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Land Surveying
Mapping & Digital Graphics

March 22, 2010

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara CA
105 E. Anapamu St. Suite 407
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Re: File #: 10-000232, Item D-4, March 23, 2010 **Board of Supervisors hearing: Public Works County Surveyor and Water Resources Division Development Review Fee Update**

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

If it weren't for my wife requiring an operation at the same time as this hearing I would be presenting this information in person. This is an issue of County wide importance.

This letter is to voice my opposition to the increase in fees for the initial filing of a Record of Survey (RS) map in this county. I am only opposed to raising the initial fees to file a RS not the re-checking fee after the 3rd check. I am not opposing the raising of any other fee as proposed.

The main difference between an RS map and all the other maps filed is that the filing of any of all the other maps directly benefit the person who is filing the maps, whereas **filing a RS map is of NO direct benefit to the one paying the fees**, the RS map benefits the neighbors and future owners, not the person paying the fee. There is no new parcel created, no parcel shape or size changes as a result of filing an RS. All that an RS map does is make the boundary survey public so others can benefit from that information in the future.

Consequently, we need to make filing an RS map as easy and cheaply as possible for the benefit of the whole county.

It's expensive enough to put up a new fence and hire a land surveyor in the first place. Filing a RS map just makes it even more expensive for the home owner. Sometime this even causes the homeowner to forgo the survey all together and just guess at where to place to fence or room addition which sometimes leads to boundary disputes with their neighbors

The County Surveyor, Mike Emmons has told me that the increase in RS fees as now proposed would only add about \$6,000 to his budget for the entire year. The proposed increase in fees for RS maps would defiantly deter others from ever filing an RS map.

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The filing of RS maps is so important to the welfare and peace of the general population that some counties in California wave all fees for processing a RS map. I suggest that you consider doing the same, or at least keep the same fee as presently charged.

The biggest reason I hear from other land surveyors about why they didn't record their survey is that the client, the property owner either could not afford to do that or didn't see the value of a RS map for themselves and didn't want to pay to have it recorded.

As a founding member of our local Joint Professional Practices committee of the California Land Surveyor's Association and of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and as a practicing professional land surveyor, I see the huge benefits to our citizens that recorded boundary surveys provide. Having a settled boundary line terminates many neighbor disputes and helps to keep the peace in the community.

If it were not for the existing RS maps, conducting a boundary surveys today would be far more difficult and costly to perform. We must continue recording as many boundary surveys as possible for the benefit of our future generations.

Every day more and more survey monuments become destroyed or lost, to various activities, such as installation of storm drains, sewer line and other utilities and the construction of fences. It is imperative for the continued peace of our communities regarding boundary disputes to continue to record the locations of our new survey monuments by filing a RS map.

Unlike the Subdivision map, Parcel Maps, Tract Maps etc. the RS map gives the property owner no new benefits. The true benefit of a RS map goes to the neighbors and future property owners, not to the one paying the fees. A RS map filed today will be available for all citizens in the future as a recorded "public record", instead of just "private information".

Boundary survey data needs to be shared and our citizens should be encouraged to file an RS map for their boundary surveys. I urge you to keep the fee for filing RS maps as is or better yet, eliminate that fee all together. RS maps are a great Public Benefit and are worthwhile investments by the County for the general public peace and welfare.

Respectfully submitted,



L. Paul Cook, PLS 4285

