

**Ramirez, Angelica**

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**From:** Joe Armendariz <joe@armendarizpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 9:16 AM  
**To:** Ramirez, Angelica  
**Subject:** FW: Today's County Budget Workshop



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**From:** Joe Armendariz  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** sbcob@countyofsb.org  
**Cc:** Miyasato, Mona ; dwilliams@countyofsb.org; ghart@countyofsb.org; jhartmann@countyofsb.org; Adam, Peter ; stevelavagnino  
**Subject:** Today's County Budget Workshop

Monday, April 13, 2020

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Greg Hart, Chair  
Supervisor Williams, Supervisor Hartmann  
Supervisor Adam, Supervisor Lavagnino

Re: Today's Budget Workshop (PC)

We respectfully ask that these comments be read into the record

Good Morning Members of the Board:

The Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association believes it is essential that when the state decides to end the lock-down of the economy, our local governments should commit to examining the local rules and regulations governing our local permitting and approval process.

When businesses find themselves unable to re-open their doors because their business model didn't anticipate, or allow for, the forced closing of their business by external forces over which they had no influence or control, hundreds, maybe several hundred new businesses will emerge to replace them. Some will do so very quickly.

Those of you who are responsible for leading our county need to anticipate this inevitability and start planning now for it. Saving time is vital. Time is money, after all. And no entity needs money more right now than the county. So your actions and decisions should demonstrate that.

If we've learned anything over these past several weeks it is that the private sector is nimble and agile. A business model can turn on a dime with the right set of incentives. New business ventures will come knocking on the doors of local government with applications for the necessary permits to open, or re-open, expand, and ultimately operate. The answer should be yes, and absolutely. The attitude should be how can we help?

Our local governments must treat our local businesses fairly when this crisis finally ends. And there's no better way to treat a business fairly than by relaxing the redundancies in the approval process so they can expedite the day when businesses can turn on the lights, and hang an open for business sign in the window. That will be the day when thousands of our friends and neighbors can go back to work, and start earning an income, and our local governments can start to receive the revenues needed to deliver essential services.

Our local elected leaders must meet this challenge. If it hasn't happened already, we suggest a task force be created to start studying this issue right now. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Joe Armendariz  
Executive Director, SBCTA  
[www.sbcta.org](http://www.sbcta.org)