

June 25, 2002

Honorable Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara Superior Court
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Dear Honorable Judge Melville and Grand Jury Foreperson Harrison:

The City Council, at their regular meeting held June 24, 2002, reviewed the Santa Barbara County 2001-2002 Grand Jury report entitled: "Housing the Citizens of Santa Barbara County" specifically as it relates to the City of Carpinteria and approved the following response to the specific findings and recommendation of the Report:

Finding 1: The cities and County will have great difficult in achieving the State mandated housing goals.

Finding 2: The cities and County have already lost valuable time in setting goals and policies to achieve housing growth rates to provide adequate housing for our citizens.

Recommendation: In meeting the housing goals established by the State and soon to be allocated by SBCAG, the cities and County need to establish policies and metrics to facilitate the necessary actions and to track performance.

Response: The City of Carpinteria, along with every California city and county, are challenged to plan for housing growth that is commensurate with local needs while balancing competing interests and being constrained by limited resources for providing essential services. This challenge is exacerbated by the State housing allocation process, conflicting State mandates, and local government financing. In Carpinteria, there is little undeveloped land remaining within City limits and the surrounding agricultural land is a protected resource under the

Coastal Act, leaving few options for accommodating new growth. Nonetheless, the City of Carpinteria accepts its responsibility to plan for local housing needs and the recommendation of the Grand Jury.

The City has updated its General Plan/Local Coastal Plan that is pending certification by the California Coastal Commission. That land use plan will provide important direction for updating the City's housing policies. The City Council has initiated the update process by directing staff to solicit applications for a community advisory committee. City staff is also considering the qualifications of several consultants, one of which may be contracted with to assist staff and the advisory committee in drafting the update. A schedule for the update process will be developed in the coming months.

The City of Carpinteria is well under way to updating its housing policies and implementing programs. As with every jurisdiction in the State, the City's update is tied to information provided by the State and regional Council of Government, i.e. Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), in the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), which establishes the City's share of the regional housing need. The City's housing element is scheduled by the State to be complete by December 31, 2003.

The City of Carpinteria thanks the Grand Jury for it's work.

Should you need any additional information please contact me at (805) 684-5405 extension 400.

Sincerely,

Dave Durflinger
City Manager