

July 16, 2003

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

RE: Response to the 2002-03 Grand Jury Report, Isla Vista – Take Charge!

Dear Judge Anderson:

The Grand Jury requested Planning and Development respond to Findings and Recommendations 1 and 3 of the above-referenced report. The following is the department's response:

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

Response to Finding 1:

Agree.

Grand Jury 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 Recommendation 1:

This recommendation will not be implemented as it is not warranted. This analysis should logically occur as part of the mandated Municipal Service Reviews by LAFCO which will follow the adoption process for the Isla Vista Master Plan.

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

Response to Finding 3:

Agree. The Planning and Development Department is primarily responsible for preparation and environmental analysis of the Isla Vista Master Plan, in coordination with the University of California at Santa Barbara, the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District and various County Departments, including County Administrator's Office, Housing and Community Development, Public Works, and Parks.

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 Recommendation 3:

This recommendation will not be implemented as proposed because it is not warranted. When the Housing and Community Development Department was formed, the Board of Supervisors analyzed the scope of work for the new department with respect to redevelopment and economic development. The Board decided to retain the preparation of the Isla Vista Master Plan with Planning and Development and, once the plan was adopted, consider shifting implementation to the Housing and Community Development Department. The draft document has been in circulation since July 8th, and was prepared in coordination with the Housing and Community Development Department. Coordination will occur throughout the adoption process.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2002-03 Isla Vista – Take Charge! Grand Jury report.

Sincerely,

Valentin Alexeeff
Director