

September 10, 2002

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

RE: 2001-2002 Grand Jury Report on Housing the Citizens of
Santa Barbara County

Dear Judge Melville:

In regard to the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Report on Housing the Citizens of Santa Barbara County, the following responses are submitted:

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

Response: We agree that the cities and County will have great difficulty 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.

Response: We believe that perhaps the cities and County could have set goals and developed policies to achieve housing growth rates to provide adequate housing for our citizens in a more timely manner.

Recommendation 1: 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: We agree the cities and County need to establish policies and metrics to facilitate the necessary actions and to track performance in meeting the housing goals established by the State. In order to meet these housing goals, the City of Buellton is in the process of adopting an affordable housing ordinance. This ordinance, scheduled to be considered for adoption at the City Council meeting of September 12, 2002, will allow flexibility in determining land use entitlements for affordable housing projects, will

permit the City Council to determine housing densities on a case by case basis, and will allow mixed use development for a broader range of land uses. In addition, the City has initiated the process of updating its General Plan Housing Element. This process is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2003 and will include a complete review of housing policies and programs. The housing goals established by the State will be included as part of the update to the Housing Element.

We hope the above responses adequately address the appropriate findings and recommendation. Please do not hesitate to give me a call should there be any questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

CITY OF BUELLTON

Steven L. Thompson
City Manager

cc: Grand Jury Foreperson