



Sarah Mayer *Public Comment - Women's Economic Ventures*

From: Dustin Hoiseth <Dustin@SBSCChamber.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 1:22 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Kristen Miller; Kristen Miller
Subject: Public Comment Kathy O/WEV- BoS May 3 Rezone Hearing
Attachments: HERezones_Support_WEV.pdf

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Hello,

Please see the attached public comment for the May 3 Board of Supervisors Rezone hearing, on behalf of Kathy Odell and Women's Economic Ventures.

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors:

As a representative of Women’s Economic Ventures, I would like to express my support for the Planning Commission’s recommendation of sites to be included in the County’s Housing Element update.

Women’s Economic Ventures recognizes the retention, recruitment, and other workforce-related challenges that our County’s current housing supply crisis creates for employers, including ourselves, throughout Santa Barbara County. The proposed rezone sites will lead to much needed housing stock of various types and income levels, alleviating some of the workforce pressure felt by employers in Santa Barbara County.

As a Board Member of the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, I support their efforts to create an Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium, which will give local employers the opportunity to secure housing for their employees. Not only will this program ensure that a portion of the new market rate housing stock goes to the local workforce, but it also streamlines the relationship between local employers and developers, and it eliminates the employers’ administrative burden associated with employer sponsored housing. That is why it is so important that the sites who have agreed to work closely with the Chamber on the development of this program be rezoned.

Currently three of the Chamber’s four partner sites are included in the Planning Commission recommendation for sites to be rezoned. While it would have been preferable to have all four of the Chamber’s partner sites included, I support the Planning Commission recommendation. Currently included are the Chamber’s pilot project – Glen Annie, as well as our additional projects San Marcos Ranch, and the Caird Family Property.

The current recommended sites offer a viable path forward to reaching the County’s State mandated housing goals, the dire housing needs of our local communities, and, most importantly, toward providing housing stock appropriate for our local workforce. I urge you to at least approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation which includes three of the Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium partners, if not a plan that includes all four. Thank you for your support of workforce housing, and consequentially of local employers like Women’s Economic Ventures.

Sincerely,

President and CEO

Women's Economic Ventures

Sincerely,

DUSTIN HOISETH | Public Policy Manager
SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(805) 729-5525 | Dustin@SBSCChamber.com



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**Women's
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April 10, 2024

Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

RE: 2023-31 Housing Element Rezone Amendments

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy J. Odell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'O'.

President and CEO

Women's Economic Ventures