

July 18, 2006

The Honorable Rodney Melville
Judge of the Superior Court of the
County of Santa Barbara
312-M East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93455-5165

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Attention: Foreman Ted Sten
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Judge Melville:

At the end of April 2006, the 2005-06 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury released its report entitled "*Measure D—Progress as Promised?*" The report names the Public Works Department of Lompoc as an affected agency and requires responses to the relevant findings and recommendations. The City of Lompoc Public Works Department's responses are included in this letter.

The City of Lompoc would like to thank the Grand Jury for examining this critical issue. The report is timely, as voters will be casting ballots on a proposed renewal of Measure D at the November 2006 general election. We believe that the report was well researched by the Grand Jury and as a result is both factual and informative.

Finding 2: The 70% of Measure D revenues allocated to the local agencies has resulted in significant improvements in road and street pavement condition, local transit shuttle services in Carpinteria and Santa Barbara, and upgrades to the transportation infrastructure of the County and cities.

Public Works Department of City of Lompoc Response:

The Public Works Department agrees with the finding.

Finding 5: SBCAG (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments), the cities in Santa Barbara County, the County Public Works Department, and the paratransit operators have not adequately publicized the positive results achieved through Measure D. This has allowed the public debate to be focused on a narrow set of policy issues, such as the desirability of mass transit vs. roads.

Public Works Department of Lompoc Response:

The Public Works Department of Lompoc agrees with this finding. Efforts by SBCAG and local agencies to inform the public about Measure D have been limited and could be expanded. The Public Works Department of Lompoc has not conducted a comprehensive public information program designed to publicize the overall benefits of Measure D for the city's transportation system. The Grand Jury report notes that while State law prohibits the use of public agency resources to advocate for or against ballot measures, "it expressly permits public information programs intended and designed to educate the public about the facts underlying the measures."

Most of the public information efforts by the Public Works Department of Lompoc, however, have centered around the construction of specific projects including holding media events at the beginning and end of construction, placing Measure D signage near major construction projects, and providing information about projects to the public prior to and during construction projects (i.e., lane closures, detours, nighttime construction work, etc.).

Recommendation 1: Publicize the results of Measure D to date to raise the awareness of voters and enable them to make an informed decision about reauthorizing the transportation sales tax.

Public Works Department of Lompoc Response:

The Public Works Department of Lompoc agrees with this recommendation. It is particularly important that County voters have factual information about how Measure D funds are currently expended and how they will be expended if the November 2006 Measure D renewal ballot measure is approved. We understand that SBCAG will carry out a public information program that includes:

- ! Development of a brochure explaining Measure D and facts about the projects proposed to be funded through the renewal expenditure plan. The brochure would be distributed by mail to all registered voter households in the county and provided as a hand out at presentations to stakeholder groups.
- ! Development of a newspaper insert with a similar content to be placed in local newspapers.

- ! Production of a 30-minute video with similar content to be aired periodically on local government access cable TV stations.
- ! Development of Power Point presentations to be used in presentations to various stakeholder groups.

The Public Works Department of Lompoc will cooperate fully with SBCAG in development of the public information program. The City of Lompoc will have the SBCAG Power Point presentation on Measure D presented at a City Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

Larry Bean
Public Works Director
City of Lompoc