

April 28, 2012

Alternative approach to Goleta Beach County Park Managed Beach Retreat Project 2.0

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Chandra L. Wallar, Santa Barbara County Executive Officer

Dear Ms. Waller:

The Agenda Letter for the Supervisors Board meeting May 1, 2012, requires that the Professional Services Contract with AMEC to prepare an EIR for the Goleta Beach 2.0 Project, be authorized for a NTE amount of \$194,094. In reviewing the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor and the corresponding technical proposal by the staff selected contractor, AMEC, no identified "alternatives" have been documented to the project.

Consistent with CEQA Section 15126.6, Consideration and Discussion of Alternatives to the Proposed Project, the Friends of Goleta Beach Park requests that an Alternative to Goleta 2.0 be studied for review during the Environmental Impact Report. We believe that all Supervisors were favorable to having reasonable alternatives considered when Goleta 2.0 was approved.

We raise this alternative for several reasons that we believe have not been addressed by staff. A recent report on the coastal zone area of which Goleta Beach Park is a part has now been published. This is a public document entitled the City of Santa Barbara Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability Study, dated February 2012. The conclusions that this document reaches about future sea-level rise in the next 100 years must be seriously considered by Santa Barbara County. If the modeling profiles in fact are representative as to the extent of sea-level rise based on recent data and assumptions for modeling, the City of Santa Barbara and the airport property will be impacted with major "Adaption Strategies". For a quick reference, Figure 2.20, Projected Future Coastal Flood Inundation Map for a 100 Year Coastal Flooding, shows the entire Goleta Beach Park and Airport property impacted by flooding.

These findings should be carefully analyzed before any future new protection measures are implemented at the Goleta Beach Park. Any of the proposed 'managed retreat" measures outlined in Goleta 2.0 would become meaningless in the context of the coastal erosion presented in this White Paper.

With this in mind, we ask that the alternative(s) proposed below be analyzed as a conservative and prudent set of measures within the proposed environmental document.

Goleta Beach 2.0 “Alternatives” for EIR review and impact:

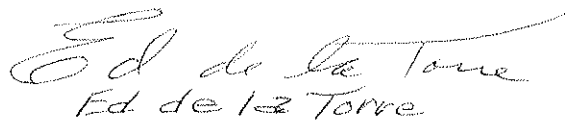
- Phase 1 – Protect the Vault Zone (Beta Test and Analyze)
 - Goleta 2.0 documents the one unprotected park asset as the “Vault Zone” against major storm surges
 - This Park section of unprotected land is ~250 linear feet in length and is well above the High High Tide Line (HHTL) in the central park of the park
 - There are various soft/eco friendly protections that should be tested against future storm surges:
 - Geotextile dunes w/cobble footing
 - ArmorFlex (currently being implemented at San Jose Creek)
 - Rock revetment
 - Eco-friendly Shore Guard or Ever Last corrugated sheet pile protective products
 - Mature Canary Date Palms (or other coastal vegetation used for revetment at other California locations)
 - Various solution sets should be installed individually and in combination as a pilot project for landward protection just above current HHTL
 - The performance of these protection measures should be analyzed for best results
 - During Phase 1, an extension permit should be processed for the existing rock protection on the west-end of Goleta Beach Park to continue protecting all landward assets until such time that better alternatives can be processed
- Phase 2 - Full Westside Park Implementation
 - Based on best solution(s) from Vault Zone, replace the rock protection with best alternative soft protection(s) along entire West Beach Park, ~950 linear feet, and remove “Emergency Rock” when or if appropriate at the HHTL and as permitted by the California Coastal Commission
 - Remove parking lots 6 and 7 if protection measures do not warrant full protection against future storm surges
 - Existing underground utility corridor should be fully protected against storm surges with new protection alternatives
- Phase 3 – Beach Nourishment & Kelp restoration
 - Continue beach nourishment project to supplant loss of sediment no longer naturally flowing to Goleta Beach Park

- Endorse efforts by BEACON to restore historic kelp marine habitat in the Goleta Bay that has consistently acted as a natural buffer against storm surge damages

- Phase 4 – Sea-Level Determination Plan
 - Study and process all findings of fact to determine appropriate protection measures of landward assets based on best return on investment
- Phase 5 - Public Improvement Measures to be implemented
 - Construct Goleta Slough interpretive access trail
 - Construct New vehicle access bridge
 - Convert existing bridge to bike/pedestrian access

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ed de la Torre
Ed de la Torre

Care of Friends of Goleta Beach Park