

March 28, 2013

ATTN: County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

**RE: Temporary Uses / "Special Events" Ordinance, Hearing Date
4/2/13**

**FROM: Greater Santa Barbara Lodging & Restaurant Association
(GSBLRA)**

Dear Supervisors:

Thank you for the opportunity to express the GSBLRA's position towards the Temporary Uses / "Special Events" Ordinance amendments that will be coming before you on Tuesday April 4th. Our organization represents approx 100 hotels/motels/inns in the greater Santa Barbara area, along with approx 693 restaurants and other food establishments. The total number of people employed by these businesses is approximately 20,000. Service sector is up 35% of local employment.

We feel that the ordinance amendments before you represent a serious threat to members and their employees. We feel there are better ways to address neighborhood issues than to eliminate private gatherings by County visitors. The guests at these gatherings are some of the highest-spending and most valuable tourists we see. They book our hotels rooms, eat at our restaurants, shop at our stores and visit our attractions.

We endorse an alternative and better approach to neighborhood peace and quiet, known as the Good Neighbor Special Events Ordinance. We feel this alternative ordinance can be finalized and voted on in an expeditious manner, and would enjoy the support of both neighborhood advocates and the tourism industry in its final version. Even a temporary passing of the current ordinance amendments will mean a suspension of this large part of our destination tourism, a blow that could take years to recover from.

For this reason, we urge the Board of Supervisors to postpone any consideration of the current ordinance amendments until such time as the Good Neighbor Special Events Ordinance can be considered.

Sincerely,

Warren Butler,

President

Greater Santa Barbara Lodging & Restaurant Association