



August 18, 2009

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The Honorable Judge J. William McLafferty
Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

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

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report – “SBCAG – A Road Not Taken”

Dear Judge McLafferty and Foreman Sten,

On June 3, 2009, the Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury submitted a report about regional planning to the City for review and response. The report is entitled “SBCAG – A Road Not Taken”. As an affected jurisdiction, Goleta is required to provide a response to the findings and recommendations. In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, this response letter, along with an electronic copy on CD-ROM disk, is transmitted before the 90-day response deadline expiration on September 1, 2009.

The responses to the findings and recommendations are as follows:

Finding 1a: *Santa Barbara County Association of Governments has authority to do regional land use planning through its Joint Powers Agreement.*

Response to Finding 1a: The City of Goleta agrees with the finding.

Finding 1b: *The staff has developed recommendations for regional land use planning approved by Santa Barbara County Association of Governments.*

Response to Finding 1b: The City of Goleta agrees with the finding.

Finding 1c: *The regional land use planning recommendations adopted by Santa Barbara County Association of Governments have not been implemented.*

Response to Finding 1c: The City of Goleta partially agrees with the finding. Not all the adopted recommended actions have been fully implemented. SBCAG has made notable progress in implementing regional land use planning efforts. A good example is the Blueprint Pilot Project that was developed using countywide data in an attempt to address regional planning issues on a trial basis. Local jurisdictions, including Goleta, at the direction of the SBCAG board, are joined in regional planning efforts as part of committees and task forces.

Recommendation 1: That Santa Barbara County Association of Governments and each respective jurisdiction implement already adopted recommendations that deal with regional land use planning.

Response to Recommendation 1: The City of Goleta agrees with the recommendation. The Goleta Strategic Plan and General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan include policies and implementation programs that require a regional approach to land use planning. Collaborative regional decision making is necessary and Goleta will continue to implement the regional planning directives authorized by the Strategic and General Plans and provide continued support to local agencies.

Finding 2: Santa Barbara County Association of Governments has not developed a fully integrated regional plan coordinating jobs, housing and transportation that includes all the County's jurisdictions.

Response to Finding 2: The City of Goleta agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 2: That Santa Barbara County Association of Governments develop a fully integrated regional plan.

Response to Recommendation 2: The City of Goleta agrees with the finding. SB 375 requires SBCAG to prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that will address the linkage between land use, housing, and transportation. As such, the SBCAG board authorized funding for an SCS and other measures to fulfill the obligations under SB 375.

Finding 3: Santa Barbara County Association of Governments refused to apply for State funds for comprehensive regional planning.

Response to Finding 3: The City of Goleta partially agrees with the finding. While voting against applying for the Regional Blueprint Planning Grant Program in 2006, the Board provided the support to allow for a blueprint pilot study of the Santa Maria Valley that is currently underway.

Recommendation 3: That Santa Barbara County Association of Governments aggressively pursue funding for comprehensive regional planning.

Response to Recommendation 3: The City of Goleta agrees with the finding. SBCAG should pursue opportunities to receive funding to effectively support SBCAG's efforts to develop a comprehensive regional plan.

The City of Goleta appreciates the observations of the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,



Roger Aceves
Mayor

C: City Council
Daniel Singer, City Manager
Steve Chase, Planning & Environmental Services Director
Deborah Constantino, City Clerk

Attachment: CD-ROM