



CITY OF
LOMPOC

Office of the Mayor

August 25, 2009
The Honorable Judge J. William McLafferty
Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara CA 93121-1107

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report – “SBCAG – A ROAD NOT TAKEN”

Dear Judge McLafferty:

The 2008-09 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury report entitled “SBCAG – A ROAD NOT TAKEN” requires response from jurisdictions within the County. Listed below are responses from the City of Lompoc:

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

Response: The City of Lompoc agrees that the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) has authority to do regional land use planning through its Joint Powers Agreement.

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

Response: The City of Lompoc agrees that the SBCAG staff has developed recommendations for regional land use planning which has been approved by the SBCAG Board, including but not limited to the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Growth Forecast.

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

Response: The City of Lompoc partially agrees with Finding 1c. In the August 3, 2009 response to the Grand Jury, the SBCAG staff has identified a number of regional land use planning recommendations that the SBCAG board has adopted and implemented. Without a specific list of deficiencies from the Grand Jury, it appears that some progress has been made.

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: The recommendation is in the process of being implemented. The City of Lompoc will work with the SBCAG board and staff and the member agencies within Santa Barbara County to address regional development, environmental protection, and land use impacts on transportation as the Community Sustainability Strategy is developed to comply with Senate Bill 375. The needs of the individual jurisdiction must also be taken into account when considering regional land use planning.

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: The City of Lompoc agrees with the finding that SBCAG has not developed a fully integrated regional plan coordinating jobs, housing and transportation that includes all the County's jurisdictions.

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

Response: The City of Lompoc understands that the SBCAG board has included implementation of this type of integrated regional plan in the FY 2009/10 Overall Work Program adopted in April 2009. Implementation of SB 375 requires development of an integrated regional plan through the preparation of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that will address the linkage between land use, housing, and transportation.

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

Response: The City of Lompoc understands that the SBCAG board originally expressed concerns about regional and state agencies becoming involved in local land use planning and declined development of a Regional Blueprint Plan in the FY 2006-07 Overall Work Program. However, in October 2006 the board unanimously agreed to support an application by the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments for a pilot study of the Santa Maria Valley. The study is currently underway.

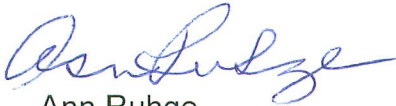
Recommendation 3: *That Santa Barbara County Association of Governments aggressively pursue funding for comprehensive regional planning.*

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Response: The City of Lompoc understands that SBCAG will pursue funding, as it becomes available at the State level, to offset the cost of complying with SB 375.

The City of Lompoc appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury Report.

Sincerely,



Ann Ruhge
Mayor Pro Tempore

C: Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury; Attn: Foreman,
1100 Anacapa St, Santa Barbara CA 93101 (1 hard copy / 1 copy on disk)
Lompoc City Council
Laurel Barcelona, City Administrator