

## **IVRPD and Isla Vista Surfrider Foundation Raise Money for Gaviota Coast Conservation with Concert for the Coast**

Yiu-On Li (he/him), IVRPD Intern

“It’s like an American movie,” said Albert Gonzalez, a visitor from Barcelona, Spain, on vacation for three months in Isla Vista. “It’s just really fancy; there’s a lot of good people. I just love it.”

Gonzalez was referring to the twenty-fourth-annual Concert for the Coast event in Anisq’Oyo Park, jointly hosted on May 13 by Isla Vista Recreation & Park District (IVRPD) and the Isla Vista chapter of the Surfrider Foundation (IVSF). More than five hundred people attended the event, the capstone of IVRPD’s second-annual Spring Concert Series.

“It’s just really a day to celebrate the ocean, celebrate our community,” said Cassidy Fragakis, the IVSF co-chair and a UCSB third-year applied mathematics and physical geography double major with an emphasis in ocean science. “Also, help educate the community about Surfrider and what we do and just have a lot of fun.”

What IVSF does, according to Fragakis, is conservation—specifically, conservation of local beaches and oceans through cleanups, climate legislation, and fundraisers. Concert for the Coast is one such fundraiser, annually raising money for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy to protect its namesake.

“It’s a huge operation,” Fragakis said. “I’ve been up since 5:30 in the morning, setting up with all the sound equipment.”

By donating, attendees entered a series of opportunity drawings, whose prizes included The Lumineers concert tickets, surf gear, skateboards, and gift cards. A member of IVSF held one drawing in between each of the seven bands that played: Never Clever, the Katie Skene Band, Glenn Annie, Ray and Paul Holmberg, Levitation Room, Mapache, and Blue Lemonade.

“When I think about folk, I think about communities in nature and the outdoors,” said Nina Lim, a fourth-year communication and music studies double major at UCSB and the person behind the drums, fiddle, and vocals of Blue Lemonade. “I think it’s very fitting for us to be playing folk music for such a supportive environmental cause.”

The event saw tabling from various clothing and jewelry vendors, including Junk Drawer, Hermanas Recycled Clothing, Untamed Youth, and Marcel Hemp.

“Your skin is your biggest organ in your body. And a lot of the chemicals that come on normal polyester clothes—your skin’s absorbing that,” Parisa Rouzpay, a first-year graphic design major at Santa Barbara City College and an employee of Marcel Hemp, said. “Hemp and natural dyes [are] just really healthy, and people tend to gravitate toward that for health purposes.”

“Everything we make can eventually be composted,” she added.

According to UCSB third-year psychological & brain sciences major Rachel Fadel, she founded Junk Drawer with the same goal of respecting the environment.

“I’m trying to make stuff out of trash and scraps and recycled clothing, and upcycling things that would otherwise be wasted,” she said, pointing to the rice and mango bags she assembled from strips of food packaging. “I wanted to have a sustainable clothing business that isn’t perpetuating the problem of waste, because a lot of fashion ends up in landfills—especially fast fashion.”

As Levitation Room and Mapache took the stage, a dancing crowd massed below it, the setting sun and the descending fog having only increased the fervor of the spectators. Others—including Gonzalez and Francis Mel, whom Gonzalez met in Barcelona—hung near the back of the grassy auditorium.

“We were walking by and it was a very inviting event, so we walked in and we’ve had a good time,” Mel said. “It’s nice ambiance; it makes Santa Barbara or Isla Vista a nicer place to be.”

But the American-movie nature of Isla Vista—a nature that Gonzalez referred to earlier—is not assured, according to Mel.

“No one wants to go down to the beach and have it be covered with trash,” Mel said. “It’s a public resource, so people need to conserve it.”

Sofia Fea Ruiz, a fourth-year environmental studies major at UCSB and another attendee, agreed.

“I love the coast here more than anything. I’m a surfer, and the ocean is just like a home to me,” she said. “Sometimes you forget about it when you’re just going about your life on land.”