

5-13-09 THU 15:52 P. 02
To: County Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County

Date: March 19, 2009

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Subject: General Plan Amendment, Case No. 08GPA-00000-00002

A request that would allow development of the La Purisima Resort in the Rural area of Santa Barbara County and change land use designation from Agriculture to Resort/Visitor Serving Commercial, 3455 East Highway 246, in the Cebada Canyon area, Fourth Supervisorial District. [09-00189]

The wealth and uniqueness of Santa Barbara County lies in its panoramic views of rolling hills rich with vineyards, berries, flowers, horses and cattle. A somewhat rare picture not conjured up easily when it is identified as Southern California.

As a twenty plus year resident of Cebada Canyon, my husband and I were here before Ken Hunter, Sr. proposed his golf complex to the County Supervisors. We well remember that as a part of the deal, he "promised" that the property would remain agricultural if given a conditional use permit to allow non-agricultural use as an 18-hole golf course.

Approval of this NEW Hunter proposal without the Lompoc Valley regional plan in place, clearly jeopardizes the future of this beautiful rural area. The Board of Supervisors would be setting a NEW STANDARD. Not only does Mr. Hunter want urbanization in a non-designated area, but other developers are poised ready to "piggyback" their projects on Mr. Hunter's project.

Developers see their role as "rezoning advocates." They fight the fight to pressure County Supervisors to rezone in order to position themselves for a better sale. Decisions you make today to allow urbanization irrespective of the advice received from the County Planning Department and outside of the excising General Plan only accommodates the greed of developers. It cannot be reversed.

Not only are my property rights as an owner violated, but environmental conservation is at great risk as this area typically gets 11 - 13 inches of rain annually on average. What would Santa Barbara County accomplish by urbanizing areas outside of those designated? And what is so compelling that you individually would vote to do that? Our riches are in our rural setting, easy country living and slower pace — not urban sprawl. Haven't we all learned a recent lesson on controlling our greed for real estate gains?

If you make the mistake of voting to urbanize what visitors call "God's Country" you will not be able to go back.

Please vote NO.

Cordially,

Suzanne & David Schwark
2145 Cebada Canyon Road
Lompoc, CA 93436