



The voice of our community

January 8, 2012

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Special Events Policy, Item #8, Board Agenda of January 10, 2012

Dear Supervisors:

We have reviewed the proposed policy regarding Special Events being presented to the Board of Supervisors at your meeting on January 10, 2012. We do not believe the policy addresses the concerns that have been expressed in several communities county-wide and again request that the CEO consult with interested community groups prior to policy adoption. While the proposed policy addresses Special Events taking place on public property, we are concerned that Temporary Events on private property are exempted from the policy.

The Montecito Association has requested that the County improve internal communication in an effort to ensure that Temporary Events are properly permitted and neighborhood concerns are addressed. Given that the primary problem is that commercial events on private property are not obtaining permits as required by the Land Use Development Codes, it seems that such events that come to the attention of a County department or agency as a result of road encroachment permit or security service requests should be reviewed by the proposed committee. If the need for a zoning permit is identified, then the policy should require directing the project proponent to obtain the required zoning permits before other approvals are granted.

Our concerns could be addressed by clarifying the proposed policy applicability (Attachment A, Background, first bullet point) to specify that Temporary Events on private property that have applied for the required conditional use permit (not a Land Use Permit as referenced) would not be subject to the proposed interdepartmental review (they will already be the subject of interdepartmental coordination through the Subdivision/Development Review Committee). The second bullet point under Background should be revised to include events on private property for which a planning permit application has not been submitted (vs. required). Additionally, the examples and terminology should be corrected to include Temporary Events as these are defined in the zoning codes and to clarify the types of planning permits typically required. If part of the intent is to capture Temporary Events on private property that are exempt from planning permits (such as charitable events of less than 300 persons in Montecito), that should be explicitly stated.

Thank you very much for considering our comments. Should you wish to refer this policy back to the CEO for revisions, we would be happy to provide assistance on behalf of interested community members.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Nordlund, President

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1469 E. Valley Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

P.O. Box 5278
Santa Barbara, CA 93150
Tel: (805) 969-2026
Fax (805) 969-4043

info@montecitoassociation.org
www.montecitoassociation.org