



Dear Friends,

It is the end of a busy summer and the start of another school year. I'd like to remind parents, students, and the community at large, that our County has guidelines for protecting ourselves against the spread of H1N1 (Swine Flu). Please go to <http://www.sbfluinfo.org/> to review these guidelines.

I'd like to share some of my summer activities with you.

I was asked by the National Association of Counties (NACo) to be part of a panel presentation at the summer national conference in Tennessee to speak on the "True Costs of Wildfires." A week later I joined others from Santa Barbara Congregation B'nai B'rith and First United Methodist Church of Santa Barbara to work together in Alabama to help rebuild an African American church that was burned by arsonists. This proved to be a very meaningful experience on many levels: giving back to my new friends in Alabama, working alongside my Santa Barbara friends and neighbors, hanging drywall and putting more than my share of band aids on my fingers.



Supervisor Wolf with Karen Heimberg rebuilding church in Alabama

I was also pleased to host a Community Reception and Ribbon Cutting at Arroyo Burro Beach Park in August to acknowledge the new leaseholder of the Watershed Resource Center: Art From Scrap. In this time of budget crisis, it's good to remember that our County Parks are fun, free places where we can all enjoy our time off with our friends and families. [Click here](#) to see a video of the reception.



Supervisor Wolf and Cay Sanchez, Executive Director of Art From Scrap, cut ribbon at Watershed Resource Center, Arroyo Burro County Beach Park

Finally, as we are all aware, our local, state and national economies are in a downturn. After passing a budget in June, the County is now faced with possibly having to make further reductions after the State budget sustained billions in cuts which have been passed on to us. I remain committed to making appropriate cuts while maintaining our safety net, and the excellent public service provided by our talented County staff and our public safety workers. I am confident that we will emerge from this crisis stronger and smarter by leveraging our resources and making our system work for our 21st century community.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Wolf

GVPAC Survey and Workshop Update

On July 11, 2009 the Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee (GVPAC) held an all-day public workshop to elicit the views of community members as the GVPAC moves forward with its development of a Goleta Valley Community Plan. The turnout to the workshop was robust and the comments and views shared are critical to the process of developing a new community plan. Prior to the workshop a survey was conducted to garner the views of residents of the Goleta Valley.

[Click here](#) to see the results of the Community Planning Survey

Please [click here](#) to see the summary of the GVPAC Workshop.

[Click here](#) to remain apprised of GVPAC meetings as the PAC enters the important phase of articulating its goals.

Goleta Beach Park-the Next Chapter



Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara County Parks Department

On July 8, 2009, the California Coastal Commission (the Commission) voted 9-1 to deny the County's application to install a permeable pier extension at Goleta Beach Park. This decision triggered a wide range of emotion among those who care deeply about Goleta Beach Park - from disappointment and frustration to relief and hope. I respect the Coastal Commission decision and I appreciate the feelings of constituents on all sides of the issue. Now is the time for pragmatic and decisive planning and action to find a solution to beach and park erosion that meets the environmental, social and recreational needs at Goleta Beach County Park. I'd like to take a moment to provide a summary of the process that led to the County's application for the permeable pier.

In January 2008 the Board of Supervisors directed our staff to submit the permit application to the Commission for the permeable pier extension and beach enhancement at Goleta Beach Park. According to the Board letter submitted by our Parks staff, the intent of the application was for the County to proceed with the long awaited process to address previous guidelines set forth by the Commission providing for a "recreation beach and park" in a manner that also addressed "sand nourishment and managed retreat options". This application to the Commission and the draft Environmental Impact Report that accompanied it was the culmination of years of extensive community involvement and scientific analysis spearheaded by my predecessor, former Supervisor Susan Rose.

In the wake of the Commission's denial of that application, it is imperative that we regroup and think anew. We must rededicate ourselves to a positive, determined, and objective direction, balancing the needs and concerns of those of us who consider Goleta Beach County Park an unparalleled recreational jewel and who are also concerned with the environmental impact of whatever proposal is ultimately accepted by the Coastal Commission. We must refrain from polarizing or divisive statements or actions as those will only postpone our ultimate goal.

As the elected representative of the people of the Second District, I commit to you that we will find a solution. At my urging, the County reconstituted a new team with the goal of reviewing work done to date, objectively determining physical characteristics and constraints of the park, and working with all stakeholders. Such an approach will, I believe, help us to move forward as quickly as possible to a solution that meets the expectations of the Coastal Commission and the needs of the residents of Santa Barbara County. Please be assured that the public will have ample opportunity to comment on this issue when it comes before the Board of Supervisors.

I know our community well, and I know that this matter has divided us for too long. I ask for your trust and patience as the County works through this challenge. With your help and the support of my colleagues, we will have a Goleta Beach County Park of which we will all be proud.

Why We Must Build a Permanent Emergency Operations Center

As we mop up the fifth major wildfire in Santa Barbara County in the past three years, it is time, once again, to reiterate our need to move forward and build a permanent Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for our County and abandon the "room within a portable modular classroom facility," as the 2006 Grand Jury report describes our current EOC.

Last month I spoke at the National Association of Counties (NACo) in Nashville on the true costs of wildfires. My presentation included a discussion of the critical role of emergency operations management to coordinate and manage overall emergency response and recovery operations. While our County Office of Emergency Services has done an outstanding job responding to these last five fires, having an EOC in a temporary facility that takes our County emergency operations staff hours to set up in the *earliest and most critical stage of a disaster*, is not just "inadequate" as the 1996 Grand Jury report states, it puts our citizens at risk.



Supervisor Wolf speaks on "True Cost of Fires" at the National Association of Counties Conference in Nashville

Multiple Grand Juries have studied the issue carefully and since 1996 have repeatedly called for the County to build a permanent, dedicated structure that meets the construction standards for housing emergency government functions--one that is designed with redundant energy and communication capabilities, and one that can withstand fire, flood, and seismic activity.

A dedicated EOC will enable a range of critical capabilities to coordinate multiple public and private response, relief efforts and communication to the public. This includes a sufficient amount of working space for various entities like public health, the American Red Cross, animal services, schools and officials from other agencies and municipalities to make critical decisions together, at the same location, with fire, sheriff, and other emergency personnel.

As a County Supervisor my job is, first and foremost, to ensure public safety. That is why I have strongly advocated for the building of a permanent EOC from the outset of my time in office. I am pleased to report that we are very close to the day when this necessary, permanent structure can be built.

Thanks to the foresight of previous boards, we have saved money and now with the generosity of community partners, we are now in the position to fund the building of a permanent EOC. A collaborative partnership has formed under the Orfalea "Aware and Prepare" Fund Initiative to study our County's emergency preparedness and to assist with this vital community project. With this kind of public/private partnership, we are closer than ever to protecting the residents of Santa Barbara County when any kind of disaster strikes, whether that is earthquake, flood, fire, pandemic, or other calamity.

At our meeting on August 18, 2009, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to release a Request for Proposals to collect bids for the construction of this new building. Nevertheless, it has been suggested that we move to another *interim* site. However, such a move would not only delay this process, it would expend additional public funds, and prevent us from benefiting from the current construction environment which would bring jobs to our community .

As this is Emergency Preparedness Month, let us all be mindful of our personal preparedness, and I will continue to advocate for the building of a permanent EOC for the County of Santa Barbara without further delay. I look forward to the day when the new EOC doors open and our talented Office of Emergency Services staff take up residence to continue their work to protect our community for decades to come.

Local Youth Interns in Supervisors' Offices

This summer Supervisor Wolf and Supervisor Carbajal participated in the Workforce Investment Board Summer Youth Jobs & Public Service Program and were pleased to have intern, Mario Magana, join their office staff for six weeks. Mario, who hopes to join the National Guard when he graduates from High School, assisted the Supervisors' staff in answering phones, performing data entry, filing and other administrative duties. He also had the opportunity to attend meetings and learn how County government works. Supervisor Wolf said: "It was a pleasure to have Mario work in our office this summer. He learned valuable skills that he can take to his next job and we benefited from the extra help he provided." The program, aided by Federal AARA funds, employed 50 youths this summer in Santa Barbara County.



**Supervisor Janet Wolf with
Summer Intern, Mario Magana**

Meet Our New Fire Chief



Chief Michael W. Dyer took the reins of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department on August 3, 2009. Dyer had been Chief Deputy for the Los Angeles County Fire Department since 2006, and has more than 30 years of firefighting and life-saving experience in a variety of first-responder, management and executive capacities.

Dyer was the Los Angeles Fire Department's Deputy Chief in three major department Bureaus from 2002-2006, Assistant Fire Chief from 2000 to 2002, a Battalion Chief from 1998 to 2000, a Fire Captain from 1993 to 1998, a Firefighter Specialist from 1990 to 1993, and a Firefighter/Paramedic from 1986 to 1990. For eight years, from 1978 to 1986, Dyer worked as an ocean lifeguard with LA county's Beaches and Harbors Division.

He is certified as a Fire Chief by the California State Fire Marshal's Office and has a Master's in Public Administration from California State University, Northridge. He also is a certified Hazardous Materials Specialist by the State Fire Marshal's Office and a certified paramedic.

Supervisor Wolf said: "After meeting with Chief Dyer I know he is committed to ensuring the safety of our community through outreach and education and to maintaining an excellent firefighting operation in the County of Santa Barbara. I look forward to working with him in months and years to come."

[Click here](#) for a "Message from our Fire Chief."

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