;klavidge@aol.com;Benjamin Smith;dleialvares@hotmail.com;harriette ambach;Vicky Lorelli;bengtson@usc.edu;DeDe Parrett;Mark A. Cooper;Candice Gregory;Tom Benham;dan segna;Joe & Pat Boris;angelaslater@grandmeadows.com;Thomas Lee;Bob Burness;David Ellenberger;Claudia Werlin;Janet Malki;Ellie Smith;Jennifer Blum;Tom Washing;Jeff Tenzer;Edward G. Ewing;Katrin Robbins;Lisa Bella;Edward A. Kaufman;Steve Clayton;
CC: 
Subject: Happy Hikers - Alert

For all of you who value access to our coastline, I urge you to read the op-ed from the LA Times today about Hollister Ranch and the opportunity for the public to weigh in before the judge's final decision on July 23rd. Send your support for access to Hollister@coastal.ca.gov. Thanks

Who gets to enjoy California's natural treasures? The right answer should be 'everyone'

Who gets to enjoy California’s natural treasures?
The right answer shoul...

Bob Sipchen
It seems possible to love the Hollister Ranch, and to protect it, without hiring lawyers and a militia of armed...
Steve York
310-408-7204
Dear Commissioners,
I am saddened to learn that the protection of the beach for all has been weakened by your recent decision about Hollister Ranch. There is a sacred trust, I believe, that allows a common resource to be set beyond the grip of wealth and private property. Once gone, the public beach can not be reclaimed. I urge you to attend to our concerns over the common good and expand access to the 8 miles of beach at Hollister Ranch.
Sincerely,
Margaret Langhans
267 Termino Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
Dear Coastal Commission,

I ask that you reconsider denying access to the 81/2 miles of coast that is claimed by wealthy homeowners in Hollister ranch. I do not feel that allowing swimmers and kayakers’ to access the beach from over 1 mile away is a fair compromise. My understanding is that all of California’s coast line is supposed to be open to the public. It seems that with the Billionaire at Half Moon Bay, and now the Billionaires at Hollister Ranch want to deny access to the coast that belongs to all of us the Oligarchists are continuing to win to the detriment of all non-billionaires. Please reconsider this compromise and help the public who can’t afford beach front property maintain access to the California beaches. Thanks for considering this request.

Bob Watson
Assistant Principal, Conejo Valley High School
(805)498-6646 ext. 108
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to voice my strong support for the expansion (and definitely not a reduction) of the public's access rights to our California coast. Access to our beaches and coastline should not be barred or restricted because some wealthy individual has the wherewithal to purchase and fence off his property. I understand that restrictions might need to be applied, at various times, but they should never be permanent, nor abused.

Thank you.

Brian Anstey
Hermosa Beach
To Whom It May Concern:
As a native, born & raised Californian and UCSB graduate, I strongly urge you (more accurately, I BEG you) to PLEASE not cut-off access for the public through Hollister Ranch. We have the Coastal Commission to thank for the fact that we can drive up the coast and actually see the ocean instead of a nonstop wall of mansions, high-rises, billboards, hotels, etc... We have the Commission to thank for the fact that, from Mexico to Oregon, each and all of us can dip our toes in the ocean and get hypnotized by the powerful magnificence of the Pacific. If the Commission allows the owners of Hollister to block off the public's access, they will be, not only doing an incredible disservice to all those who love and appreciate the ocean, but also going dangerously against decades of coastal protection from just this sort of attempt to limit access.
Hollister is NOT a private playground. No beaches in this wonderful state are private playgrounds. Please, PLEASE do NOT change this reality and establish this wretched precedent.
Thank you very much for taking the time to read my email. I hope you make the right decision - the decision that is genuinely in the best interest of the masses, not the elite. Please feel free to contact me to discuss further.
Sincerely,
Spencer D. Presler, M.S.W., LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Founder, Without Walls Therapy

Sent Hi-Techily from my iPad
Dear Commissioners of the California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the construction of an easement through Hollister Ranch to provide public access to the beach. For the sake of all Californians, please remember your mission!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Jepson

UCLA
It is indeed a sad time in the history our beautiful state. The Coastal Commission, the purported protectors of our beaches under the provisions of the Coastal Act of 1976, is gradually caving in to the greedy machinations of superwealthy elites. Their takeover of California's beaches will be partly enabled by a cooperative Commission, whose endorsement gives questionable purchases and developments the appearance of legality and appropriateness.

The Coastal Commission needs to remember that it works for all of the people of California, not merely the elites. Guaranteed public access to our beaches is your mandate. Equal rights for all means just that. You need to defend our right to enjoy OUR beaches.

Thomas Saito
Burbank, California

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
Dear Commissioners,
As a citizen of California, I ask that you respect the long honored laws that give public access to our state’s beaches, including those at Hollister Ranch. We all deserve to access the beauty and tranquility this place provides, it should not be accessible only by wealthy landowners.
Please consider that we all pay taxes, and have chosen California as our home, and then do the right thing.
Kristy Melita
Laguna Beach, CA

Sent from my iPhone
We are relying on you commissioners to expand rather than constrict the rights of all Californians to enjoy our coast, wherever it may be located. Please look out for all of us. Thanks, David Martin
California Coastal Commissioners,

The California coast is a treasure beyond measure and EVERYONE, not just a few wealthy individuals, has the right to access it.

We are relying on you to do the right thing: protect California’s 1,100 miles of shoreline and ensure that every individual has the right to access it. That is your duty and your responsibility.

Your service is appreciated.

Sue Pelman
I live in Santa Barbara and have traveled up the coast many times, camping and hiking in Gaviota, visiting Jalama Beach, taking the train past Hollister Ranch. I am awed by the natural beauty of the area, and wish I could explore the beaches farther along than Gaviota.

As an attorney I understand the nature of property rights and the firm stand that the Hollister Ranch property owners have taken against opening the area for recreation. But as a taxpayer I believe the public deserves the right to access the beach, or at least some of the beach along this wild and rugged stretch. I read about the proposed settlement and was amazed by how little the public access was granted. Occasional school kids visits and the ability to swim or boat to certain limited beaches?!? Who is going to do that? Why not open up a few beach paths to the public? As long as they are not developed and remain fairly natural, you’ll get mostly surfers and hardy outdoors lovers. I, myself, would love to be able to hike down a coastal path to a secluded beach once in awhile. The property owners have extended land on which to erect barriers to trespass, why should they be able to block access to what I understand is the public’s right – the beach below the mean high tide line?

The California coast is for everyone, let’s not essentially shut down a huge and scenic stretch of it for the benefit of millionaires. Please rethink this settlement which provides meager crumbs to the public. If this deal goes through, you can bet that it will set a precedent and won’t be the first such infringement on the general public’s interest along such beachfronts.

Sincerely, Guy Cumberbatch

Guy Cumberbatch
825 Weldon Rd
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
guy@patent4you.com
(805) 259-5425
Please keep Hollister Ranch open to ALL Californians, not just the rich.

My family and I live near the beach and we visit it several times a week to appreciate its beauty and rejuvenate our souls. We all swim in the ocean, surf, play beach volleyball and attend concerts on the beach. We don't have a lot of money to take expensive vacations, but we always feel lucky that we live near the beach and can enjoy its treasures. What I always notice when I walk down the strand in Hermosa Beach, is how many of the beachfront properties are uninhabited for most of the year. I assume they are 2nd or 3rd homes and the residents don't visit very often because they live somewhere better. I have traveled all over the world and California beaches are among the most beautiful. I don't think there is anywhere better.

I haven't yet visited Hollister Ranch beaches, but I would like to know that my family and I won't be barred from visiting if we should take a vacation to that area. I would like anyone to be able to visit - residents or non-residents. To prevent overcrowding and resource destruction, I would support daily limits on visitation. But please to not bar all access via foot.

If you allow rich people to carve out sections of our stunning California beaches, they won't stop until they have it all. One carve out will encourage other wealthy people, including those who aren't even residents of California or the United States, to attempt to own a bit for themselves. They may visit it once in a while, but keep all others out to maintain their privacy. That would be a disaster.

Many of us Californians suffer high density living, high costs of living, high taxes and horrible traffic just so we can be near the beach. We endure these things out of our love for the ocean. Please don't let people buy our beaches.

The easements for Hollister ranch were issued well before this current owner, Vinod Khosla, bought the property. He does not have the right to limit access.

Please keep Hollister Ranch for all of us.

Thank you,
Rita Mundy 90503
Please don't deny us some kind of reasonable access to Hollister Ranch beach. Do the right thing.

Jon Speer
A handful of the ultra-rich seem to have persuaded a commission or a judge or both that they should be exempt from the stunningly correct principle that the seacoast belongs to everyone!

These people have money enough to buy a place, on any continent save Antarctica, in a country which fails to recognize that principle. Let them go there! They may keep their property in the Ranch, of course, but they must share its use, from the mean high tide line to infinity, with some of those who “can demonstrate a near-rapturous passion for frolicking in the waves.”

Please. Represent the people, not the few.

Yours,

Joe Hughes

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commissioners,

Please protect the right of all Californians to access the coast. Strike a fair balance between private property owners and the public.

Very truly yours,

Lori Huff Dillman
native Californian and proud of it
In disbelief, I listened to my passionate surfer husband tell me there really are 8 miles of a California beach where only very wealthy people can access.

"Not in California", I argued; "no way! The California Coastal Commission is committed to allowing beach access to all"....

I was wrong. There is Hollister Ranch.

He described taking a boat from a far distance to drop anchor off the shores of Hollister Ranch, just to enjoy riding the waves. He explained you don’t dare step foot on the sand. Hostile security guards and residents prevent it.

This on OUR beaches? 8 miles of sand with top notch waves EXCLUDED from the public??

The coastal commission that I knew spent an untold amount of money and effort to rightly force greedy ocean front property owners to open blocked gates to allow access to our beaches....even with other ways to access the beach nearby.

8 MILES of PRIVATE BEACH????

Frankly, I have heard negative things about this current Coastal Commission. If you allow this giveaway a public beaches to a few wealthy landowners to continue, you do not deserve to call yourselves protectors of our beaches. We urge you to do the right thing and serve ALL of the people

Open those beaches and waves to ALL!

Sincerely,

Wendi and Jeremy DeBie
Please do everything you can to give the public access to the ranch.

Dennis McGoldrick
I agree with the sentiments in this article.

Years ago on an overnight hike from Pt. Conception to Gaviota with a family member we were challenged by a Hollister Ranch armed guard when we set up camp halfway through the hike. We asserted our right (and need) to sleep below the mean high tide line. This line is hard to define but this fellow did not like us even walking on the wet beach. He threatened to roust us out if he found us sleeping on the beach. We said that we would respond in kind if he did.

Some Hollister Ranch residents are afraid the public will ruin their “private beach.” A few summers ago, I was invited by a Ranch member to spend the day. I observed a few Ranch surfers driving trucks on the beach past a sign the designated the area as a Snowy Plover Preserve. This is not behavior which protects our natural resources - and it is a hypocritical reason for opposing access.

Years ago, my son partnered with several other surfers and purchased a small boat which they launched from Gaviota in order to access the Hollister Ranch surf. They were continually harassed and threatened by guards and Ranch surfers for exercising their right to access the area.

It seems that the position of Hollister Ranch is no different than the Palos Verdes case in which a group of resident local surfers intimidated non-local surfers from accessing a public beach: Lunada Bay near Palos Verdes.

Please do not let this opportunity to let the California citizens access their beach.

R. M.(Mike) Mallen
Professor Emeritus
Mathematics Department
Santa Barbara City College.

Home address:
1143 Camino Manadero
Santa Barbara, CA 9311
....is to protect coastal access for the public, not close it up for the benefit of the rich.

The tilt of the Commission in recent years (ex. U2 guitarist bribing his way to a project approval) is unconscionable.

Brandon Marlowe
Dear commissioners,

I hope you will vote to make the Hollister beaches more available to all of us rather than less available. Everyone is deserving of kick back time at California’s best beaches. Helps to keep us sane.

Sincerely,

William Hart
I do not share landowners views that the beach should be blocked from public access. We pay our taxes and ought to get use of our coastline.
John E O'Shea registered voter Chico CA

Sent from my iPhone
To Whom It May Concern:

Please reject the one-sided settlement proposal that purportedly resolves the Hollister Ranch public access issue.

The residents at the Ranch, who already enjoy considerable wealth, privilege and vast opportunities to enrich themselves have now gamed the system by utilizing their deep wells of monetary clout to ensure the great majority of California citizens jump through unreasonable hoops to enjoy those 8-1/2 miles of pristine beach. Particularly galling is the notion the Ranchers have put forth that by restricting public access so acutely, they are seeking to preserve and protect those beaches for everyone.

That is patently ridiculous on its face. Don't insult your fellow citizens with your false noblesse oblige; you want those 8-1/2 miles for your entitled selves and have used your vast power and influence to shut out those who would opt to enjoy California’s beauty unfettered and with ease. The Coastal Commission must stay true to its core mission, and keep the beaches open and safely accessible for all Californians.

I am a native Southern Californian, and in my five decades here, I’ve never seen such blatant selfishness exhibited by the haves over the have nots. Shut this bad settlement down, permanently.

Eric Buchanan
South Pasadena

Sent from my iPad
Greetings Coastal Commissioners,

I am relying on you to expand vs constrict EVERYONES’ right to have access to the beaches and coast of CA. Besides the millions of tourists who come to California for the parks, Giant Sequoias, the Redwood Forests, they come for access to the Pacific Ocean and its beaches. We've hosted people from Europe. They were MUCH less interested in our large city tourist attractions. They were very interested and most appreciative of California's Natural Wonders! Please do YOUR job to continue to protect an easement that PREDATES the formal development.

Sincerely,
Mary Rae,
Ventura, CA

Sent from my iPad
PLEASE do not allow the beaches along Hollister to be privatized and not have public access. All California beaches should be made public and nobody should be prevented from enjoying them. If you allow this to happen you are opening the door to many more restrictions on our beaches.

The owners of beach property have no right to refuse access to our beaches.

Regards,
Rufus Dickinson,
Santa Barbara
I am writing to add my voice to those who think it is unconscionable for the California Coastal Commission to basically give private beach rights on 8 1/2 miles of California’s coastline to the developers of property at Hollister Ranch.

8 1/2 miles is the length of coastline from above Dockweiler Beach in Playa Del Rey all the way down Vista Del Mar through El Segundo Beach, through Manhattan Beach, through Hermosa Beach, through Redondo Beach all the way to Catalina Avenue. These beaches are available to millions every year and constitute our largest tourist draw not only here in the beach communities but throughout California.

How can anyone think this is protecting California’s coastline for the benefit of all of its citizens?

Gordon J. Louttit
Manhattan Beach, CA

*Those who can get you to believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities* –– Voltaire

*Dictated to my iPhone. If it's garbled, it's the phone, not my brain.*
Dear Commissioners,

It is incumbent upon you to insure CA coast access to all and not only to wealthy land owners. The Coastal Commission has a reputation of being swampy. It seems to me that your primary responsibility should be to support and protect the State Coastal Act of 1976. There should be a way to protect beaches for mega wealthy landowners without shutting out access to the public. That’s your job! Find a way. Your obligation is to all citizens of the Golden State, not only to those who are “filthy” rich. I hope the Commission will do the right thing for all and not just the uber-wealthy few.

Denise Weissberger
28045 Eagle Peak Ave
Santa Clarita, CA 91387
661 298-1045
Commissioners;

The preliminary decision by the court regarding public access to Hollister Ranch does not go far enough.

Although I agree with many, including owners, that the Ranch cannot withstand unregulated access and still remain the refuge it is, I believe an intermediate step can be taken.

That would be to have public access governed by a lottery system. Citizens would apply for consideration and names would be selected at random once a year. It would be practical if a pair of names could apply (family) with one vehicle (licensed).

An EIR would determine conditions of access: how many people could be granted access, to where, what vehicles would be allowed, and what facilities the Ranch must provide to accommodate them.

Sincerely;
Bruce Luyendyk

--
Bruce Luyendyk
http://bruceluyendyk.com
http://bruceluyendyk.blogspot.com
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_P._Luyendyk
Everyone in California should have access to Hollister Ranch beaches. Not just people who own boats or other watercraft that allows them to access the beaches from the ocean. EVERYONE should have access to the Hollister Ranch beaches, not just small groups of students who are guided to the beaches. The laws giving the public access to California's beaches cannot be abrogated by wealthy people and their lawyers.
Dear Coastal Commission,

Please reconsider and advocate for all California ocean lovers to have access to the Hollister Ranch coast through a walking path rather than having to paddle out. I am 70, grew up in Encinitas with an ocean view, and once lived on top of the cliff overlooking the beach. But rising property costs drove me out to where I can no longer go to sleep to the sound of the surf, or see the sun set over the ocean as I used to do every night for years.

All Californians have a right to enrich their lives with nature's beauty and to access places that feed the soul. Such experiences should not be for sale only to a few multimillionaires/billionaires. Please do not set a precedent for the privatization of the Calif Coast. Preserve Hollister Ranch access for those of us unable to paddle out.

Linda J Pulliam
Dear Coastal Commission,

I grew up in Laguna Beach and currently reside in Venice Beach. I have been living near the beach (and enjoying it) for most of my 42 years. As California's population continues to grow, it is more important than ever that the public's right to access all beaches be maintained and not restricted to the privileged few. The public is relying on you to maintain this right, which the Hollister settlement curtails. Please reconsider the settlement and do not allow this encroachment upon the public's rights. Thank you.

Best,
Mark Glenn
Dear Sirs;

I am quite sure I needn't remind you that the California Coastal Commission have a long and oftentimes heroic history of serving the citizens of our Golden State by advocating for and protecting the precious natural resource that is our coast not just from exploitation by the fossil fuel industry, and relentless encroachment by greedy developers, but also the constriction of access to beaches by wealthy landowners who have long and stubbornly fought against public access to the shore. A current case in point, of course, is billionaire Vinod Khosla's seeking from the U.S. Supreme Court a reversal of a lower court ruling that will allow him to deny the public access to the beach near Half Moon Bay that he believes he owns but, alas, does not. At least not yet.

The revolutionary State Coastal Act of 1976 endeavored to protect California's 1,100 miles of shoreline, and maintain private citizens' access to it. And soon the Commission has the opportunity, and indeed the responsibility, to once again rise to the occasion and do the right thing by its charter and mission, specifically, to fight for the people's right to traverse the development known as Hollister Ranch in order to reach a pristine but isolated 8 1/2 mile stretch of the Central Coast.

It is my expressed hope to respectfully appeal to your individual and collective senses of conscience in urging you to stand against the moneyed interests of a relatively small but powerful contingent who would barricade our beaches. The magnificent coastal areas of our beautiful state belong to every one of us 40 million citizens who call California home. Each one of us needs our beaches. Caving in to the private landowners in this case, as in every other when such conflicts occur, is an injustice to the people entrusted to your care and due diligence.

Please do the right thing by insisting upon Hollister Ranch owners' obligation to respect the easement that predates its 14,000 acres' formal development, thereby continuing to ensure that California's beaches remain open to all.

Sincerely,

Peter R. Beltran

Lifelong California resident, and Phi Kappa Phi Jazz Studies student at California State University, Los Angeles
Please do the right thing, save public access to beaches!

Thank you,
Carol Saunders
Manager, Respiratory Therapy
City of Hope

Sent from my iPhone
The California Coastal Commission's mission is "To protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment of the California coastline."

Do you see the word "environment" in that mission statement? The environment has nothing to do with supposed property rights of wealthy, politically powerful owners of property. The California shoreline, all 1,100 miles of it from the water to the mean high tide line belongs to the people! All of us people! Eight and a half miles of shoreline must be open for anyone to walk on and to surf on and to lay in the sun on a blanket and to watch kids play in the sand, our sand. We all have a legal right to that sand and we should stop making the lawyers richer with more ridiculous briefs and court sessions regarding the people's right to enjoy the sandy and watery shore that the California Coastal Commission's mission is "To protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment of the California coastline."

If the Coastal Commission really does its job, it will expand and protect the legal rights of all of us who want to enjoy our coastline, not come up with deals with property owners to restrict our rightful access. They may own the Hollister Ranch land, but we have an easement to the 8 and 1/2 mile stretch of water and beach according to the simple definition of the State Coastal Act of 1976.

Do your job! Do what's right! There are 40 million people in the State of California and it is OUR coastline that you are protecting!

Bill Bush
P.O. Box 50
Lake Arrowhead, CA  92352
Hi...please keep California beaches generously available to all citizens of our State.

I believe this is why the Coastal Commission was created. Please do your job fairly for ALL the people in our State.

*Randy Allard*

*Newport Beach*
I'm old. I had the best that California had to offer.

Let the new generation find the secrets held in secluded cliffs.

We have selfishly convinced ourselves that the new generation is just not able to "get it". They do get it.

We no longer "get it".

Wise up.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**Subject: Open coastlines**

Please take the June 6 LA times op Ed to heart. Hollister Ranch coastlines belong
To all people....Allowing for this scoop of closure will set a dangerous precedent
that will eventually impact all of us!
C.A. Milton
California native and lifetime resident

Sent from my iPad
From: hollycooper
To: Coastal Hollitser
Subject: Fwd: Public Beach Access Through Hollister Ranch
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 6:05:24 PM

Commissioners:

I believe that there should be public access to the beach through the Hollister Ranch. Surely there must be an easement through the Ranch used historically by the public. The present proposal to allow access only via water to the beach (except for limited guided access to groups) is unduly restrictive and undermines the basic premise of the California Coastal Act. I treasure the beauty of our coastline and I strongly feel that public access should supercede individual property owner's rights. The coast belongs to every Californian, not just to those who are wealthy or fortunate enough to own beachfront property.

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® S2
Dear, Coastal Commissioners,
I am a 13 year old boy who really enjoys surfing and being in junior guards. I love the feel of hot sand on my cold feet and going in the nice blue ocean. This would be a concern to not just manhattan but all other beaches around this area.  
I think you should give my future kids and grandchildren a way of experiencing how much I loved the beach. Please consider my idea.  
Thank you  
Sincerely, Marty Walsh
Dear commissioners:

Californians are counting on you to ensure that our beaches are enjoyed by everyone and not just the ultra rich. That's the reason why the California Coastal Commission exists. The deal that would allow Hollister Ranch to have exclusive right to eight and a half miles of beach is disgraceful. Please reverse course. It's not too late.

Mariana Bension Larkin
West Los Angeles
310 650 2410
For heaven's sake - we have had enough of millionaires and billionaires having their way with damned near everything. Whatever happened to the notion of the Common Good? Wasn't that part of the vision for the CA Coastal Commission? No one should be able to own the oceans, sky and coastal land. Please reconsider your decision to give this public resource to all the People. Please do not make it the exclusive domain of the incredibly wealthy and arrogant few. Californians are proud of our state. We are inclusive, tolerant and welcoming to virtually anyone who lives here or visits. Do not make this an ugly symbol of wealth, avarice, arrogance and exclusivity. This is not who we are . . . Unless you choose to make it so. Please come to your senses for the sake of the Common Good.
Sincerely - John Senteno
Entry to the Coast should be open to all ... not just a few people ... we all pay taxes and should be able to enjoy the beauty of our California.

Ed Poll
310-721-1515
Dear Commissioners,
We are relying on you to expand, not constrict, the rights of Californians to have public access to the Hollister Ranch beaches. We are all entitled to beach access. Beach access should not be limited to the privileged few, but should be a right for all Californians.
Thank you,
Wendy Salaya

Sent from my iPad
Dear Commissioners,

I write to you to ask for protection of the California State Coastal Act of 1976 and for access to California beaches.

I visit the beach weekly and appreciate being able to reach my local shore. The only way I can even see the Hollister beach is to take a train ride through it. I ask you to protect the sacred access Californians cherish as a right to access beaches. I cannot understand "giving a pass" to property owners to neglect their obligations, owners who knew all along that access to the beach to the public is the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Bennett
824 Del Rio Ave
Encinitas CA 92024
760 579-2648
As a native Californian, I am very opposed to the Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy proposed settlement with property owners at Hollister Ranch. California’s coastline should be accessible to ALL people, not just the privileged few who can afford multi-million-dollar properties next to the coast, shutting out everyone else by severely limiting land access. By allowing access to a stretch of beach only by water is tantamount to cutting off access completely.

The California that I grew up in was a place that treated everyone equally by allowing access to all the beaches we wished to enjoy and explore. It saddens me to see that so much of our beautiful state is turning into an exclusive enclave affordable only by those who have unlimited wealth and power.

I urge you to reconsider your decision to proceed with this settlement agreement.

Respectfully,
Elaine Bramen
Sherman Oaks, California
Concerning the “privatization” of the coast adjacent to Hollister Ranch, I have precious little sympathy for the wealthy owners in the ranch who find themselves stymied in their efforts to take sole control of the adjacent beach. These folks are not naïve, unsophisticated buyers. They did not purchase property without an understanding of the long-standing dispute over beach access. And if they were confused about their rights to the beach, they could have hired any number of real estate attorneys to explain that owning a lot does not guaranty a private beach.

I understand a recent ruling has limited the number of people who can access the beach, but it also provides for a period of public discussion. I urge you to use this time to look closely at your mission as members of a body whose purpose is to protect and enhance our beaches for the good of all Californians – not a select wealthy few. It is my hope that the judge will reconsider her ruling and that the Commission will do its job and let everyone share the beach. We are counting on you.

Janis Salupo
Irvine, California
California Coastal Commission Commissioners:

I am a graduate of two Universities of California, my two children graduates of UCLA. I have taught at a CA community college for forty years and am about to retire. One of my hopes in retirement is to continue to enjoy my state's coastline. You commissioners can help me to fulfill that hope: Please reconsider your settlement regarding the Hollister Ranch development. Please allow your fellow Californians to have access to this eight-plus miles of our coast.

John Gregg
10606 Riesling Drive
San Diego, CA 92131
858-578-0302
Feel your decision re above area is most unfair to the public & those of us who also need the serenity, if only for a few hours, of this stretch of our coast. Please reconsider your decision & be fair to people of California.

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Commissioners:

As a Southern California resident for most of my 66-year life, I have been a regular visitor to our public beaches. I am so very concerned the more I read about access to Hollister Ranch. I implore you to do everything in your power to provide access to this California treasure in accordance with the State Coastal Act.

Sincerely,

Stuart Levine
Dear Commissioners:

I urge you to keep beach access available to all, not just the wealthy. My grandchildren are counting on you to do the right thing.

Paul Bateman
Professor, Legal Analysis Writing & Skills
Southwestern Law School
3050 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

213.738-6750
Do not restrict public access to this essential public natural and recreational resource.

My 32 year career with California State Parks witnessed on a daily basis the importance of coastal access to as much of our state's coast as possible. The coast is intrinsic to our well being as a free and democratic society.

Broc Stenman
4230 Amber Lane
Palm Springs, CA 92262
This "settlement", and the entire legal process that preceded it, is a travesty. The coastline of Hollister Ranch is a public resource. The public should have access to that resource.
Jerry Handren
Dear Commissioners,

I hope you will reconsider your recent settlement decision with Hollister Ranch severely restricting public land access to a narrow group, and allow a broader public land access to this beautiful coastal area for all in this great state to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Diane Hom
Claremont, Ca.
Beaches and coastlines are not for the rich and privileged. Use guidance and some restrictions and control to keep the beach clean and free of abuse and crime. Have the rich property owners pay for some of the maintenance.
This land belongs to all of us who chose to use it and enjoy wisely with respect and care.
This land come from nature not a few rich selfish landowners.
Do the right thing!
Concerned and upset.
Brenda

Sent from my iPad
Dear Coastal Commission,

My name is Karim Shahabi, and I am asking you to open up Hollister Ranch Beach to the tax paying public. A beach as beautiful as this one, so I am told, should not be enjoyed by only a few dozen people.

The coast belongs to everyone, and all of you, commissioners, are our voices. Please speak for us and open up Hollister Ranch Beach.

Thank you for your commitment to increasing beach access in California.

Karim Shahabi
Please keep beach access available to us all, not just the very rich. This is what makes California great!
Thanks
Jane Wooster
Los Angeles

Sent from my iPhone
The beaches of California belong to all of us. Take a look at the beaches of Jamaica; restricted access to the locals everywhere.
Force the rich to provide access!
Please.

Dale Vinski
(909)451-7495
6/6/18
Sirs,
It is one of the privileges of being a citizen of the State of California and the world that our beaches are open access to all.
I am aware that Hollister Ranch has been in litigation for a number of years but do not believe ocean-only access is of any benefit to us as residents.
Please re-consider the decision to significantly limit access to my beaches.
Thank you,
Kathleen Abney
San Juan Capistrano, Ca.
805-896-1692
Thank you, Kris.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 6, 2018, at 10:40 PM, Kris Evans <mdegen3@cox.net> wrote:
> >
> > Dear Commissioners -
> > As a constituent who is proud of the fact that California protects its beaches from overdevelopment and also makes them accessible to all of its citizens, I was disturbed to read about Judge Sterne's recent decision regarding Hollister Ranch. I am writing to remind you that the legacy left by Peter Douglas is one worth protecting: please make that beautiful stretch of coastline accessible to the public.
> > Thank you for your time and hard work.
> > Sincerely,
> > Kris Evans-Degen
> > 28810 Top of the World Drive
> > Laguna Beach, CA. 92651
I wanted to let you know that I strongly disagree with the recent decision to allow some of our coast to not be allowed by all Californians. I think it is a bad president and could lead to other parts of our coast not being able to be used. I believe it was brought to a vote in an election it would be overwhelming amount of people agreeing that the coast is for all Californians. Please rethink your decision regarding Hollister ranch. Sincerely Raj Narula. 2830 Hill street. Oxnard Ca 93035. 805-901-1886.
Hello Commissioners,

Please expand the rights of everyone (not just the privileged few) to enjoy the California beaches.

Regards,
Ken Steiner
Ventura

Excerpt from: Who gets to enjoy California's natural treasures? The right answer should be 'everyone'

There are 40 million of us in California and we all need our beaches. We have until July 23 to email the commissioners at Hollister@coastal.ca.gov and say that we are relying on them to expand rather than constrict the rights of “everyone” to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our coast.
Dear Coastal commission,

Please, please expand rather than constrict the rights of "everyone" to feel the slosh of cold water on our feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our beautiful coast.

Sincerely

Diane Preston
San Pedro, CA

Sent from my ipad
I strongly oppose the settlement currently made with the Hollister Ranch Owners Association. It does not allow adequate coastal access to all California citizens. Under no circumstances should the overland access route be given up. Access only by water eliminates reasonable access by Californians who are handicapped, elderly, or not able to swim, kayak, paddle board, surf or maneuver a soft bottom boat in the ocean. People tend to forget that ocean swimming & sports are a skill learned only by those lucky or rich enough to have frequent access to beaches.

I have owned coastal property in Cambria, and currently live a bike ride away from Venice Beach in California, and I am familiar with the issues at stake.

Sincerely,

Sara Elwood
Noaki Schwartz
Public Information Officer
California Coastal Commission
Noaki.Schwartz@Coastal.ca.gov
c 562-833-5487
Am I able to send a public comment on Hollister Ranch?

Robin Rauzi
Opinion Articles Editor
Los Angeles Times
(213) 222-6631
robin.rauzi@latimes.com
please remember that the beach belongs to everyone, not just the wealthy who can afford to isolate themselves from the hoi polloi.

i'm part of the hoi polloi and i treasure going to the beach. it soothes my soul and refreshes me.

please don't take away those pleasures from the vast majority of californians.

diana wright
Dear Coastal Commissioner’s,

I appreciate the thought that you all must go through regarding expanding/constricting access to this 8.5 mile stretch of beach. At the end though you must see that expanding access for all Californian’s is essential to keeping our natural resources open to all that live here, not just the people who are fortunate enough to be able to buy property near this California treasure. I trust that you will make the right decision and represent all of us lucky enough to live in this beautiful state and keep our beaches open to all.

Thank you for your time considering my plea.

Sincerely,

Truit Trowbridge
Escondido

Sent from my iPhone
Please add my voice to those urging the Coastal Commission to continue the struggle to provide public access to the beautiful beaches fronting Hollister Ranch.

Bill Kindel

Sent from my iPhone
WE THE PEOPLE hope you will decide that we ALL need our beaches, not just the wealthy.
This is our land, not just for the few.
Thank you for expanding our rights. It is the only right thing.
Most sincerely, Miriam Goodwin
Coastal commissioners, Judge Colleen Sterne, and Hollister landowners - you must work to provide public beach access paths to Hollister Ranch beach per the text and spirit of the State Coastal Act for the benefit of all Californians and visitors.

Sent from my iPhone
Please do not restrict access to our California beaches - they belong to ALL the people.

Thanks for your consideration,

Estee Edwards
Hi,

I'm a lifelong Californian. And a surfer. Who has always dreamed of visiting 'the ranch' to surf its fabled waves.

But I do not have the economic means to buy a plot of land there.

I had high hopes that access for all was coming. Access for ALL to Hollister Ranch is the right thing to do. In fact, it is what our legal entitlement IS. Anything less then public accessibility to ALL of the beaches in California should be unacceptable.

I strongly urge the Coastal Commission to continue to fight for what is just and right. Public access for all to our Beaches is the only thing that is right! Access to our coasts should not and cannot be oligarchical. Not only is it not legal but it is unjust, mean, dispiriting and sets an abysmal precedent for our state's future. Please fight for access for all and uphold the laws of California!

Thank you,

Nate Archer
Given the current agreement reached with the property owners of the land route beach access, perhaps a water taxi service operated by the state, county, or a private operator, could be permitted to provide public access to the beaches of Hollister Ranch.
To deny the citizens of California the opportunity of boating or walking in to Hollister Ranch to protect the rights of a few wealthy property owners is a travesty of justice. What you have agreed to is wrong.

Sincerely,

Steven Cook
Ventura, CA
Please expand rather than restrict the rights of everyone to access California beaches, including the Hollister ranch property.
Nancy Miller
Sherman Oaks, CA
Dear Commissioners,

I am sure that you have read the article in the Los Angeles Times today (ref: "Hollister Ranch for us all").

I have been reading and watching the goings on of the Coastal Commission for some time now and am very concerned that with all of the issues that the Coastal commission has been dealing with in the past few years, you have all lost your way. It is the responsibility of the commission to preserve the coastal land and ocean for the people of California. There are approximately 40 million of us! and we need your help. To help us is your first priority. Please make the right and only decision.... to preserve the public access to the coast... specifically at Hollister Ranch. Surely there is plenty of land there that the owners can enjoy. Surely there is plenty of land there that the public can use discretely to access the Pacific Coast. Surely there is enough land there to allow parents and children to hike, walk, or even drive a car to access the beach and enjoy the public property that belongs to them.

Surely, you can make the right decision for the citizens of California! And I quote Bob Sipehen’s article in todays L.A. Times... We rely on you to “expand rather than constrict the rights of everyone to feel the slish of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our coast”.

I appreciate your understanding and expect that you will do the right thing and preserve our coastal access... in all areas of the California Coast!

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Wayne Gurnick
WRGURN@gmail.com
818-825-5230
Dear Commissioners:

Please vote to grant public access to everyone who wants to visit the beach at Hollister Ranch. The 1,100 miles of California coastline belong to everyone, not just a moneyed few. Allowing residents of Hollister Ranch to restrict visitors will set a dangerous precedent and encourage other communities that have the means to deny non-residents enjoyment of our precious resources.

Thank-you,

Sonia Nicholson
As a resident near the beach in San Clemente, I am relying on you to expand the rights of all California denizens to have access to our wonderful beaches and coast.

Do NOT put restrictions the rights of all Californians, poor or rich or neither, to experience the joys of a coastal experience.

Sincerely,

Bert Semler
904 Calle Venezia
San Clemente, CA 92672
E-mail: blsemler@uci.edu
Dear Commissioners,

In this era of privilege for the few, with the concentration of wealth so pronounced, I ask you to please consider what is fair. In California, beautiful coastal land is one of the most breathtaking, emotionally renewing resources we have. And it's limited.

To allow the wealthy few to barricade all others from access is simply wrong. Allowing this at Hollister Ranch will set a precedent that will exclude more and more citizens of California. Please do not become complicit in undoing the good work in California of saving public land.

The wealthy land owners have acres and acres of private land on which to find refreshment. That should be enough.

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Susan Klein
As a concerned citizen, I urge commissioners to preserve the right of all people to access all of the California coastline. No one should be granted exclusive right to enjoy the natural beauty of our state.

Thank you,
Mary Bond
Commissioners

The California Coastal Act was to preserve access to all of the coast. And not preserved for exclusive use of a few.

If the members can show that the act means, has been enforced or is written otherwise, I’d be interested in each of the members by name sharing that insight.

Otherwise, it’s time to have all of our coast opened and not to continue to allow the legal wriggling that’s been only available to private interests that seek to deny what’s already been agreed. Just because opponents to access can afford attorneys to argue narrow legal points, and deny 40,000,000 residents and many millions of visitors to the Golden State, is just not right.

Will look forward to a very public decision from the group - and before Summer officially starts. See you all at the beach.

Jim Auld
226 South Wilton Place
Los Angeles, CA 90004

Sent from my iPad
To the Coastal Commission: Please EXPAND the public’s rights to coastal access so we can all enjoy our beautiful beaches and coastline. Do not restrict access to the wealthy homeowner, especially Hollister Ranch.

Thank you for your work on the behalf of California citizens.

--

bclairejohnson@gmail.com
Dear Judge Sterne & the Coastal Commissioners:

Please reconsider your decision and open up a public trail to Hollister Ranch over land.

Although it seems to the developer, and perhaps all the residents, sharing the beach with the public who happen to make it to this isolated community is not going to devalue the specialness of the private holdings in Hollister Ranch.

A public trail through private lands can be both screened off and harmless to the grand acreage each private Hollister owner already has. But, the public should be provided a place to park their cars, or bikes in a safe place, and the State can set this up with eminent domain. A public trail, without a potty or parking, does spawn a syndrome of unfulfilled needs that can spill over almost unwittingly to the private lands unless addressed.

The stated mission of the coastal commission has been positive for those of us publics who love the shore, albeit at low tide on a good day. Rules and restrictions can be easily posted. Use your authority to break the impasse and let the sun shine on the sharing of nature's beauty as our higher minds know is correct thinking, and is the current law and your mission.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Jo Smith, CA Real Estate Broker
Dear commissioners,
I am writing to express my support for the easement at Hollister Ranch and ask that you preserve the public's' right to access the beach by use of the existing easement. If you go through with the proposed exclusion of the public, except for certain groups and those who are able to access by water, you will be doing the majority of the public a monumental disservice.

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations.

I assume the generations referred to above are not meant to be only those wealthy enough to purchase property at Hollister Ranch. Please stay true to your mission statement and preserve access for all.

Respectfully,

Richard Wharton

Richard Wharton
445 W Avenue 46
Los Angeles, CA 90065
Please vote to expand the rights to everyone to enjoy California's beautiful beaches, along even the most secluded stretches of the coast.
This land is meant to be enjoyed by the many not just the few.

Sally McSweeney 818.601.1215
Commissioners:
It is essential that the public have access to ALL of California’s beautiful and extensive coastline. The ENTIRE PUBLIC deserves access! Please EXPAND rather than limit access.

Thank you,

Susan Goldstein
Manhattan Beach, CA

{~iPhone communique~}
The beaches should be open to ALL. Californians, of course, but all of Americans. A privileged few should not restrict the beaches from others. Last I heard, that was still the LAW $$$, are the rich going to win this battle? SAD

Jean Jensen
I’m writing to ask the coastal commission to reconsider the recent proposal to limit access to the beach at Hollister “Ranch”. Allowing access only by boat, which I don’t own, or to a few small groups of school children, is NOT an equitable solution to the residents of California. The State Coastal act was clear that the shore belongs to us all, not just those who are rich. There must be a walking easement.
Mary Evans

Sent from my iPad
Coastal Commission Member,

I was very disappointed to learn of the proposed “deal” between the State and property owners of Hollister Ranch. There simply are no adequate measures in place to ensure public access to the beach there. I feel strongly that our beaches are for everyone and that access to them is a mandate. I simply cannot live with the proposed “paddle-in” plan; without a viable walking path access the beach at Hollister cannot be termed public in any way. That the members of the coastal commission would even tentatively agree to such a plan is ethically and politically wrong and I will continue to express my disapproval in whatever ways I find proctuctive.

Sean McDaniel

smonmc@yahoo.com

Date and Time Requested:

Full Name:

Email:

On Behalf Of:

Comments:
Public comments submitted to the Coastal Commission are public records that may be disclosed to members of the public or posted on the Coastal Commission’s website. Do not include information, including personal contact information, in comments submitted to the Coastal Commission that you do not wish to be made public. Any written materials, including email, that are sent to commissioners regarding matters pending before the Commission must also be sent to Commission staff at the same time.
Although I understand the overwhelmingly demanding mission of the California Coastal Commission to adjudicate disputes regarding public coastal access, I strongly disagree with the current solution of extremely limited access to the Hollister coastline. The taxpayers throughout the state, whether living in Hollister or Bakersfield, require coastal right of way protection. The current proposal appears to ignore the mission of the Coastal Commission, that of protecting beach access from the obscenely rich property grabbing owners who consider the land, beaches, water, and views to belong to them and not the people of California. Please stand up for all the people of the state who do not have the financial resources to hire attorneys to drag out court proceedings for decades, thus accomplishing their purposes by hijacking the legal process effectively buying the court's and Commission's time and favorable consideration.
Sent from my iPad
Ladies & Gentlemen:

As a lifelong resident of California, I have always enjoyed unfettered access to its public spaces and believe that this should continue for all. I appreciate that wealthy individuals relish privacy, but this cannot extend to access to our beaches. Please do not allow the current proposal regarding relinquishing to private property owners a disputed public accessway to the beach to pass and become law.

Judy Wagner
Sent from my iPad
I urge you to expand the rights of everyone to have access to our beaches as required by law. These beaches belong to us all. Nobody should be able to keep the public from what belongs to us all, no matter how rich and famous they are. You have been entrusted with this responsibility. Use it wisely.

Sent from my iPhone
Please do not allow the PRIVATE property owners Hollister Ranch to be the gatekeepers of PUBLIC LAND.
As a tax paying native Californian, I believe the public should have full and unrestricted access to that land.
We should not have to jump through hoops (2 miles by boat) to have access.

The proposed settlement is for all intents and purposes, a giveaway of public land to the entitled few, whose “noble” claims of wanting to be environmental stewards of the land, is obviously just a ploy to keep this beautiful PUBLIC beach to themselves.

Thanks for this opportunity to provide my input,
Joel Markman
Venice, CA
I oppose the settlement of this class action suit. The public should retain access by foot path and CCC must not settle for "water access only".

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Sirs,

I oppose the settlement in its current form. Californians are supposed to have the right to access the coast. Allowing access to a stretch of beach only via the water is tantamount to closing off access to nearly everyone who would visit in the normal course.

I made my first visit to Hollister Ranch by accident about 1 month ago as I was going for a hike up near the Gaviota Caves. I was turned back at the entrance gate for the Hollister Ranch. It looks like a beautiful stretch of beach.

If this class action settlement goes through, that stretch of beach will be essentially exclusive to the top 1% - like too much else in our society already.

Regards,

Andrew Sandor (born in California in 1968; still reside here)
Please give us the right to the beaches of Hollister ranch.
Thank you,
Gail Boswell
1601 N Ogden Dr
Los Angeles, Ca 90046
Dear Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne,
Thank you for allowing the public to comment on your preliminary approval to the Coastal Commission settlement regarding Hollister Ranch public access.

I strongly urge you to reconsider. The entire point of the Coastal Act of 1976 was to open up coastal access to the public. By allowing only over-water access to the beach at Hollister Ranch, most of the public is effectively barred from this portion of our own California coast. Please hold out for an on-land solution that respects the rights of both owners and the public. Access to this and other coastal regions should not be determined by the whims of landowners.

Thank you,
Cathy Pollock
751 Calle de los Amigos
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
I just wanted to express my sadness that the Coastal Commission seems to have redefined "protection of the coast" as "protection from the public". Decisions you make change our greatest asset in perpetuity. The Hollister Ranch decision may be presented to be a compromise but, in effect, puts a padlock on access. Is this "padlock image" the genesis of a new mantra for you?

Sad that your mandate is supposed to be one-sided and single-minded, to protect and to not compromise our finite coastline as a negotiating tool.

Please reconsider.

Larry Block
Please reconsider your decision to keep Californians from being able to access this beautiful natural resource. There should be a large state park and camping allowed. 40 million Californians need our beaches! They aren't for the few millionaires alone.
Give back the beach!!
Melissa Mcleod

Sent from my iPhone
I’m writing to ask that you expand rather than constrict the rights of “everyone” to have access to the most secluded stretches of our coast. Thank you.
I was born in California and have lived here for most of my 70 years. One of the things about California that I’ve always been proud is that the California Coastal Commission has protected every citizen’s access to our beautiful coast. I don’t understand and am extremely disappointed with the Commission’s proposed settlement with the owners of the Hollister Ranch property.

We know that the Commission is trying to find an equitable resolution to a complex problem and that the Hollister Ranch owners have substantial resources to fight for what they want. However, I think it vital at this time for the Commission to reassert the principle that regular, unrestricted access to our coastline belongs to the people of California and not just to the very few people who can afford the real estate. Please use the power vested in you to protect this principle and this access.

Suzanne Green
8144 Caminito Sonoma
La Jolla, CA 92037

Sent from my iPad
The Hollister Ranch Settlement Agreement doesn’t affect just one beach. It affects 10 miles of beaches, mostly for a few ranchers wealthy homeowners.

There are several good access points with off-road parking. Each of these should be open to the public. In most cases the beaches are not in someone’s backyard. In most cases the wealthy homeowners are far up the hill on the other side of the railroad tracks. The same is true for ranchers, their ranch is up the hill, on the other side of the railroad track.

Each of the access points has vehicle access to the beach (7-8 places). On Google Earth (or photos on the Coastal Records Project web page) you can see vehicles on some of the beaches. If this is a nature reserve (as claimed), why are vehicles allowed on so many of the beaches?

The proposed settlement says they are allowing access to the beach if you are willing to paddle 2 miles. It isn’t just one beach. It is 10 miles of beaches. And it isn’t a 2 mile paddle. It is a 1.25 mile paddle just to the location of the gate (and guard) at the entrance. Based on my measurements it is nearly a four mile paddle (3.8 miles), measured from Gaviota State Park Beach to the very first beach with road access and parking. There are other beach access points beyond that point for a full 10 miles to the other end of the property. To say that it is a two-mile paddle is very misleading. It is nearly a 4-mile paddle to the very first beach. The other 10 miles of beaches require a much longer paddle.

The landowners say they are doing the public a favor by allowing access by kayak or surfboard. What they are really doing is blocking access to 10 miles of beaches, both from land and sea. They are allowing a few token visitors to appease the courts.

Preventing access is not consistent with the California Coastal Commission requirements:

“30210. 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 the people consistent with public safety needs and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse.”

Mark Berger
Dear Commissioners,

I am in favor of creating access to the beaches of Hollister Ranch for all the people not just the few who can afford to buy the property. The beaches of California belong to all of us and should be enjoyed by all of us. Please do not cave in to the wealthy. Thank you, Nancy Fletcher

Sent from my iPad
Do not exclude the public. Do your duty as public servants and let people use these beaches.

John Krueger

Krueger Communications,
Copyright 2017
Good morning,
We are relying on you to expand, rather than constrict the rights of everyone to go to the beach, even at the most secluded stretches of our coast. Please do not give private access to this beach. That would be a huge mistake. Thank you for your support.

Karen Lucente
California beaches are public beaches and cannot be blocked by private property owners. Please do not allow wealthy land owners to be given restricted access at Hollister Ranch. This is important not just now but for our future.

Thank you!
Tino Lucente
Santa Monica

Sent from my iPhone
I object to the CA. Coastal commision that prevents the public from a right of way to enjoy the beach. Once again the temporary powers are protecting the wealthy. Shame on you.

Jim and Sandy McCarthy
Sent from my iPad
The proposed deal is a bad deal for coastal access. The Commission should be expanding access to the coast, not restricting it.

The citizens of California fought hard for coastal access 40 years ago. We created the Coastal Commission to protect and enhance our access to the coast. Do your job.

Thomas Bliss
Los Angeles
I am asking the C.C.C. to seriously
Reconsider their decision to only have
limited access for citizens to the Hollister Ranch beaches!
Charron Roy

Sent from my iPhone
Please do not allow exclusion to this remote but beautiful stretch of sand and surf. All beaches belong to all people no matter how remote or rugged. If someone can find a way to get there, they should have the right to enjoy it. Blocking any access is un-American to the freedom of espouses.

Concerned citizen,

Ed Naassaney
Please make sure that the public has access to the Hollister Ranch via land. The purpose of the Coastal Commission is to insure the public can enjoy our coastal resources. A relative handful of millionaires shouldn’t be able to block everyone from the beach except those who can come via the sea. Please expand, rather than contract, the public access to our coast.

Sand Miller
1841 Wilstone Ave.
Encinitas, CA 92024
760-522-7892
sand@sandmiller.com
Please honor California’s unique protection of our coast. Access to the entire coast should be guaranteed for EVERYONE, not just the rich. Insist that there be beach access at Hollister Ranch for all Californians. Thank you, Penny Horstman
Sent from my iPad
To Coastal Commissioners,

Please do not let the rich get their way and exclude my grandsons from ever having the opportunity to visits and surf the waters off Hollister Ranch. I will never go as I am not a surfer, but having the right too is part of what I believe is the right of every California resident. I pay very substantial taxes each year and should not be excluded. My grandsons are 5 years old and 18 months. Please please please, protect their rights to enjoy California’s coastline. Don’t sell out to the rich.

Robert Alperin
Long Beach

Sent from my iPhone
the Coastal Commission should represent the interests of the citizens of California, of which I'm one, equally - and not favor those with extensive economic clout.

please please use your appointed power in a way that provides for access to the public beach by striking an agreement that is NOT so heavily weighted towards Hollister Ranch landowners and against the rest of Californians. a MUCH better deal than the one initially proposed is in the interest of the true California. thank you.

Tod Mesirow
2123 Lake Shore Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90039

here's the legal bit -
The preceding e-mail message (including attachments) contains information that may be confidential, protected by the attorney-client or other applicable privileges, or may constitute non-public information. It is intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s) named above. If you are not an intended recipient, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete all copies of it from your computer system. Any use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.
Hello Coastal Commissioners:

As a surfer and avid beach person, I urge you all to keep Hollister Ranch and its beaches open to all.

Thank you,

Jason Pomerance
From: Janet Bradfield
To: Coastal Hollisser
Date: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 8:21:33 AM

Please expand not restrict are right to get to the beach. The coastal commission is suppose to protect the beach access for all of us to use. Thank you

Janet Bradfield
Dear Sir or Madame, I would like to request the commission rethink its position on the Hollister Ranch beach access issue, and use the existing state law that mandates free public access to all California beaches. I feel that blocking land access to the beaches and limiting it to boat and paddle board only does not comply with the spirit of the law.

Thank you,
Pat McQuaid
patmcquaid@me.com
Greetings.

I object to your recommendation regarding public access to the beach along the Hollister ranch property. This is a magnificent stretch of beach to which the public should be provided much greater access than under your current proposal.

The purpose of your commission is to enhance access not to minimize it. I think you failed and should go back to the drawing board.

Or, insert a clause saying that the next time there is an oil spill that despoils the beach, or a fire that threatens grassland, the owner will pay all costs and the public not one cent.

Sincerely
Sanford M Jacoby
Los Angeles
Esteemed Commissioners,

It is time for you to decide in favor of public access to the beaches at Hollister Ranch.

Please don't be compromised by the few monied and prominent interests and capitulate to that pressure.

You have a greater obligation and responsibility to all Californians (and visitors) to allow us the experience and beauty of all of our coastline.

Sincerely,

Susan Sterner
Commissioners,

Please reconsider the decision to keep the Hollister Ranch a private beach. Please provide some public access.

Dale Teschler
San Diego, California
Dear California Coastal Commissioners,

Please protect our access!

Pamela Bowman

Sent from my iPhone
I am writing to express my concern that the commission would even consider closing off access to the beach at Hollister Ranch for the public. The commission exists to ensure that the wealthy cannot purchase for private use the beautiful California coastline that we all share. I trust that you will do your jobs and expand rather than constrict the public's access to places like this along OUR California coast.

Dean Van Eimeren
As a lifelong Californian please do your job and fight for access to Hollister Ranch Beaches!
It is the reason you are there and the right thing to do, don't settle!!

Sincerely,

John Lynch
Since California's State Coastal Act of 1976 gives access to the public up to the mean high tide line, the entire stretch of Hollister Ranch should be accessible even if the only way to get there is by boat.

Greg Bristol
922 Medio Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
805 963-7349
Dear sir or Madam,

Please expand the rights of EVERYONE to access the coastline at Hollister Ranch and elsewhere along the Pacific coast.

Thank you! We trust in your wisdom.

Best regards,

Danielle Levi Alvares and Hugh Byers

Sent from my iPad Danielle
I have heard of Hollister beach for years, would love see it. I don't surf, but love to watch the surfers. Please help. My name is Carol Johnson. Thank you.
Dear Coastal Commissioners:

There are 40 million of us in California and we all need our beaches. We are relying on you to expand rather than constrict the rights of “everyone” to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our coast.

Hollister needs to be open and accessible to the public. It's our beach.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judy & Robert Gordon
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274
Dear commissioners,

Please reconsider the settlement approved by Judge Colleen Sterne. Expand rather than constrict the rights of everyone to enjoy this coastline.
From: Suzanne Bunzel
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: CALIFORNIA’S COASTLINE BELONGS TO ALL OF US!
Date: Thursday, June 07, 2018 10:48:30 AM

AS A DEDICATED CITIZEN AND LOVER OF OUR BEACHES, I URGE THAT YOU KEEP THE HOLLISTER COASTLINE AND ALL OUR COASTLINE FREE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL OF US, NOT JUST THE WEALTHY FEW.

BE BRAVE! BE STRONG! DO THE RIGHT THING! KEEP HOLLISTER BEACHES OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bunzel
Los Angeles, CA
Dear Commissioners,

The people of CA should have access to the coastline.

Please don't restrict and privatize what belongs to us all for the enjoyment of just a few. If it weren't for our beautiful beaches there never would've been The Beach Boys!

Think about it and do what's right.

Thank you,
-Duane Meltzer

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

We are counting on you to help preserve access to some of the beauties and blessings of this great planet. It is utterly important to allow everyone to see the sunset, climb a mountain, touch a redwood, smell the pines, feel the ocean spray. Please do what you can. I am a student at Moorpark College. One of the ways that I use to get inspired is to take a hike. Sometimes that is in the mountains, sometimes at the sea. It would be a shame to deny that experience to future generations.

It’s a tough world, we all should have access as well as the responsibility to preserve open spaces. What can I do to help you? I am one but I do have a voice.

Donilyn Heen
----------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
Date: Thu, Jun 7, 2018 at 2:23 PM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: leebarbara32@gmail.com

Address not found

Your message wasn't delivered to Hollister@coastalca.gov because the domain coastalca.gov couldn't be found. Check for typos or unnecessary spaces and try again.

The response was:

DNS Error: 13536915 DNS type 'mx' lookup of coastalca.gov responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: coastalca.gov

Final-Recipient: rfc822; Hollister@coastalca.gov
Action: failed
Status: 4.0.0
Diagnostic-Code: smtp; DNS Error: 13536915 DNS type 'mx' lookup of coastalca.gov responded with code NXDOMAIN Domain name not found: coastalca.gov
Last-Attempt-Date: Thu, 07 Jun 2018 14:23:34 -0700 (PDT)

----------- Forwarded message -----------
From: Barbara Lee <leebarbara32@gmail.com>
To: Hollister@coastalca.gov
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Thu, 7 Jun 2018 14:23:33 -0700
Subject: Beach Access
Commissioners:
Please consider us "99 percent-ers" when providing beach access. (And I don't mean just guided programs, but daily access to all.)

Thank you.
Ralph & Barbara Lee
Recent El Capitan State Beach visitors
My wife and I are residents of Santa Barbara County, 48 years now. We’ve been fortunate to travel many parts of the world, and it has given us a broadened perspective on natural attractions and beauty. Few areas can match the priceless coast south of VAFB......and we are adamant that ordinary families and citizens have access to the wet sand zone, irrespective of the wealth or fame of “exclusive” landowners. When the unique treasures of Yellowstone and Yosemite were set aside for the people, governments worldwide were stunned by such generous respect for the vast unwealthy of the U.S. How can you even consider doing anything less!?

Patrick and Wynn Clevenger
Lompoc

Sent from my iPad
The coastal act was to insure beach access, not restrict it. The Coastal commission is to protect the coast and not reserve it for those who can afford it.

Provide better and more usable access to the beach at Hollister Ranch

Sincerely,

Michael Goldberg
Venice, California
Based on your proposed settlement with the owners of Hollister Ranch regarding beach access, I am concerned that my grandchildren and their children will not be able to enjoy Hollister Ranch beaches. My family has lived in Santa Barbara for 45 years. We have only been able to enjoy the Hollister Ranch beaches on a few occasions when invited by "owners", those who own a parcel, or a fraction of a parcel. Now you propose to settle with the owners in exchange for a limited number of escorted visits. For all intents and purposes, the public would be kept out. I do not believe it is fair to restrict access to Hollister Ranch to those few who are wealthy or fortunate enough to have bought an interest in a ranch parcel. These beaches are part of the California coastline.

Your current proposed settlement for access falls far short of allowing access to the public as it should. One's financial statement should not be the criteria for the use of beaches which should be open to all. You should be expanding public access, not restricting it.

Ed Moore
Santa Barbara, CA
Dear Commissioners;

Please consider the many people who will benefit from access to the Hollister Ranch and vote to continue to allow free access to the beaches therein.

Californians do not begrudge Ranch owners their property rights. We do, however, feel the beaches should be accessible to everyone and that it is the responsibility of the Coastal Commission to preserve those rights.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Cusic
421 High Drive
Laguna Beach CA  92651
I am writing in protest of the preliminary approval given to Hollister Ranch that would effectively deny public access to 8 1/2 miles of beach. The mandate of the State Coastal Act is clear and the public easement needs to be honored. I say this as an owner of a family vacation home in central California - our little beach town has multiple public beach walks and we celebrate the access they provide. To think that owning beachfront property would give our family or any other property owner an exclusive right to a public asset is the height of hubris. Beaches in California are open to all and need to remain that way.

Sincerely,
Cameron Taylor-Brown
418 South Mansfield Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Hello,

I am fortunate enough to be a California native and have lived near the beaches of Orange and Los Angeles counties my entire life. I was born in Huntington Beach, spent my high school years in Laguna Beach, attended UC Irvine for college, and am now a resident of Redondo Beach. A couple of years ago my wife and I took our two young children on a road trip up Highway 1 from Oxnard all the way up to Santa Cruz, with many stops along the coast. We wanted to see the beauty that is our coastline.

I love our beaches and coastline and encourage you to do what's right for all Californians and Americans. Please ensure public access to all beaches along the coast - including the beaches at Hollister Ranch. Why should only those rich enough to buy property there be allowed access to land that should be publicly available to all of us? Please do what is right for all of us and make available public access to all beaches.

Sincerely,

Paul Crispell
310.403.5115
paulcrispell@gmail.com
To Whom It May Concern:

Public access to the California Coast is protected by law, please follow the word of the law when making a decision about public access to the Hollister Ranch beaches.

Thank you.

Betsy Stoeven  
phone number: 805-985-7219  
e-mail address: bbets1@netzero.com
Good Afternoon,

I have lived in Los Angeles for 50 years. The reason I stay here is my love for the ocean, including its magnificent coastline. I was very dismayed to find out that the Coastal Commision gave preliminary approval to prevent access to the 8 plus miles of shoreline inside of Hollister ranch. This California coastline belongs to the people of the state not to those with the power and money to hire lobbyists and attorneys. That California coastline should never belong to the privileged with the exclusion of the rest of California tax payers. Please reconsider your decision and decide for the people of California.

Thank you,

Jim McCarron

mcarroni@aol.com
All he wanted to do was show my mother where he’d served his country. My father, who as a 17-year-old enlisted in the U.S. Marines “for the duration” during WWII, had served on a picket line on North Carolina’s outer banks. There, he saw German submarines rising to the surface at night, recharging their batteries for another day of seeking out U.S. ships – military and merchant – during the conflict. There, my father called in the coordinates to bring in U.S. aircraft to destroy the enemy. There, his childhood ended as he served his country.

And there, decades later, he was booted off a beach reserved now for the wealthy condo owners who owned it (or, more likely, rented it out for high summer fees). Although the beach was empty, spaces in the parking lot abounded; although he’d hunkered down during hurricanes and dodged the occasional enemy fire; when it came time to show his wife where he’d proudly served his country, he was shooed away like a thieving miscreant.

This is what happens when beaches are reserved for a privileged few.

As my father told me the story of being chased away from that beach, threatened with jail time if he strayed off the road, he suddenly had pride in his voice when he said, “This would never happen in California. In California we believe the beaches are for everybody.”

Now, such a thought is imperiled. The Hollister Ranch decision whether to allow only a privileged few to access what should be a public treasure is in your hands.

My father, a fourth-generation Californian, had idyllic childhood memories of summers on the Central California Coast, escaping the Central Valley’s scorching heat. By the time I came along, we were in San Diego, where he passed on his love of the waves to his children. I can close my eyes and feel the wet sand squishing between my toes, hear the sound of the waves breaking interspersed with the cry of seagulls, and I feel once again my father’s warm embrace.

Everyone should have access to such places. I urge you to continue to allow public access to the beach near Hollister Ranch and not restrict its use to those few people who can afford the high cost of vast estates along the beach’s edge. Please don’t gentrify California’s treasures.

Respectfully yours,

Barbara Zumwalt

Proud fifth-generation Californian
Hi.

I have been following the Hollister Ranch process for quite a while. As a long-time California citizen and avid beach-goer, I am very disappointed in how it currently stands.

I urge the CCC and Coastal Conservancy to understand all the negative ramifications (including an extraordinarily bad precedent) that will occur if this deal is allowed to move forward. I would also urge everyone to re-read the revolutionary State Coastal Act of 1976.

We need to protect all people's rights to access the coast in a manner that is reasonable and actually achievable. I imagine that hardly anyone at all will want to--or be able to--swim or paddle the necessary distance to get to this stretch of beach. And how will the elderly, very young, and disabled access it?

On this planet, the California coast is unique in its beauty and accessibility. We are relying on you to protect our rights to access this beach--and all the coastline up and down our great state. Please expand, rather than contract, our right to the spectacular beaches of California.

Thanks much.

Bob Gutzman
Sirs: This is a msg of vehement protest at your decision to block ocean access at Hollister Ranch. I thought the purpose of the Coastal Commission was to protect public access to California's beaches. Am I wrong? Please reconsider this decision.
Hello Commissioners,
Please don't open the Hollister Ranch to the public. Maintain it as one of the last untouched beach fronts on the California coast. I would love to be able to keep the memories alive of the 1970's when I use to surf there, when it was untouched, even if I can't access it today. The moment you open the flood gates to the public, it turns into Yosemite, with trash, graffiti and the accompany disregard of inner city residents. One just needs to look at our National Parks and see the destruction that humans have on the environment. The cost to maintain the property like it is, while letting people in, would be a burden on the taxpayers.
Please maintain it in it's present condition.
Sincerely,
John Bush
I urge you to reconsider your decision on the Hollister Ranch. I, along with thousands of other Californians, am relying on you to expand rather than constrict public access to our coastline, even its most secluded stretches. I live in San Luis Obispo County and frequently drive south along the 101. It is a beautiful stretch of coast, and it should be available to everyone, not just the wealthy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Juliane McAdam
From: Ron Seidler
To: Coastal Hollister
Subject: Hollister Ranch Settlement Agreement
Date: Thursday, June 07, 2018 11:42:41 AM

We are relying on you to expand rather than contract the rights of everyone to feel the slosh of cold water on bare feet, along even the most secluded stretches of our coast.

Sincerely,

Ron Seidler
1311 Rainier Avenue
Orange, CA 92865

Sent from my iPad
Commissioners,

Please do the right thing and keep our beaches free. Your efforts will be appreciated.

Kind regards,
Rob Martin

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Coastal Commission,

I am concerned about the proposed regulations at beaches that are on California's coastline at Hollister Ranch.

I am relying on you, at the Coastal Commission, to expand rather than to constrict the public's access to said beaches. Everyone should be allowed to go to those beaches, even those beaches that are the most secluded stretches of our coast.

I live in San Diego and know the value of our coastline, and I work hard to protect the public's access, and to help keep the beaches clean and pristine. I feel it is my right to be able to go to any beach on California's coast - it is public property after all.

Please, vote to expand the public's right to the beach - everywhere in California.

Thank you,

Rosemary Watson
I am writing to demand that the rights of the general public be upheld as far as access to California beaches/coast line. Please do not allow the ultra rich "chosen few" to continue to shut the rest of us off from use of what should be public beaches. I would hope that the Coastal Commission has a desire to rehabilitate, and not further diminish, its standing as a protector of the general good. Thank you for your attention to this issue,

Mike Laquatra
mjllmf@verizon.net
31 year California resident
Dear Commission,

Why on earth are you giving away eight miles of public access (via land) to our public beaches? This is just another giveaway to rich at the expense of the rest of us slobs. I would appreciate if you re-think this. We all would love to have miles of private beaches and peace and quiet but we the majority of us are not billionaires. I’m so sick of the rich getting treated like royalty while the rest of us get nothing. This BEACH SHOULD BE PUBLIC!! Quit catering to those with obscene amounts of money and remember what your mission is. You seem to have forgotten.

Thank you,

Jocelyn DeVault
A middle class homeowner who would like to enjoy Hollister beaches just like the rich.
One of California's greatest assets is its coast line. No person or corporation should be allowed to restrict access to any part of its beaches and cliffs. The only exception would be government properties such as military bases. The idea of a greedy billionaire restricting access to his/her beach is abhorrent to me. I hope the State of California will do its upmost to protect our coastline assets.

David W E Rees
8601 Lincoln Blvd, Apt 2123
Los Angeles, CA 90045
I have been looking forward to the completion of the California Coastal Trail, as mandated by the California constitution. The last time we walked the complete CCT, we had to stay on Highway One between Vandenburg and Gaviota. That’s a huge section of the coast made inaccessible by the military and the Hollister HOA. Now the Commission is permanently giving away access to one of the most beautiful untouched sections for no consideration from the Hollister Ranch Homeowners. This concession is a blow against coastal access. Please do not give away our right to the coast. It is a big mistake.

Michael Minky
NEW ADDRESS AS OF 9/15/17
16321 Pacific Coast Highway
Space 162
Pacific Palisades CA 90272
P) 310-230-2221
F) 310-460-0275

California Coastwalk, The California Coastal Trail Association
https://coastwalk.org/
What gives California its uniqueness as a place of beauty and wonder is not only its perfect weather but a public access for everyone to enjoy its beaches.

Restricting public access to the Hollister Ranch coastal area will be the first step in chipping away at the State Coastal Act of 1976.

Think of the legacy of your actions 30 years from now. Do you want to be remembered as the ones who transformed our beaches into playgrounds for the billionaires whose beach homes are one among several so that they don't even live there year round? Or do we want to embrace the utopian ideal of California as a place where, regardless of income, one can enjoy the pleasures of the most beautiful coastal area in the world for a small fee or even for free.

It's your choice, and I'm counting on you to do the right thing!

Jenny Sharpe
1541 Mathews Ave,
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Dear Sir/Madam:

I support coastal access for the public.

Sincerely Yours,

Henry Yang

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Good morning Commissioners,
We are relying on YOU to expand - NOT constrict - the rights of everyone to enjoy the beauty of the California coast. Hollister Ranch belongs to all of us - not just a limited number of escorted groups of school kids and the like. Preserve Hollister Ranch for all of us and rescind the preliminary approval of the Hollister Ranch development.
I thank you in advance and count on your support.
Sincerely,
Mariangela Hall
To the California State Coastal Commission

I recently read an article in the LA Times about the Hollister Ranch property and the lack of public access to the beach through that property. The CA State Coastal Act of 1976 states that one of the intentions of the Act is “to maximize public access to and along the coast consistent with sound resources conservation principles and private property rights”. It seems to us ordinary citizens, however, that your decisions most often favor the interests of businesses and wealthy property owners. I urge you not to let that happen on the Hollister Ranch property. Please create the easements necessary to give the public access to the beaches on this property and not limit it to the privileged few.

Thank you.
Keith Tombrink
I am writing to encourage the Coastal Commission to maintain free and open access to the State’s beaches. These beaches belong to the entire population of the State, not just the select few. This is true not just for Hollister Ranch, but along our entire coastline.

Thank you.

Rick Frankhuizen
rickf@att.com
Voice: 661-263-9834
Cell: 323-646-5487
As a lifelong native Californian, I am surprised by the recent coastal commission decision to allow the wealthy owners of Hollister Ranch to not provide access for the public to our beach on their property. It is difficult for me to understand why a public beach would be unavailable to anyone who wanted to visit. It is my understanding that the beaches are supposed to be accessible to anyone and not just for the nearby property owners.
I hope you will make the right decision to keep the beaches in this state open to all.
Thank you
Gary James
I’m writing to urge the CA Coastal Commission to maintain all public access on the so-called “The Ranch” (Hollister).
It’s imperative that people and tourists who have less money than others have access to all protected coastal areas of CA. Government is in place to negotiate these areas; to balance out public vs. private.
Since the CA Coastal Commission is representative of the public, I guess it’s your job to balance which ‘public’ you find more important.

Kit Lofroos
peregrinelofroos@hotmail.com
7077733657
101A Post Street
Petaluma
94952
Please expand the rights of everyone to have access to this coastal jewel. Robert Bradfield. Manhattan Beach, Ca.
Please reconsider opening Hollister ranch to surfers and the general public as envisioned by the coastal act which you are supposed to uphold.

Thomas C. Again
First Vice President - Investments
Ca Insurance License # 0A75470
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
500 Silver Spur Road
3rd Floor, Suite 300
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90275
Toll Free: 800-541-4377
Direct: 310-265-5458
Fax: 310-377-7872
Thomas.Again@wfadvisors.com

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Dear Members of the California Coastal Commission. -

The State Coastal Act of 1976 was enacted to protect our coast and the right of the people of California to access it. The current Hollister Ranch ruling flies in the face of this law. Please do your job and work to expand the rights of Californians to enjoy our beaches rather than constricting them. Do all you can to revise the current plan to permit public access to the beaches along the coast of the Hollister Ranch property.

Sarah Hays
10509 Blythe Ave
Los Angeles  CA  90064
310/558-3538 (cell 310/869-0744)
sirrah@sbcglobal.net
Dear Commissioners:

When each of you undertook the sacred obligation of protecting California’s precious coastline as a Commissioner on the California Coastal Commission—you assumed a prodigious duty to represent not just a wealthy few, but all Californians, and not just all current Californians, all future Californians as well.

When you take this awesome responsibility into consideration you must at all times rule in accordance with allowing public access, only restricting public access when absolutely necessary to protect the environment — not to grant special privileges to the wealthy.

Your decision in this case is not complicated, you must not set the dire precedent of restricting public access in favor of the wealthy few. We are counting on you to uphold the integrity of the California Coastal Commission and protect our coastlines. Please do the right thing.

Thank you.

Jill Meltzer
VP
jmeltzer@poventdesign.com
818-506-3866
11316 Magnolia Blvd.,
North Hollywood, CA 91601
www.povdesign.com
As a native Californian who has loved every minute spent on our beautiful beaches, I implore you to hold fast to the mandate of protection for all to enjoy our wonderful beaches.
Sincerely,
Susan Ingarfill
The Coastal Commission was created to ensure the California beaches were accessible to all. Keep Hollister Ranch and the rest of the Californai coast open.

Helaine Gilbert
Public access to our coastline is one of the most cherished rights of Californians. The Hollister Ranch should not be allowed to close off our right of way to the beach. Since I "rode the waves" on my father's back as a toddler to today at age 77, I have treasured this right. Today, I live at the beach in Venice and I appreciate that Californians and visitors of every race and age can enjoy "my" beach with me.

In the hope that the Coastal Commission will do the right thing,

Marie Kennedy
As a native Californian, I have grown up loving beach visits up and down the coast. Visiting the beach is an essential reason to live in this crowded over priced state. As the divide between rich and poor grows everywhere, the monicker “Gold Coast” is becoming more true than ever.

Please reconsider this decision, and "do the right thing" to guarantee reasonable pedestrian access to our shared coastline. Protecting access to the mean high tide line via water only is ridiculous. The role of the coastal commission to protect the average Californian against the 1% is critical. Once lost, this access will never be regained. Thank you for your consideration. Lynne Pentecost

Sent from Mrs. Pentecost's iPad
Sirs:

Please reconsider your proposed settlement with Hollister Ranch. The agreement appears to be a capitulation to the privileged few over the rights of all Californians to their beach access. I can’t say exactly what the solution is to this dilemma, but it must include much more public access. This agreement is too close to status quo and sets a precedent that will surely be use by other wealthy enclaves to shut out Californians from their beaches. Take the opportunity presented by Judge Sterne to go back and negotiate a better deal for all of us.

Sincerely,
Jeff McFarlane
Santa Barbara
The public should have access to the beach at Hollister Ranch. The current access road should be made open from dawn to dusk. Beach access is the right of all Californians, regardless of their wealth. Paul Chitlik, Sherman Oaks CA Formerly of Long Beach and Mission Beach

Sent from my iPad
Please, Coastal Commission, side with us regular shmoes and allow public access to public beaches like that sliver of beach at Hollister Ranch.

Michael Zapf
Oak Park, CA
I support the preservation of Hollister Ranch from development of any kind, now and into perpetuity. I further support public access to these lands and beaches even if limited. I realize fairness does not trump ownership yet it seem unfair and out of proportion that a few may enjoy our extraordinary coastal waters while denying millions of others access. Can we not find middle ground that meets and satisfies the needs of both party’s?
Dear Commissioners,
Please preserve the rights of the public to access all beaches!
Sincerely,
Jeff Castner
Dear Coastal Commissioners,
We rely on you to expand NOT contract the rights of everyone to have access to the coastline. In other words, DO YOUR JOB PROPERLY!!
Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.
Suzanne Castner
The Commission should respect the easement allowing public access to beaches in Hollister Ranch, not just to limited and guided groups. It is the Commission’s job to protect access to California’s coastline for all Californians!

Barbara Siegel
Barbfrankel@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Coastal Commission members:

I am writing regarding the proposed settlement for the Hollister Ranch coastline. Given that I do not own a boat, I fail to see how this ensures the public’s access to the coastline. Just because the current easement is not tenable, and wealthy landowners have long tried to discourage, intimidate or block access, does not mean the Coastal Commission has the right on behalf of the public to forfeit access to our state’s coastline.

We are strongly opposed to this proposal.

Thank you,

Mr. and Mrs. Marc and Deanna Peterson
I think settlement stinks with no foot access. What makes you think public will not get hassled when then boat in to surf or land?
If the residents and association ignored the law before re high tide line, cut boats loose, hassled surfer in water, what make you think if will not happen again and again.
Need to Start go fund me page to raise fund to fix gaviotia pier to launch boats with camera to catch any vandalism and fight to supreme court for the easement from ymca.
Also could start class action lawsuit against ranch association like what they did with palo verdes for non enforcement of high tide line, harassment by Residents. Im sure there are plenty of surfers that could testify. Also could start boating service from state camp ground to transport people into the ranch
On routine base
Dear Commissioners
Please go out and walk the Hollister Ranch and then think about my never being able to walk the beach you. Please save access. I believe you are capable of making a plan that preserves the area and allows access to ordinary tax paying Californians.
Thank you
Joyce Madeline Hyman
847 Iliff St
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
Sent from my iPhone
To Whom It May Concern:

I'm deeply concerned that the apathy and exhaustion of the CA Coastal Commission's right with Hollister Ranch will win out over the needs of the "common folk."

I implore you to continue the good fight, no matter how dark, desperate, and lonely it seems, so that the rich and entitled don't win. There are 40 million people living in California and there is absolutely no reason that the 0.1% of the 1% should squirrel away our precious coastlines for their own use.

I believe in you!

Sincerely,

Sara Ormenyi
We need to guard and maintain the peoples right for access to the coast throughout California. Having traveled throughout the United States, California stands out as one state who has offered this protection to its coastline. And to the people. Hawaii is another one. The fabulously rich can go any place they want and have their private time. For those of us with more meager means, The choice is more limited. These people bought property at the ranch knowing that we have this state law. They obviously salt that they’re wealthy could overcome the issue. I think it is time that there is a stop to that.

Marie Wade
Hermosa Beach, California

Sent from my amazing iPhone by me!!
Please do not allow the wealthy developers and residents of Hollister Ranch block access to 8 1/2 precious miles of our beaches to other rightful visitors. Nature is becoming less and less accessible and our government should advocate for all citizens as a sacred duty. Elitism has no moral weight in this context.

Thank you.

Ruth Anne Hammond
Pasadena
+1 323-828-6546
Please do your job and ensure Hollister Ranch and all Beaches are accessible to all citizens!!! Do not surrender to the ultra rich and powerful!!!

Sent from my iPhone
Don't do it! The ranch belongs to all of us

Henry Welsh
Culver city

310-927-8616
I am very concerned about the potential loss of access to the California coastline near Hollister Ranch. It is time that the Commission steps up to ensure that our beautiful coastline is there for all to enjoy…not merely those with enough money to keep the rest of us out!

Please, please do the right thing. We should all have the opportunity to splash in the waves, surf, build sandcastles, lie on the beach and read while watching dolphins in the distance. Why should only a few be allowed that? It is a right of all Californians, not just a privilege reserved for a few.

Thank you.
Ms. Lee Rubinstein

Cheers,
Lee Rubinstein
3932 Stone Canyon Road
Sherman Oaks, California 91403
818.907.9616 Phone
818.648.9459 Mobile
Dear Commissioners:
We are relying on you to EXPAND rather than constrict the rights of the public to access the beaches of California. Please do NOT let the super wealthy claim 'ownership' of the coastline!

Sincerely,
Christine Eginton
Arcadia, California
Dear CA Coastal Commission,

I am writing to tell you how upsetting it is to know you have been bought by these multi millionaires. Our CA coast is not to be sold to the wealthy. Our coast is for all of us. All of you know this. Shame on you for not doing the right thing.

Sincerely,
Latane Mack
Playa del Rey 90293
Dear Commissioners; I have become increasingly alarmed at the continued gab of private owners to deny public access of our amazing beaches. While there seems to be no end of extremely wealthy people able to purchase unique coastal land, there is a limit to the land and the beaches we love.

We rely on you to keep the beaches available to the vast majority of people who can only dream of such wealth.
Please save public access at Hollister Ranch.

Linda Alexander
310-971-3440
As California residents, it is appalling to us that you would consider blocking access to any part of the coastline from everyone! This will open up a can of worms with other well-to-do entities and you will spend millions fighting this position every time an issues arises.

Just keep it simple, say no.

Gail & Barry Schirm

gschirm@cox.net
Dear Honorable Members of the Coastal Commission:

I am one of the fortunate ones. I have several friends who own parcels on the Hollister Ranch, and because of this I am one of the rarified elite who have gotten to enjoy the surf and natural beauty of this California coastal paradise.

Despite my good fortune and my sincere love of being able to surf these waves uncrowded, I am writing to implore you to reconsider the recent agreement regarding public access here.

Our California coast belongs to all. I urge you to follow the original mandate of the Commission and to honor your important position. It is simply the right thing to do.

In these trying times, we must look beyond protecting our own comforts and amenities and think of the greater good. The California coast should always belong to all the citizens of California. In recent years, however, political lobbying and money seem to be swaying much of our coast towards privatization.

Sincerely,
Kip Fulbeck
Professor of Art
University of California, Santa Barbara
I was born in Long Beach in 1951 and have lived my entire life in this great state of California. Going to the beach was part of my DNA as I grew up, and thence passed my genes onto my progeny, who also have an instinctual love for our coastline.

To now decide that a certain portion of the coastline is for private use only is antithetical to our heritage, and only further perpetuates the growing perception of income inequality in our country -- in that only the top 1% will have access to these beautiful lands and beaches.

Is the Commission now onboard with further alienating the lower classes against the upper classes? What message is the Commission sending if it approves the decision by Judge Sterne to allow homeowners to "keep people off of my beach"? That is a direct quote from a billionaire land owner in the Ranch. Do you have any idea how insulting that is to the rest of us native Californians?

It has always been OUR beach, and by 'our' I mean all of us, rich and poor. Once the Commission establishes this "this is my beach" precedent, it won't take long before the entire coastline is under assault by lawyers for the 1% who want to OWN their own special piece of land. Um, sorry, I meant to write "piece of shoreline and beach".

Agreeing with Judge Sterne's ruling will be the first step toward undoing public access to the great treasures of California, and instead make it a "pay for play" system, where the "pay" part means only one thing: You have to own it in order to play on it or in it. This is a most dangerous step for the Commission to take.

Please reconsider and find a solution (not Judge Sterne's!) that would allow someone like me (67, low income, native Californian) to romp in the waves whenever I have an opportunity to do so. The future of California is at stake. If you cross the line toward the side of the rich and famous, you might as well as divide California into two states, but it won't be based on geography.

Mark Chipman
San Diego
OF COURSE Hollister Ranch Beach Access should be available to ALL!

Thank you,
Barbie Rogers
Commissioners,

As a lifelong resident of California, I am writing to beseech you to maintain public access to ALL our state's beaches. It is your duty to do so, as evidenced in:

The Coastal Act—Public Resources Code
30001.5 c.) Maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resources conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners.

The Coastal act provides the right for all to have access to sand that's wet or damp.

Please do your part to ensure that remains so, for our children and our children's children.

Lorena Vinet
Whittier, CA
Our California Beaches are for everyone to enjoy. Do not limit access to any beach. It's just not right.

ekelly LANG
langkel323@gmail.com
Dear Gentlepersons,

Please protect the right of all people to enjoy our coastline. It is a beautiful part of California and should be accessible.

Let us all experience and appreciate this natural wonder.

Thank you,

Linda Royer
retired attorney

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
Thank you Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Colleen Sterne, for allowing public comment on this matter.

I strongly urge you to find a way to honor the homeowners' needs with the ability of the public to walk, swim, surf and play on the gorgeous public beaches of California that belong to all of us.

I don't live in Santa Barbara, and I will likely never visit this particular beach.

But as a landlocked kid in the city of Orange in the '60s (and a mother who couldn't drive), there was nothing more glorious than a day at Laguna, Newport or Costa Mesa with family friends.

And as landlocked Pasadenans, my husband and I shared with our kids the joys of Manhattan, Redondo and Hermosa beaches -- summer and winter.

One son interned for Heal the Bay, the other now lives and works in Santa Monica.

I can't believe this is an either/or "judgment of Solomon" type decision that only allows limited visits by school children.

I imagine those children growing up, reminiscing about the grand shoreline they experienced -- and never being able to show their own children. Really?

Please help find a solution that allows public access to our beaches.

Sincerely

Sara Lessley
4971 Crown Ave
La Canada CA 91011
818 800 5344
Dear CCC,

Thank you for your efforts to protect our beautiful coastline. After living in CA for over 20 years, My family & I found our way to Jalama Beach County Park on the west edge of the Hollister Ranch. This area is uniquely scenic in southern CA and I am saddened to see you are considering major restrictions on future public access to the Hollister coastline in favor of preserving it for a limited few wealthy patrons. Please consider all Californians when granting coastal access, not just rich homeowners or a select few who may be lucky enough to get permits for an annual 'guided tour'.

Sincerely,
Chris Giza

Culver City 90230
To the Commissioners:

I implore you follow your Mission Statement:

protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation,

Please fulfill your Mission Statement in protecting the beach, and enhancing public access/participation. Otherwise maybe you should revisit your Mission statement to better describe what you have been doing lately. You can start doing the right thing now.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Rich

Richard S. Hibbs, C.P.A.
10818 Oregon Ave.
Culver City, CA 90232
310-836-2029 Telephone
310-559-3085 Fax
Hello,

I am hoping you will consider voting to support a public beach access path for the 8 1/2 mile stretch of the Hollister ranch.

Thank you,

Dave Vogel
831-239-2036
Dear California Coastal Commissioners:

    All Californians are relying on you to preserve and expand public access to the Hollister Ranch property.

Sincerely,
Barbara Russell
410 W. Park Lane
Santa Ana, CA 92706
We are counting on you to think of the rights of all people not just the wealthy few to make the California Coastline available to all. We all deserve access to the wonders provided us by nature and not let it be controlled by the extremely wealthy. We want access to our coastline expanded not constricted.

Jay and Margaret Gould
Whittier, California
Dear Honorable Commissioners:

This settlement is a great victory to the owners of the Hollister Ranch and a defeat to the people of California.

It allows access to a beach that’s a quarter mile long that is 2 miles from a guarded gate on 8 ½ miles of beautiful beach on the Gaviota Coast. There is no direct access to this beach unless one has a boat and are able to wade off the boat on to the sand. This

Making it difficult for families to enjoy. Imagine sending Grandma and Grandkids on a boat and wading thru the surf to access a beach. This is dangerous!

Meanwhile, land prices at the Hollister Ranch have escalated by 25% since the tentative ruling was announced by Judge Sterne.

The people of California deserve better than this settlement. The Hollister Ranch should be open to all Californias rather than the very very wealthy folks that only less than 40% reside there anyway. Hollister Ranch is

Just a rich folks surf place.

Hollister Ranch Owners are allowed to drive their cars and trucks on the beach to their favorite surf places and at the same time destroy the delicate eco system at this location.

Please, did not succumb to wealthy land owners that most don’t even live there. Send your attorneys back to court to get better access to this beautiful area on the California Coast for Californians to enjoy.

California just passed a multi billion dollar CA park bond, let use that money to purchase right away in Hollister and build public facilities for all to enjoy rather than part-time wealthy landowners.

Sincerely,

Mark Sullivan.
Dear Sirs,
Please take into consideration the public, and citizenship of your fellow Californians who live here because of the incredible beauty of the Coastline. I can't even imagine what it is like to be told that we can't even have access to this area of the coast simply because of a group of ranch owners and a bunch of elitists who have the money and influence to keep this sacred land all to themselves. It is really not fair at all. Aren't the beaches Public? Why are the public's rights restricted? Couldn't there be a Public access road to the beach? It's so sad...and puts a blemish on the coastal commission if the Hollister ranch HOA gets their way.

Sincerely Karen Strickland
760-774-1490
I support the arguments made by Bob Sipchen in his LA Times op-ed:

Thank you.
David I. Schulman
Los Angeles, CA

Sent from my iPad
I urge you to reverse the California Coastal Commission’s recent approval of the Hollister Ranch private property owners’ proposal to exclude public access to this cherished State resource.

Reversal of this settlement is critical because it violates the purpose of the California State Coastal Act of 1976, to protect California's 1,000 miles of shoreline and the people’s right to access it. It is urgent because the Coastal Commission will review this decision on July 23.

I appreciate your careful attention to this matter.

Sent from my iPhone
Please keep the beaches open for EVERYONE!

Thank you.

Veronique Pascal
To the California Coastal Commission:

The California coast belongs to all of us, and there should be no impediment to every citizen being able to easily access every inch of it. It is the job of the Coastal Commission to guarantee that my granddaughters--and their granddaughters--will have this opportunity.

I am extremely disappointed in the recent capitulation of the Coastal Commission to private interests, putting my granddaughters' interests in jeopardy, and I am relying on you to expand, rather than constrict, the rights of everyone to feel the slosh of cold water on their bare feet, even along the most secluded stretches of our beaches.

Yours truly,

Sandra Rohr
Anaheim, Ca