



March 16, 2009

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

RE: 2009-2010 Annual Work Program for Land-Use Planning Projects

Dear Chairman Centeno and Honorable Supervisors,

The Santa Barbara County Action Network (SB CAM) is a county-wide grassroots non-profit dedicated to creating sustainable communities. SB CAM advocates a holistic approach to community planning that integrates housing, open space, and transportation to meet the needs of all members of our community and future generations.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the planning process for the coming year and to help set priorities when funds are limited. We strongly urge you to give the following three projects top priority:

1. The highest priority should be initiating a Gaviota-area Comprehensive Plan Element. Additional funding for this project should be pursued through grant funding. Restructuring and consolidating the County's separate Planning Departments could also free up funds and improve the planning process by adding more planners and reducing the need for managers.
2. Another funding priority should be the development of a Climate Action Strategy. Now is the time for the county to do its part in developing strategies for addressing the effects of global warming.
3. A third funding priority should be the development of a Rural Plan for the Lompoc Valley. Comprehensive planning for this area is long overdue and, as a result, piecemeal planning threatens the long term viability of agriculture.

In addition, we oppose funding for the Rural Agriculture Diversification Study. This project was not on the original work plan as it went to the Planning Commission, and the public has not had the time or opportunity to thoroughly understand the purpose or parameters of this project.

Sincerely,

Deborah Brasket
SB CAN Executive Director

Delivered by email 3-16-09

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