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Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu St
Santa Barbara, Ca 93101

May 22, 2012

Re: Agenda Item #2 (5/22/12) – Citygate Report to SB County

Dear Chairwoman Farr and Board:

For more than six decades the Mission Canyon Association has been working to promote fire protection, firewise education and environmental awareness within our canyon. We developed the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan within Santa Barbara County. These plans provide strategies to mitigate wildfire risk and restore healthier, more resilient ecosystems while protecting life and property. Our first CWPP permitted us to successfully obtain Fire Safe Council grants. The creation of defensible space from these grants is credited with providing space for firefighters to defend and save dozens of homes within our canyon during the Jesusita Fire and we are deeply indebted to the firefighters who fought to preserve our community.

In this context our Fire Committee has reviewed the Citygate Report to SB County and we urge the Board of Supervisors to implement the most important recommendations within this report.

Specifically, present Fire Department revenue sources are not projected to rise fast enough to keep up with the rising cost of providing the current level of fire services unless new sources of revenue are developed for the Department. The Mission Canyon Association urges the Board of Supervisors to approve the recommended Tax Transfer Resolution being considered under Agenda Item #2.

Thank you, sincerely,

Ray Smith

President

Mission Canyon Association

Mission Canyon Association
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