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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

**November 5, 2024**

Mayor Alice Patino and City Councilmembers  
City of Santa Maria  
110 E. Cook Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

**RE: Request for postponement of Orcutt Annexation (Key Site 26/Richard's Ranch) discussion and proposal of a joint City-County Committee**

Dear Mayor Patino and City Councilmembers:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors to request that you postpone action on the annexation of Orcutt Key Site 26, also known as Richard's Ranch, until representatives from both our bodies have had the opportunity to discuss this matter in the context of larger regional issues impacting both the City of Santa Maria and the County of Santa Barbara.

As you may know, Key Site 26 is a significant part of the Orcutt community and the Orcutt Community Plan. However, it was not originally considered a critical element of the City of Santa Maria's growth strategy, as it was not included in the City's General Plan update discussions until recently.

A central issue surrounding the annexation of Key Site 26 is water availability. Over the past few months, staff from both the City and the County have been working collaboratively to explore options for water sales that could facilitate the development of this project while remaining under County jurisdiction.

Moving forward with this annexation at this time would prematurely interrupt these productive discussions and could erode the trust we have been building through our cooperative efforts to identify positive, mutually beneficial solutions. We are aware that the City may have interest in annexing additional areas in the future, and rushing this decision now could compromise a broader, more regional approach to meeting the long-term needs of both the City and the County.

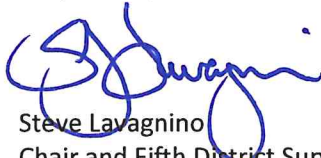
7/27/15

The County has a strong track record of collaboration with the City, including providing over \$1.65 million annually in library funding for Zone 3, partnering to address homeless encampments in the Santa Maria Riverbed, and contributing to the development of Hope Village in conjunction with Dignity Hospital and the Marian Regional Medical Center. Additionally, the County has set aside \$1.4 million from our General Fund for the development of a soccer field in the City. None of these contributions were mandated by law; they represent our commitment to being devoted regional partners.

In light of these longstanding partnerships and the importance of regional cooperation, we respectfully request that the City Council delay making a decision on the annexation of Key Site 26 for at least 90 days. This time will allow for further dialogue between our two entities. We propose that the City designate two City Councilmembers and the County designate two members of the Board of Supervisors, along with staff from both the City and the County, to address the issues at hand and work toward a solution that benefits all parties.

Please feel free to contact the office of Supervisor Bob Nelson or our Assistant County Executive Officer, Wade Horton, at [whorton@countyofsb.org](mailto:whorton@countyofsb.org), to schedule time to restart our discussions on this matter.

Respectfully,



Steve Lavagnino  
Chair and Fifth District Supervisor  
County of Santa Barbara

Cc: Chuen Wu, Acting City Manager, City of Santa Maria