

Sarah Mayer Public Comment - Transphorm

From: Randy Berg <randyberg@transphormusa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 5:03 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment - May 3 Board of Supervisors Rezone Hearing
Attachments: Berg-Rezoning Support.pdf

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Please find attached letter as my strong support of the recommended rezoning under consideration.

Kind

Randy Berg | CHRO

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April 16, 2024

Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

RE: 2023-31 Housing Element Rezone Amendments

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors:

As a representative of Transphorm I would like to express my strong support for the Planning Commission's recommendation of sites to be included in the County's Housing Element update. Transphorm, a technical innovator started and working in Goleta, recognizes the retention, recruitment, and other workforce-related challenges that our County's current housing supply crisis creates for employers like us throughout Santa Barbara County. The proposed rezone sites will lead to much needed housing stock of various types and income levels, alleviating some of the workforce pressure felt by employers in Santa Barbara County.

As an Executive Board Member and industry partner of the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, I support their efforts to create an Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium, which will give local employers the opportunity to secure housing for their employees. Not only will this program ensure that a portion of the new market rate housing stock goes to the local workforce, but it also streamlines the relationship between local employers and developers, and it eliminates the employers' administrative burden associated with employer sponsored housing. That is why it is so important that the sites who have agreed to work closely with the Chamber on the development of this program be rezoned.

Currently three of the Chamber's four partner sites are included in the Planning Commission recommendation for sites to be rezoned. While it would have been preferable to have all the Chamber's partner sites included, I support the Planning Commission recommendation. Currently included is the Chamber's pilot project – Glen Annie, San Marcos Ranch, and the Caird Family Property. The current recommended sites offer a viable path forward to reaching the County's State mandated housing goals, the dire housing needs of our local communities, and, most importantly, toward providing housing stock appropriate for our local workforce. I urge you to at least approve the Planning Commission's recommendation which includes three of the Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium partners, if not a plan that includes all four. Thank you for your support of workforce housing, and consequentially of local employers like Transphorm.

Sincerely,



Randy Berg
CHRO
Transphorm