

August 10, 2009

Honorable Judge William McLafferty
Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA. 93121-1107

RE: 2008-2009 Report: *SBCAG-A Road Not Taken*

Dear Judge McLafferty:

The Solvang City Council considered the Grand Jury Report and offers the following comments:

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

Response: Agree. SBCAG does have all the powers outlined in Government Code §65060 et seq. and therefore has the power to create a regional plan, if ordered to.

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

Response: Agree: SBCAG has made many recommendations and policies related to regional planning, which include policies in the Regional Transportation Plan, Regional Growth Forecast, Jobs-Housing Balance studies (1989 and 1995) and the State-Funded Interregional Partnership for Jobs-Housing Balance.

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

Response: Partially Agree: The Grand Jury finding does not identify the specific recommendations it is referring to. Some of the regional land uses planning recommendations adopted by SBCAG Board have been implemented.

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

Response: As indicated in 1c, some of the recommendations regarding regional planning adopted by the SBCAG board have been implemented.

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: Agree

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

Response: Agree


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

Response: Agree:

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

Response: SBCAG should pursue funding needed to offset the costs of complying with the new regional planning requirements mandated by the State under SB 375.

Sincerely,


Jim Richardson
Mayor

cc: Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury, Attention: Foreman, 1100 Anacapa St. Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Solvang City Council Members