

June 15, 2006
The Honorable Judge Rodney Melville
Superior Court
312-M East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93455-5165

SUBJECT: CITY OF SANTA BARBARA RESPONSE TO MEASURE D REPORT

Dear Judge Melville:

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury letter of April 26, 2006, with the enclosed "Measure D – Progress as Promised Report," has been received and the following is the City of Santa Barbara's response, as directed.

Recommendation 1:

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

Response:

The City of Santa Barbara (City) will continue to hold an annual public hearing wherein the major projects and efforts of the past year and an outline of future projects affecting City residents will be discussed. In addition, the City Engineering staff will continue to provide quarterly capital project updates during regular public meetings of the City Council. As part of this presentation, completed Measure D capital projects will be discussed in detail.

City Engineering staff will explore other opportunities to publicize Measure D efforts on City Television Channel 18 by way of frequent spots or feature stories and local speaking engagements by Engineering staff involved in Measure D.

Recommendation 2:

Provide additional detail in the annual programs of projects for Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria to make their plans clear and provide a basis for annual audits.

Response:

The City of Santa Barbara will add a detailed project listing to future annual reports as recommended. It is noted that, although there is a summary of projects in the annual programs attached to the Council report, the text of the report contains more detail on the program effort. This will be highlighted in future annual program reports.

The City wishes to clarify Finding 1 of the Grand Jury Report in regard to Highway 101. Funding for the Highway 101 widening project first proposed in the early 1990s and subsequently cancelled due to public opposition, remains available. In lieu of the widening project, operational improvements are currently being designed for the Highway 101 corridor. The City continues to support 101 in Motion to address regional transportation needs.

Please contact my office at (805) 564-5318 if more information is required.

Sincerely,

Marty Blum

cc: Santa Barbara Grand Jury, w/ CD attachment, Attention: Foreman
City Council; City Administrator Jim Armstrong; Public Works Director Anthony
Nisich; City Clerk's Office