

**NOVEMBER 18, 2008**

## **AVILA BEACH SOLD TO SLO COUNTY BUT PIRATE'S COVE CAN REMAIN NUDE- OPTIONAL**

Nov 18 – As expected, the County of San Luis Obispo purchased the 32 acres of bluffs and buildable land at Avila Beach. The Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to the \$12.2 million purchase at its November 18 meeting, and took an option to purchase later an additional 27 acres that includes Pirate's Cove nude beach below the bluffs.

The current owners of the land, San Miguelito Partners, has owned the beach and bluffs for several decades and has been trying to sell it to the county for several years. Under the new agreement, Miguelito will dedicate the 3100-ft stretch of beach to the County, and the County agrees to “improve the beach parking lot, and the beach access trail.” However the County has to apply to the Coast Conservancy for the money to make these improvements, so it may take several years before ownership can pass to the county, according to local news stories.

What does this mean in plain English? Nudists can still use Pirate's Cove with no changes in status for the foreseeable future.

Our thanks to Allen Baylis, the Naturist Action Committee, and other locals who prefer to remain unnamed for their efforts to make this result happen.

We ask that **NO letters or emails should be sent** to SLO officials at this time.

What has been missing at Pirate's Cove is a group of dedicated beach-goers who can self-police the sand and bluffs above to shoo away the voyeurs or persons intent on performing lewd behavior in the bushes. The Whales Cave Conservancy and others local are beginning such an effort both among the regulars, and also at nearby Cal Poly College whose students often visit the beach during the summer.



OCTOBER, 2008

## SLO COUNTY PURCHASE THREATENS NUDE USE AT AVILA “PIRATE’S COVE” BEACH

Two hundred miles to the north, there is a new threat endangering the nude section of Avila (Pirate’s Cove) beach near San Luis Obispo. KSBY-TV, the local station there reports that the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors are considering buying the 67 acres of land in Avila Beach for more than \$1.25 million. 32 acres are located at Pirate's Cove, and includes the nude beach. The report said if the purchase goes through, county officials will likely put an end to bathing in the buff.

The entire Avila Beach property, 131 acres including the bluffs as well as the beach, is owned by San Miguelito Partners, who have been trying to sell it for several years.

Two years ago, the county tried to buy the land for \$10.25 million but needed help from the state to cover the costs. But the state said it had no money to give, and so the deal fell through. This time the county says it has the \$1.25 million necessary for a partial purchase that may or may not include the beach itself but just the bluffs above. In any case, the county will need to find other revenue to clean up the beach and rebuild the trail and parking lot so they are “family-friendly.”

The supervisors plan to vote on the purchase at their November 18 meeting. NAC sent a letter to the San Louis Obispo supervisors asking them to take the long tradition of nude use and presence of the local naturists into consideration. Our people on the ground there are telling us that it would not be productive or possible to try to block the land sale. Rather, we need to be involved in the process when the county goes to actually set up the management of the beach area.

In the meantime, the county also plans to step up patrols at Pirate's Cove to curb problems of illegal activity, such as lewd acts.



---

## AVILA BEACH LAND PURCHASE DEAL HITS FINANCIAL SNAG

The proposed sale of the nude beach and its adjoining property near San Luis Obispo from a private corporation to the County has hit a \$6 million snag, according to a local newspaper report last week.

SLO County was hoping for a \$3 million grant from a federal coastal conservation program to cover half of the purchase price, but their grant proposal was submitted 3 months passed the annual grant deadline and the next money will not be awarded until the Fall of 2007 at the earliest.

Last month we wrote about the need for members to text-message their support to maintain Pirate’s Cove at Avila Beach as a nude/clothing-optional location. We are happy to report that the on-line poll conducted by the *San Luis Obispo Tribune* there showed 95% of those voting in favor of the nude beach.

One of our members called a *Tribune* reporter after the vote and told us the reporter was “shocked” at the lop-sidedness of the preference. County officials were quoted as saying the overwhelming preference for the nude beach means the County will probably lean toward maintaining its clothing-optional status should any sale take place in the future.