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## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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### **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S GAVIOTA COAST OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY STATUS**

***Designee is Highway 101 between Goleta and Highway 1 overcrossing near Las Cruces***

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – The Director of the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has informed the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) that Highway 101 along the Gaviota Coast is California's newest officially designated State Scenic Highway. The designated segment travels through one of the longest remaining rural coastlines in Southern California along 21 miles of Highway 101 from the City of Goleta's western boundary to Route 1 at Las Cruces.

This landmark designation was made possible by a partnership between the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department, Third District Supervisor Doreen Farr and Caltrans Landscape Architecture Division.

"Official designation as a State Scenic Highway will preserve the natural scenic beauty of this stunning coastline for generations to come," said Supervisor Farr, whose district includes the Gaviota Coast.

The County's coastal visual policies and California State Park's natural and cultural preservation mandates have protected the scenic quality along the Gaviota Coast for decades, and will be further enhanced under this new designation.

The Gaviota Coast State Scenic Highway includes spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, grassy rolling hills, and the Santa Ynez Mountains. The route also adjoins three stunning California State Parks: Gaviota and Refugio State Parks, and El Capitán State Beach.

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## **GAVIOTA COAST OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY STATUS ADD 1-1-1**

The Gaviota Coast harbors rich biodiversity with numerous parallel watersheds draining to the ocean from the Santa Ynez Mountains. The scenic highway follows the same route used by Portola and Father Serra in their historic journey up the coast in 1769, and also by Juan Batista de Anza in Spain's first attempt to find a route to populate California in 1774.

For information about the County of Santa Barbara, go to [www.CountyofSB.org](http://www.CountyofSB.org).

### **About the California Scenic Highway Program:**

Many state highways are located in areas of outstanding natural beauty. California's Scenic Highway Program was created by the Legislature in 1963. Its purpose is to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors, through special conservation treatment. The state laws governing the Scenic Highway Program are found in the Streets and Highways Code, Sections 260 through 263. For more information about the Program, go to [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16\\_livability/scenic\\_highways/faq.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/faq.htm).