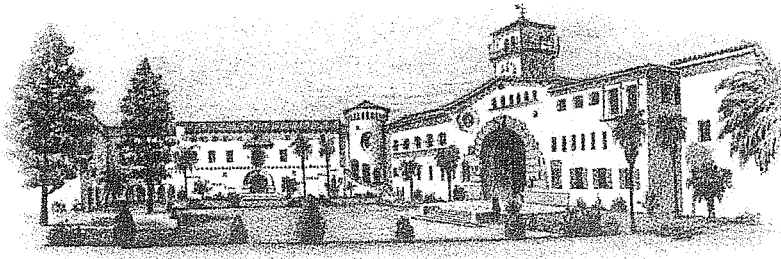


DOREEN FARR
Third District Supervisor



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 22, 2009

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

Dear Judge McLafferty,

I have been informed by the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury that an individual response is required of me to their 2009 report entitled, "SBCAG – A Road Not Taken." I am happy to comply with this request and you will find my responses below. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process.

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

Response – I agree with this statement.

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

Response - I agree with this statement. Both SBCAG staff and County staff have produced numerous documents and recommendations related to regional land use planning.

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

Response – I partially disagree with this statement as the specific planning recommendations in question have not been identified by the Grand Jury. I believe that some of the recommendations have been implemented but some have not.

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 – This recommendation has been partially implemented I believe. As a new member to the Board of Supervisors and SBCAG, I do not have the history on these

issues that others may have and so my response may not be as helpful this year as it might be in future years. I cannot speak to the adherence of other jurisdictions to these recommendations. However, I do know that the County through its long range planning process implements regional planning issues including regional planning for housing and transportation. From my work as a community leader prior to being elected, I can attest to the fact that in the past there has been tension created by the desire of communities for local land use control and the needs of regional planning which is seen by many residents as a way to slowly undermine that local control rather than as a benefit to all communities. Clearly, better communication and coordination is needed.

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 – I agree with this finding.

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

Response – This recommendation has not been implemented but will be in the future by developing a Sustainable Communities Strategy. The County must comply with SB375 and come up with a fully integrated plan to address the need for coordinated planning between housing, jobs and transportation as well as preserving open space and agricultural land.

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


Response – I agree with this finding, although I was not a member of SBCAG when this decision was made.

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

Response – The recommendation will be implemented. I strongly agree with this statement and will do all I can as a member of SBCAG to ensure that it is carried out.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this important work. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doreen Farr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "F".

Doreen Farr
Third District Supervisor