



Coastline

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[President's Update](#)

by Phil McKenna, image by Rich Reid

A busy season at the Conservancy has ended with a very significant victory.

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted on September 1 to **deny the Las Varas Ranch application** to intensify the development potential in the coastal zone that would have fragmented the productive capacity of the ranch, and violated State and County policies protecting agricultural, biological, and aesthetic resources. Las Varas Ranch is an 1800-acre holding that provides the iconic views of the coast from Highway 101 between Dos Pueblos Canyon and El Capitán State Park.

The denial of this project has been actively directed by the GCC over the decade of the application process, and is a very important milestone in the community's efforts to defend the Gaviota Coast from inappropriate development.



Photo: © Rich Reid

Supervisor Farr led the Board's deliberations and secured the support of Supervisors Wolf and Carbajal; all deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Naples (Santa Barbara Ranch) circled back to the Board of Supervisors on July 7, after a long absence with a hearing to consider the transfer of the Inland Development Agreement to the new owner, Standard Portfolios. The Supervisors found that the owner failed to provide sufficient information to determine that it had the financial ability and reputation to carry out the obligations of the agreement, and voted 3-1 to withhold consent of the transfer. This decision did not invalidate all approvals, and so is not a fatal setback for the owner and his representative, Matt Osgood, but it is a very clear signal that the current Board of Supervisors will review any development at Naples with a much more critical eye than the compliant “Firestone Board” that approved the project in 2008.

On another happy note, at the end of July the Conservancy organized a **Gaviota by Rails excursion** from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo and back in vintage rail cars supplied by Coastal Flyer. The Bacara Resort provided lunch, and Dragonette Cellars provided the world-class wine. The day was gorgeous, and the seldom-seen scenery through Hollister Ranch, around Point Conception, and across Vandenberg Air Force Base was beyond compare. We hope to organize another excursion this Fall, so when we email an invitation, **do not delay as it will sell out quickly**. Those interested in sponsoring the event, with priority tickets, may **contact Janet Koed at [805-683-6631](tel:805-683-6631)**.

We are very fortunate to live in this area, with natural beauty and environmental integrity surrounding us. It has been preserved by stewards, and activists that came before us, one of whom, [Selma Rubin, set the standard for Gaviota Coast preservation efforts](#). We at the GCC will continue these efforts so that future generations can enjoy the Coast as we have known it.

[Plains Pipeline Refugio Oil Spill and beyond](#)

by Lee Moldaver, image by
Joint Incident Command

In late May, the Plains Corporation owned and operated All-American Pipeline, which carries offshore oil from Exxon's Los Flores Processing Facility to various CA storage and refining centers, and that



experienced a major leak, which released a still indeterminate, but significant, amount of crude oil from the pipeline onto the ground, and from there into the Santa Barbara Channel near Refugio State Beach on the Gaviota Coast.

By remote mechanical action by Plains Pipeline personnel in Houston, the pipeline was totally shut-down, and remains so.

A large pipeline section in the area of the ruptured pipeline was subsequently removed, and sent to various federal labs for analysis and study. Upon removal

the leak was found to be in an area of the pipeline severely corroded, mostly externally.

Containment and Clean Up

Over the next six weeks, 541 different response personnel, representing Plains Company, seven federal agencies, five state agencies, and various expert private sector contractors, worked on land, on sea, and by air, to map the extent of the Refugio Oil Spill, and contain it from leaking further. They attempted to clean it up wherever possible, using as benign a set of tools [no harsh chemical abrasives or dispersants] as possible.

Lab chemical testing suggests that oil from the Plains Pipeline affected beaches and offshore waters across four Southern California counties.

At the end of the initial cleanup phase, Plains Pipeline representatives and media releases from the Joint Incident Command stated that more than 90% of all oil products spilled on land in the area of the pipeline leak were removed, that most oil products on the ocean surface were skimmed, boomed, and removed, and that most oil spill residue on coastal beaches, rocks, and sensitive habitats were removed.

For a review of active investigations in process, background on the pipeline, an examination of spill response effectiveness, and residual impacts, and post-spill energy operations, [click here](#).

Tajiguas Hazards

By Bob Hazard, image by Cheryl Fontana

The Tajiguas Landfill is filling up. This County-owned landfill is situated to the west of Refugio Canyon and is the home to the South Coast's non-recyclable garbage. Approved for a 15-year expansion back in 2002, the landfill is scheduled to be full in the early 2020s. A search for a new inland landfill was initiated in 2002 but failed to find a suitable



location. The County then initiated a "Request for Proposals" from vendors who responded with various plans for converting trash into useful commodities using the Tajiguas site. Mustang Renewal Power Ventures was selected by the County to proceed with planning for a material recovery project to reduce the volume of buried garbage, through composting and an elaborate anaerobic digester generating electricity from a complex two stage process.

Significant problems have developed with Mustang's plan as outlined in the recently released draft environmental impact report. Mustang initially projected

a fee of \$58/ton of refuse, but now estimates that the fee could be as high as \$146/ton. Of equal concern, Mustang was initially responsible for providing private financing for the project but is now requesting that the County provide the financing by borrowing the money. This shift places the financial risk of the project on the public, not on the private sector, an indication of the heightened risk of the project. The County Board of Supervisors approved the study of public financing in July and a decision on this financing will likely come by the end of the year.

The Conservancy has always argued for the responsible closure of the Tajiguas Landfill, as this vast industrial operation is inconsistent with the rural character of the Coast. Mustang's material recovery project will extend the life of the landfill and while that project has many positive attributes, our position is that it does not belong on the Coast. We will continue to monitor and comment on this issue as it evolves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kayak to Naples - Sunday, October 4

Once again, Aquasports of Goleta is sponsoring a fundraising paddle from Haskell's beach to Naples and back. We will glide over the outlying edges of a marine protected area, land at Naples for lunch and play and then return to Haskell's in the afternoon. Aquasports will supply all the equipment which you can rent. Their experienced guides will carry kayaks to the shore, give you a short orientation, shove you off and accompany you to our destination. Naples Coalition representatives will supply you with useful information about this very special place. The paddle is about 4 miles RT and novices are welcome IF you can swim and are comfortable in the ocean. Contact Janet Koed for reservations or information at [805-683-6631](tel:805-683-6631). (Image by Ken Pearce).



Panel Discussion: Saving the Gaviota Coast - October 13

(Image by Reeve Woolpert)

One of the most important things you can do this year is attend this special one-off panel to learn about issues facing the Gaviota Coast. Protection of this precious public resource begins with becoming informed and educating others. Learn from the attorneys and experts who work daily to protect it.

Panelists will include: Linda Krop, Chief Counsel of the Environmental Defense Center, Jesse Swanhuysen from the Law Office of Marc Chytilo, Reeve Woolpert, renown photographer of the Gaviota Coast, and Janet Koed,

Volunteer Coordinator for Naples Coalition and Gaviota Coast Conservancy.
Moderator is Cathie McCammon, Naples Coalition Board-member.

This CLL (Center for Lifelong Learning) class is October 13, 6 – 8pm, at Room 20 of the Schott Center located at Bath and Padre Streets and tuition is \$16. **Sign up at the Schott Center or [register on-line](#).**

Here is the course title and description:

[Santa Barbara Conflicts 1 – Protecting Gaviota Coast and Naples](#)

“The peaceful and rural agricultural land of Gaviota Coast and Naples is threatened not only by oil – it’s also subject to devastation by creeping urbanization. A panel will explore the ideas of groups dedicated to preserving protecting and enhancing these lands from disastrous oil spills and urban development.”

Vintage Train Trip Up the Gaviota Coast – November 7

The July excursion we took from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo and back was so popular that we already have a wait list for the spring. Picnic lunch sponsored by Bacara Resort and wine donated by Dragonette Cellars made this trip very special. [Contact Janet Koed by phone \(805-683-6631\) or click to email to be a sponsor for this trip.](#)



Spring Art at the Bacara, "Visions of the Gaviota Coast" - Date TBA

SCAPE artists will, once again, reveal the beauty that exists upon the landscapes of the Gaviota Coast. Reeve Woolpert will share his stunning photographs as well.

[Friends of the Gaviota Coast Facebook page](#) will share spontaneous hikes and events at Naples

This is an open forum sponsored by the community at large. You might want to join in. [Gaviota Coast Conservancy](#) and [Naples Coalition](#) also have Facebook pages where events are shared.

Corporate Giving to Gaviota Coast Conservancy through One Percent for the Planet



By Greg Karpain

One Percent for the Planet’s mission is to build, support and activate an alliance of businesses financially committed to creating a healthy planet. The

largest environmental network in the world, One Percent for the Planet is an international organization whose corporate members pledge and contribute at least one percent of their annual sales to environmental causes. Their mission is to "build, support and activate an alliance of businesses financially committed to creating a healthy planet." One Percent for the Planet corporate members assist non-profit organizations that protect land, forests, rivers, oceans, and also encourage sustainable methods of energy production.

One Percent for the Planet is the brainchild of Yvon Chouinard and Craig Mathews. Yvon Chouinard is the founder of the Patagonia clothing company and Craig Mathews is the founder of Blue Ribbon Files. In 2002, they created One Percent based on the idea of creating a vehicle to network the corporate world with the non-profit world to facilitate giving donations, specifically, a yearly gift of one percent of sales. The organization, headquartered in Vermont, has grown to more than 1,200 business members worldwide that give to over 3,300 different One Percent non-profit member organizations.

Over \$100 Million given by Corporations to chosen non-profits

One Percent for the Planet does not offer individual membership, but instead offers membership to companies, which then contribute 1% of their gross annual sales to non-profit organizations that focus on environmental causes. One Percent for the Planet has helped facilitate its corporate members to contribute more than \$100 million to environmental preservation. The "High Impact Partnerships" program enable companies and non-profits to identify issues where they share concern and collaborate to do more together than they can alone.

One Percent for the Planet corporate members support thousands of non-profit organizations that are helping to save land, protect forests, rivers and oceans, make agricultural and energy production more sustainable, getting toxics out of the environment, plastics out of the oceans and more. You name it, a One Percent for the Planet nonprofit partner is doing it with the support from their member companies.

Ask your company to join and donate to the Gaviota Coast Conservancy

In 2008, the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, as well as the Naples Coalition, applied for and underwent the One Percent rigorous application process, and were accepted as a non-profit member of the organization. If you are a member of a local, national, or international business, we ask that you bring One Percent to the attention of your company and see if they would like to join One Percent and add the Gaviota Coast Conservancy to its annual giving list (see below for contact information as to how we can help you with your presentation to your company).

Where does the money go?

Here's how 1% for the Planet works: One Percent licenses the 1% for the Planet trademark for use by its member companies. One Percent member companies give directly to the organizations of their choice. 1% for the Planet does not serve as an intermediary in this process, but they do certify the annual one percent contributions and ensure that donations go to organizations that are legal charities with an environmental focus.

Engaging corporate power to effect change

Donations primarily support nonprofits engaged in conservation and preservation work. They also go to organizations involved in advocacy, legal defense, environmental health, research and education, leadership development, and civic engagement. Some examples of these nonprofit recipient organizations include Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Conservation Alliance, Environmental Defense Center, LightHawk, Natural Resources Defense Center, Gaviota Coast Conservancy, Oceana, Pesticide Action Network, Nevada Wilderness Project, Northwest Institute, Naples Coalition, Sage Centre, Sierra Club, RARE, and Yellowstone to Yukon.

As One Percent for the Planet celebrates its 13 year anniversary, and more than \$100 million invested in positive environmental change by its member companies, Gaviota Coast Conservancy invites your company, small or large, to join One Percent. Donating to the Gaviota Coast Conservancy helps to preserve the rural character and habitat of our unique and stunning Gaviota Coast.

How to join:

Contact Janet Koed, Gaviota Coast Conservancy, [805-683-6631](tel:805-683-6631)
gavcoast@silcom.com

Brook Hopper, One Percent for the Planet, [805-340-5034](tel:805-340-5034),
brook@onepercentfortheplanet.org

PROFILE: Gaviota Coast Conservancy & Naples Coalition Leader Janet Koed

By Lee Moldaver

How did it happen that the most active and visible community presence for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and Naples Coalition is a hiking, trekking, ocean kayaking Mesa mom from sunny Arcadia?

"Arcadia actually had a lot of open space in the 50s and 60s. Once the

Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus came in on the train, and set up their tent in a lot behind our house. That was fun! A horse stable in that same area let us ride for 50 cents an hour. On school vacations, my parents often took the three of us children, in their Willis jeep, down the dirt roads and camping on the beaches of Baja or in state and national parks all over the West – usually with a canoe or surfboards on top of the car. I give them credit for teaching me about love of what felt like very wild places. I also learned about an environment that was able to offer us an amazing assortment of wild food. Visiting my aunt and uncle on their small farm in Iowa was another great treat that we looked forward to with excitement."



When Arcadia was overrun by shopping malls and sprawl, Janet's parents moved their printing business to San Clemente, CA, and she left for San

Diego's Point Loma College, then transferred to UCSB, "just in time for war demonstrations and crazy times in Isla Vista." Janet graduated with a Liberal Studies degree, and earned her early childhood teaching credential.

"Milestones of my adult life include giving birth to our daughter, getting married, teaching at Goleta Headstart, adopting our son (he was four years old and my student at Headstart), and continuing the Baja and other adventures with my family. After Headstart, I started work as director (and educator-bookkeeper-janitor) for the Cornelia Moore Dental Foundation. This was an amazing non-profit started by a local dentist and named after his wife. I got to drive around a large school bus that was converted into a dental classroom with sinks and mirrors, toothbrushes and toothpaste. This was a one-person show that went to schools and taught dental hygiene. I loved visiting Lois Capps at SBHS Pace program for young parents and their children. The Foundation also provided grants for dental care for children who were not getting this kind of care. Some really nice dentists donated time to help us out. I think it still exists."

Later, Janet worked with Jane Kelley and Anomaly Imports. "This was an education that you don't get at school. We traveled to Zapotec villages where Jane bought hand-crafted weavings and art and then we sold them in the US. Jane developed great respect and friendships in this world that continue to the present. This work added another layer of quality and appreciation to my life. Around this time, I began volunteering for Naples Coalition. When Kristen Hoye left Naples Coalition and Gaviota Coast Conservancy, and Anomaly Imports downsized, it seemed like a natural step to accept the p

Janet's passion for keeping California's wide open spaces free from sprawl remains undiminished. To volunteer with Janet to protect Gaviota and/or Naples, or challenge her to a kayak race, contact her at the link provided.osition of administrator and volunteer coordinator where I work to this day. I am one fortunate person, to have all this rich and meaningful work in my life, surrounded by fine people. I just hope to see Naples saved from greedy developers!"

(Janet Koed with environmentalist rock star Jack Johnson)



Woman Extraordinaire

Vivian (Vie) Obern, 05/20/21 – 06/21/15



Virginia Gardner, Susan Rose, George Obern and Vie Obern, 2000

On August 1st, people crowded into the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara's church to celebrate the life of this extraordinary woman. Like her mentor, Pearl Chase, she inspired many acquaintances to get involved with important community causes. A petit beauty, no project was too big for her can-do spirit, and her infectious enthusiasm motivated others.

An avid equestrian and hiker, Vie founded the Santa Barbara Trails Council in 1967, and later convinced the Board of Supervisors they needed the County Riding & Hiking Trails Advisory Committee. If you've ever used the Obern Trail between UCSB and Modoc Street, you have Vie Obern to thank. That was but one of her many community-spirited accomplishments.

Vie was recognized for her accomplishments by the PTA, the Pearl Chase Society, the SB Trust for Historic Preservation, among others. She was a valued member of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy board of directors, providing advice on public trails. Her many organizational memberships and substantial leadership contributions are too numerous to include in this brief remembrance. If there was any proof of the value of volunteerism in our society, Vie Obern was it.

Workshop with Mark Shepard at Orella Ranch
- October 30/November 1, 2015

Restoration Agriculture

Farm Scale Permaculture workshop

with Mark Shepard

"Resilience in times of flood or drought."

- Full immersion in the theory and practice of Restoration Agriculture
- Biome identification and ecology
- Keyline design, earthworks, and water management
- Perennial crop establishment, maintenance, and breeding
- Pruning, coppicing, and grafting
- Integrated multi-species grazing
- Renewable energy on the farm
- Restoration Agriculture economics



Spend three days with Mark Shepard at Orella Ranch, on the Gaviota Coast Santa Barbara County. Family owned and operated for the last 149 years this coastal ranch will serve as the backdrop for learning the ins and outs of Mark Shepard's Restoration Agriculture practices. Camping and food included on site.

October 30, 31, November 1

To Register: restorationagricultureworkshop.weebly.com

 [facebook.com/friendsoforellaranch](https://www.facebook.com/friendsoforellaranch)

early bird registration - limited spots available

info@orellaranch.com / 805.698.8823 / www.facebook.com/friendsoforellaranch

[To find out more or register, click here.](#)

Thanks to our volunteer newsletter contributors: Nancy Black, Phil McKenna, Steve Forsell, Janet Koed, Bob Hazard, Lee Moldaver, Greg Karpain, Guner Tautrim, Mike Lunsford

Useful Links

- [Gaviota Coast Conservancy](#) | [on Facebook](#)
- [Naples Coalition](#) | [on Facebook](#)
- [Santa Barbara Surfrider](#)
- [Environmental Defense Center](#)
- [Santa Barbara County Gaviota Projects](#)

Gaviota Coast Conservancy

<http://www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org/>

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