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October 28, 2008

Chairman Salud Carbajal and Members
of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93103

Re: Firefox Appeal

Dear Chairman Carbajal and Members of the Board:

It is with pleasure that we are returning to your Board on November 4, 2008 for final action on the Firefox Sandstone Carving Land Use Permit appeal. As you will recall, this matter was heard by the Board in March of this year, at which time the Board majority voted to uphold our appeal. Final action on the land use permit could not occur at that meeting, however, as the project had never received environmental review.

Since March, we have completed the environmental review process and worked closely with staff (our sixth planner) to develop a set of conditions which are appropriate to assure that the project remains accessory to the primary agricultural use of the site. There were no public comments received during the environmental review process, and no adverse effects were identified which could not be mitigated to a less than significant level through standard mitigation measures. As part of the Negative Declaration, a separate noise study was completed to assure that there would be no noise impacts to the surrounding area. Additionally, the project description was revised to respond to the Board majority's direction that work at this location be limited to rock cutting and splitting, with no fine carving or finish work, along with other minor changes and clarifications requested by the Board. As was mentioned at the last hearing, since the inception of this application in 2002, Mr. Langhorne had acquired a location in the City of Santa Barbara where the fine carving and finish work takes place. Consequently, limiting the project to rock cutting and splitting is appropriate. Mr. Langhorne has reviewed the Negative Declaration and the staff report and accepts each of the conditions included therein.

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We wish to extend our appreciation to Errin Briggs, our most recent planner, for his timely and thorough review, as well as his cooperative approach to completing this project. We continue to believe this application is an appropriate accessory use in an agricultural zone; one which will not only enhance the viability of Mr. Langhorne's nursery, but will further the long term success of urban agriculture in these competitive times. We look forward to your final action in upholding the appeal and granting the LUP on November 4th. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen M. Weinheimer".

Kathleen M. Weinheimer