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Public Comment - [unclear]

Ramirez, Angelica

**From:** William J. Siembieda <wsiembie@calpoly.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 7:07 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Letter for the Board of Supervisors  
**Attachments:** SB CVVA Board Ltr sbcob.docx



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Dear Clerk of the Board:

Attached is a letter for the Board of Supervisors, for use in their November 9, 2021 meeting.

Please distribute to all members.

Thank you,

William Siembieda

To: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (through the Clerk of the Board)

Date: November 5, 2021

RE: The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report

Dear Bob Nelson, Chairperson and Members of the Board:

On November 09, 2021 you will be discussing the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) Report, its relevance, and how it may influence the Adaptation Plan and the Safety Element of the County's General Plan. I wish to comment on the report as part of your discussion.

I am William Siembieda, PhD, AICP, Professor Emeritus of City and Regional Planning at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. I served as a senior member of the team that prepared the 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2018 State of California Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans; and have served as World Bank, and Asian Development Bank advisor on disaster risk reduction. Also, I co-edited an American Institute of Architects report on the Montecito Debris Flow disaster. My work focuses on disaster risk reduction through the land use planning process. In regards to Santa Barbara's CCVA, I serve as an uncompensated outside advisor to the project Core Team.

The CCVA is important as can serve the County in various ways. First, it establishes how climate change will impact the county. Second, it identifies which groups will be most impacted by climate change. Third, it establishes metrics to use in decisions on how to lessen climate change impacts. The matrices of impact and vulnerability serve as basic indicators for the county. All County departments will be able to use the CCVA data in their own decision making regarding lessening impacts, and targeting investments in lowering vulnerability. The CCVA provides a framework for understanding the connectivity between natural hazard threats and the potential for cascading disasters, such as occurred in the Montecito debris flow case, where a small fire near Thomas Aquinas College traveled 45 miles north west and its impact ended with deaths, and the closure of US101. Such cascading experiences shows that all county government activities are connected, through various networks.

In various ways, this CCVA opens up a way of thinking that supports integrative actions, and rejects the silo and business as usual approach to safety, adaptation, and risk reduction. So, this is an important report that needs reading by all county departments. The contributions of the various County core team members, demonstrate the quality of work done, and the desire to use the report's understanding of climate change as a tool for lowering vulnerability. A job well done, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Santa Barbara is not the only county that involved in climate change analysis. In October 2021, the County of Los Angeles issued their climate vulnerability analysis report. Comparing the two reports shows there is more than one approach to addressing the topic. Santa Barbara

County's effort is well conceived and executed. I urge your support for its use throughout the county.

Sincerely,

William Siembieda