

Rincon Beach Park Host

Santa Barbara County Parks has responded to incidents of theft and vandalism at Rincon Beach County Park by moving park hosts in an RV trailer onto the premises. The hosts, Lou Newell and Lori Ortiz, provide morning, evening and weekend eyes and ears in the park, helping to deter criminal behavior at this somewhat isolated location. And like other hosts in county parks, they also assist with basic cleaning and maintenance in exchange for this residence privilege. Especially at a time of budget constraints, the park host program helps to keep parks clean, augmenting our reduced staff of park rangers.

The Rincon Beach park host trailer has been situated in such a way as to minimize visual impacts, while still providing superior visibility of the park and its structures, beach accesses (ramp and stairs), and the parking lot.

County Parks has also installed standard metal gates at the Bates Road entry to Rincon Beach County Park. This will permit the park to be locked at dusk (after all vehicles have departed), preventing its use for illegal purposes.

Our park host will also open the gates one hour before sunrise to facilitate early morning surfing and other early use of the park. Gating the park entry is planned solely as a security and public safety measure.

Initial reaction from surfers and other park visitors has been extremely positive. For further information about the park host program, please contact County Parks at 805-681-5653.

