

BROOKS FIRESTONE

County Supervisor

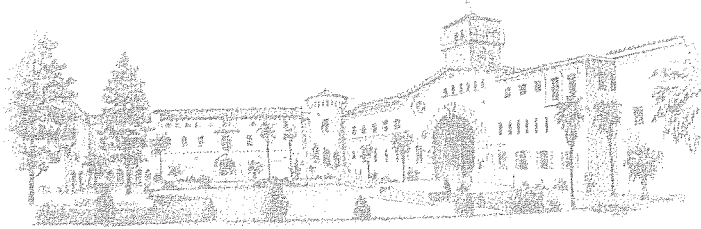
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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

#-5

September 20, 2006



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

RE: Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan (SYVCP)

Dear Colleagues:

As directed by the Board at our July 18, 2006 hearing, Supervisor Gray and I, acting as a subcommittee of the Board, conducted a community meeting at the Solvang Veterans' Hall on September 13, 2006, to gather additional public comment on the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan.

In response to the public testimony received, the Subcommittee recommends that the Board approve initiation of the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan for environmental review subject to the following recommendations:

1. The Plan should be amended to eliminate any and all public recreational multi-use trails proposed on private property or along private roads. The Draft Plan identified several proposed trails on both public and private lands and along both public and private roadways to be built only on willing property owner's land. Public comment at the Board hearing and at the Subcommittee meeting disclosed that there were not willing property owners.
2. To avoid confusion, the list of Potential Historic Resources (Appendix I) should be removed. Inclusion of this list was purely informational. The Plan proposed no additional regulation of historic sites.
3. The designation of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) areas and applicable policies and development standards in the Plan should be removed. The identified biological resources and habitats are already protected by Federal, State and/or County regulations; therefore this portion of the Plan is redundant.
4. Comprehensive Planning should review the Plan for accuracy and consistency with other County documents prior to preparation of the EIR.
5. Comprehensive Planning should separate the Wastewater and Water Section into two separate chapters.

6. Throughout the EIR process, Comprehensive Planning should continue to work with the various water agencies to address their concerns regarding the adequacy of the Water section.
7. Increased traffic, especially on Highway 154 is of great concern to Valley residents. The EIR should consider reducing the use of Valley roadways as a shortcut for commuters from the North County to Santa Barbara.
8. The Plan should address the need for additional recreational fields and provide policies that encourage playing field development.
9. The preservation of the integrity of the goals, policies and development standards included in the Plan are of paramount importance to the community. Therefore, the Plan should include a policy stating that the County shall oppose the removal of land from the Plan area by any government entity without a pre-annexation agreement that would assure adherence to the Plan.

In light of public testimony, these suggestions should be adopted to provide a more constructive foundation for the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan.

Sincerely,



Brooks Firestone
Third District Supervisor

Joni Gray
Fourth District Supervisor

CC:

Steven Thompson, City Manager, City of Buellton

Marlene Demery, City Manager, City of Solvang

Vincent Armenta, Chairman, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Bruce Wales, General Manager, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District

Chris Dahlstrom, General Manager, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District No. 1