



# County of Santa Barbara

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Minute Order

April 7, 2026

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**Present:** 4 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, Supervisor Hartmann, and Supervisor Nelson  
**Absent** 1 - Supervisor Lavagnino

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

File Reference No. 26-00294

**RE:** HEARING - Consider recommendations regarding the Richards Ranch Reorganization Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) File No. 24-08 Tax Exchange Arbitration, as follows:  
(EST. TIME: 45 MIN.)

- a) Receive and file a report on the outcome of the advisory arbitration regarding a property tax exchange between the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Maria as required by the proposed Richards Ranch Reorganization Annexation to the City of Santa Maria LAFCO File No. 24-08;
- b) Reject the property tax exchange offer selected by the contracted arbitrator, based upon certain findings of fact; and
- c) Find that the proposed actions are administrative activities of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect changes to the environment and therefore are not a “project” as defined for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

*HEARING TIME: 11:24 AM - 12:03 PM (39 MIN.)*

**Received and filed staff presentation and conducted a public hearing.**

**Chuen Wu, Michael Stoltey, Jeffrey Pemstein, Laurie Tamura, Jocelyn Brennan and Damien Mavis addressed the Board**

**A motion was made by Supervisor Nelson, seconded by Supervisor Lee, that this matter be acted on as follows:**

- a) Received and filed;
- b) Rejected the property tax exchange offer; and
- c) Approved.

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 3 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, and Supervisor Nelson

**Noes:** 1 - Supervisor Hartmann



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