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July 18, 2002

The Honorable Rodney S. Melville
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Santa Barbara County
312-C East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Mary Anne Harrison, Foreperson
2001-2002 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Grand Jury Room
County Courthouse
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Grand Jury Report - June 30, 2002

Dear Judge Melville and Ms. Harrison:

On behalf of the City of Goleta, this letter responds to the concerns and issues raised in 2002 Santa Barbara Grand Jury report entitled "Housing the Citizens of Santa Barbara County." That report identifies the need for additional new housing in the Santa Barbara area and underscores the difficulties associated with encouragement of such housing. The City of Goleta is a newly incorporated city, formed in large part to address planning and land use issues within the community in a manner that more effectively represents the views, needs and priorities of that community.

The City of Goleta has set as one of its very first priorities the creation of a new General Plan for the community that will address housing and other issues related to planning for quality development within a relatively established community. The consultants who will provide guidance through the General Plan process are currently being selected. The City has made the necessary financial commitment in its first year budget to provide for expert advice in this critical area.

The Honorable Rodney S. Melville
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The City of Goleta wishes to assure you that it is moving forward to address the findings within the Santa Barbara Grand Jury report that affect it (Findings 1 and 2) and to consider and address the recommendation made by the Grand Jury (Recommendation 1) that are directed to it.

Very truly yours,

BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN, LLP

Julie Hayward Biggs,
Interim City Attorney, City of Goleta