

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment



A-45

From: Lindy Hatcher <lhatcher@hbacc.org>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:59 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Lindy Hatcher
Subject: HBACC Comments re Annexation of Site 26 11-4-2024
Attachments: SB BOS Annexation Letter 11-4-2024.pdf

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Dear Chair Lavagnino and Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

Please find the attached letter from HBA of the Central Coast regarding Annexation of Site 26.

Thank you.

Lindy

Lindy Hatcher, MSA, CGS
Executive Director
HBA of the Central Coast
PO Box 748, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
www.hbacc.org



November 4, 2024

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Sent via email

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of the Homebuilders Association of the Central Coast regarding the proposal to delay the annexation process for Key Site 26 (Richard's Ranch) at the request of Supervisor Nelson. Delaying this project sets a negative precedent that could disrupt our region's collaborative spirit, an outcome that neither the County nor the City of Santa Maria can afford.

While the County and City share a history of productive partnerships, using the annexation of Key Site 26 as leverage for political or regional agendas risks undermining our long-standing mutual respect and cooperative approach. The annexation proposal, situated within the City of Santa Maria's sphere of influence, is not only a District 4 issue but is precisely the type of situation for which state law provides a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) review process. This project, like others before it, should move through that legally established pathway rather than becoming a bargaining chip in regional discussions.

Furthermore, any attempt to delay this project under the guise of unresolved water concerns ignores months of collaboration between the project team and County staff. At the conclusion of these discussions, it was clear that attempting to move the project to the County at this point would add unnecessary years to the approval timeline, with no guarantee of water or other resources. The existing LAFCO process and annexation framework allow for these issues to be addressed without external influence from additional jurisdictions.

Respectfully, if Supervisor Nelson or any other supervisor feels strongly about this matter, they are free to communicate their concerns individually. However, this is not an issue that requires collective intervention by the County Board. Moving forward with the annexation of Key Site 26 does not preclude further regional dialogue on water access or other potential annexations, which can and should proceed independently.

In conclusion, we urge the Board to allow this annexation process to move forward unimpeded. Holding up this project not only undermines the city's role in managing its growth but also signals to our regional partners and developers that future projects could face similar politically driven obstacles. Let us continue to foster a spirit of regional cooperation by respecting each jurisdiction's established processes and focusing our efforts on joint planning for future needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lindy Hatcher'.

Lindy Hatcher
Executive Director
Home Builders Association of the Central Coast