



COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
123 Anapamu Street, 2nd Floor • Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2461 • FAX (805) 568-2459 www.sbccsd.org

PRESS RELEASE MARCH 31, 2021

News Media Contacts:

George Chapjian, Community Services Director
(805) 568-2467

Jeff Lindgren, Parks Assistant Director
(805) 568-2475

ISLA VISTA COUNTY BEACHES CLOSED APRIL 2-4 & APRIL 9-11, 2021

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – The Santa Barbara County Community Services Department has announced that the beaches at Isla Vista will be closed due to the potential for a “Floatopia” event on Friday, April 2 through Sunday, April 4, and Friday April 9 through Sunday, April 11, 2021. The closure is being declared to prevent a re-occurrence of the conditions that resulted from the 2009 Floatopia. The Santa Barbara County Code (Section 26-11) authorizes the Community Services Department to close any County recreation area including beaches.

Following the Floatopia event of 2009, the beaches at Isla Vista were left strewn with trash and debris, including human waste. This large-scale event with thousands of participants had no provision for the health and well-being of the public, including no facilities for human sanitation or refuse collection. The County of Santa Barbara, therefore acted to close the Isla Vista beaches for similar events since 2010.

The Floatopia event planned for April 2-4 and April 9-11, 2021 is not a sanctioned event and there are no approved permits issued. As such, the County Community Services Department will declare the Isla Vista beaches closed to public entry to protect public health and safety and to protect the beach from excessive waste and litter. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office will enforce the closure.