

#5

P&D Hearing Support
123 E. Anapamu
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

FPFC# 1306712

December 5, 2008



STEERING COMMITTEE

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Dear Santa Barbara County Planning Commssioners:

I am writing on behalf of a local community advocacy organization, Buellton Is Our Town, to register our strong opposition to amending the County General Plan to allow town houses and hotels to be built on agricultural lands in Santa Barbara County. This is a terrible precedent that cannot be limited by any effort to constrain this General Plan exception to golf courses or recreational areas.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Buellton Is Our Town was the sponsor of a successful November 2008 ballot initiative that establishes a voter-approved Urban Growth Boundary around Buellton. It passed by almost 70 percent of the vote, despite an obscure ballot title and a confusing competing initiative put forward by the City Council. It passed because the people want to maintain Buellton's small-town character and limit sprawl into surrounding agricultural lands. Development should occur within city Urban Growth Boundaries, not on ag and open space lands.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LEO ELOVITZ

MARKETING & GRAPHIC DESIGN

BOB FIELD

SVN LIAISON

JAMES POWELL

WEBMASTER

The proposed development near La Purisima is situated on ag lands between Buellton and Lompoc. It would represent hop-scotch development of the worst kind and would create pressures for both Lompoc and Buellton to sprawl outward. It is also in direct conflict with SB 375, California's new law that encourages development within existing urban areas to reduce green-house gas emissions from cars.

The proposed amendments to the General Plan are ill-conceived and should be flatly rejected as violating sound land-use planning principles.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hartmann, J.D., Ph.D.
Steering Committee