

August 12, 2003

Honorable Clifford R. Anderson, III
Presiding Judge, Santa Barbara Superior Court
P.O. Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

David Clous
Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Board of Supervisors Response to the 2002-03 Grand Jury Report
Titled: "Isla Vista – Take Charge!"

Dear Judge Anderson and Grand Jury Members:

On August 12, 2003, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following response, as its response to the Finding and Recommendation contained in the 2002-03 Grand Jury Report titled: "Isla Vista – Take Charge!". The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the Planning & Development Department, the Public Works Department, and the Housing & Community Development Department. The Board's adopted responses are consistent with the responses of these agencies.

Finding 1: As an unincorporated area, various county agencies provide services to the residents and businesses of Isla Vista. The Isla Vista Recreation and Park District is the only local district providing limited services exclusively to Isla Vista.

Recommendation 1: Establish a Community Services District, which will expand and improve the services provided to Isla Vista. Combine the services of outside agencies with those currently provided by the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District into an efficient, fiscally responsible and locally controlled district.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 1: The Board agrees with the finding that Isla Vista, like other unincorporated areas, receives services from various county agencies. Further, the Board agrees that Isla Vista Recreation and Park District is the only district providing limited services exclusively to Isla Vista.

The recommendation to establish a Community Services District, to expand and improve the services provided to Isla Vista is not warranted and will not be implemented at this time.

To date, there has been no broad based community support for this concept. Any proposal or initiative to form a community services district should clearly exhibit support from the public who live and work in the area.

In addition, to do so at this time would conflict with a cooperative planning process which includes the Santa Barbara County Redevelopment Agency, UCSB, and the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, the purpose of which is to analyze and recommend improvements to Isla Vista.

In 1999, The Santa Barbara County Redevelopment Agency, UCSB and the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a strategy to jointly fund and develop a Master Plan for Isla Vista.

The objectives of the Master Plan are twofold. First the Master Plan will identify specific goals, policies, and development standards for Isla Vista that will update and complement the Countywide Comprehensive Plan and Goleta Community Plan. Second, the Master Plan will identify specific catalyst projects. These catalyst projects will address improvements to the community including the commercial core, housing, transportation, parking, and infrastructure. Through these efforts, many of the issues, which have been identified over the last 35 years, including: limited parking, overcrowded and substandard housing, and deteriorating infrastructure will be addressed. The Draft Plan has been in circulation since March 12, 2003 and was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on July 22, 2003 for the initiation of environmental review.

In addition to the above referenced Master Planning Process, an analysis of the services provided in Isla Vista will be undertaken by the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) in conjunction with legally mandated Municipal Service Reviews (MSR's). Government Code Section 56430 requires LAFCO to conduct MSRs regionally or subregionally, to make determinations on local agencies' spheres of influence, and make nine determinations about present and future opportunities, constraints, and needs. The nine required determinations are:

1. Infrastructure needs or deficiencies

2. Growth and population projections for the affected area
3. Financing constraints and opportunities
4. Cost avoidance opportunities
5. Opportunities for rate restructuring
6. Opportunities for shared facilities
7. Government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers
8. Evaluation of management efficiencies
9. Local accountability and governance

At the conclusion of the MSR, LAFCO will make determinations regarding the provision of public services per the provisions of Government Code Section 56430, and may subsequently use the determinations to pursue changes to services.

Finding 2: Parking problems continue to plague Isla Vista. Prior reports have recommended parking permits and/or parking meters. As of the writing of this report, nothing has been implemented.

Recommendation 2: Without delay, establish a parking permit program for the streets of Isla Vista, and install enforcement, with all revenue remaining in Isla Vista. After installation, provide for diligent enforcement, with all revenue remaining in Isla Vista. Do not wait for more Grand Jury reports to be released.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 2: The Board agrees that parking problems continue to plague Isla Vista.

This recommendation requires further analysis by the Public Works Department and other County Departments prior to implementation. The County agrees that a parking program is needed in Isla Vista and as such, the Public Works Department has been working on a plan for the past six months. To date, a draft Parking Plan has been prepared in coordination with other jurisdictions to include both metered parking and a comprehensive residential permit program. Administration and enforcement of the program requires additional analysis and ultimately direction from the County Board of Supervisors.

The Isla Vista General Plan Advisory Committee has approved the concept of a comprehensive parking program, and the Public Works Department will be asking for the Board's conceptual approval of the plan and guidance as to administrative/enforcement details in August 2003. The draft plan identifies the parking program revenues to fund the administrative and enforcement functions as well as to assist in funding needed road, sidewalk and alternative transportation improvements in Isla Vista.

Finding 3: The Redevelopment Plan for Isla Vista is currently under the auspices of the Planning and Development Department.

Recommendation 3: Transfer the Redevelopment Agency responsibilities for Isla Vista out of Planning and Development and into the Housing and Community Development Department, for continued development and final implementation.

Response to Finding and Recommendation 3: The Board agrees that the Redevelopment Plan for Isla Vista is currently under the auspices of the Planning and Development Department. The recommendation to transfer the Redevelopment Agency responsibilities for Isla Vista out of Planning and Development and into the Housing and Community Development Department is not warranted and will not be implemented at this time. As noted by the Planning and Development Director, in his response to Recommendation #3, when the Housing and Community Development Department was formed, the Board analyzed the scope of work for the new department and determined to retain the preparation of the Isla Vista Plan with the Planning and Development Department. Once the plan is adopted, the responsibility for implementation of the plan may be transferred to the Housing and Community Development Department or other Departments that have a direct role in the specific project's implementation. At present, the Planning and Development Department, the Department of Housing and Community Development and all affected County Departments are working cooperatively and coordinating their efforts related to the development of the Isla Vista Master Plan.

The Board of Supervisors thanks the Grand Jury for its interest and the report on this important subject matter.

Sincerely,

Naomi Schwartz, Chair
Board of Supervisors

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 7/1/03
Department Name: COA
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 8/12/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 20 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Administrator

STAFF CONTACT: Lori Norton, Analyst
X 3421

SUBJECT: Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report on "Isla Vista-Take Charge!"

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors

- A. Consider adopting the recommended responses contained in Attachment A as the Board's responses to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report titled "Isla Vista-Take Charge!"
- B. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the attached transmittal letter (Attachment A) to Clifford R. Anderson, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, transmitting the adopted responses to the Grand Jury Report.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Goal #'s II : A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit, and V: A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Grand Jury Report was released on May 22, 2003. In accordance with Penal Code Section 933(c), the governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days after issuance of the Grand Jury report. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors' response must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Courts no later than Wednesday, August 20, 2003. The Board has two opportunities, if necessary, to discuss and adopt a response. If necessary, a second discussion will be scheduled for August 19.

The Isla Vista- Take Charge Grand Jury Report contains a total of 3 Findings and 3 Recommendations. Three County Departments: Housing and Community Development, Planning and Development, and Public

Works are required to respond to the Report. In addition, the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District is required to respond.

A copy of the Grand Jury Report (Attachment B) and proposed Board of Supervisors' responses is included. If the Board approves of these responses, they will be transmitted to the Honorable Judge, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Mandates and Service Levels:

California Penal Code Section 933(c) requires that no later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report on the operations of a public agency, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under their control. These comments, in and of themselves, do not change existing programs or services levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The recommended responses do not have a fiscal or facilities impact.

Special Instructions:

None

C: Valentin Alexeeff, Director, Planning and Development
Phil Demery, Director, Public Works
Ed Moses, Director, Housing and Community Development

Attachments: Attachment A – Letter of Transmittal to Clifford R. Anderson, Presiding Judge
Attachment B – Grand Jury Report titled: “Isla Vista – Take Charge!”
Attachment C – Planning and Development Response
Attachment D – Public Works Response
Attachment E – Housing and Community Development Response