



**From:** Nancy <nancynpwork@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 12:28 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** SBCAN letter in support of using underutilized county-owned land to build affordable and workforce housing  
**Attachments:** SBCAN- PCL\_ County-Owned Land.docx.pdf

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Good afternoon,

Please see the attached for SBCAN's letter of support in using underutilized county-owned land to build affordable and workforce housing (empty parking lots rather than the IV Community Center and IV clinic buildings).

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy Avoce  
Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN)  
Assistant Director



April 24, 2024

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN), we ask the county to consider plots of land owned by the county that are underutilized to be used to develop affordable housing units and workforce housing units.

SBCAN, for all our 22 years, has advocated for affordable housing throughout the county while attempting to preserve open space.

Hundreds of acres of county-owned land are currently vacant or underutilized. The easiest way to come up with affordable housing units which are severely lacking throughout the county is to take advantage of underutilized county-owned land so that we can maximize and prioritize affordability, provide workforce housing and decrease commute times and greenhouse gas emissions, and protect open spaces which county residents hold as sacred. We would like to emphasize that the county should prioritize using lots of county-owned land like empty parking lots rather than lots such as the Isla Vista Community Center and Isla Vista Clinic Buildings.

County-owned land is funded by Santa Barbara County taxpayers and data shows that our greatest need is affordable housing units so that we can work, live, and play. We would like to elevate that a third of the county's employees (over 1000 employees) cannot afford to live within the county. Developing housing on county-owned land can help guarantee that housing units will go directly to local employees rather than out-of-town investors. This can help disrupt additional gentrification and can promote stability for our hard-working residents.

This approach has already been deemed successful by other employee housing developments. The County (which is the sixth most expensive in the nation) should also lead by example, demonstrating to Santa Barbara County residents that our voices have been heard and that our need for affordable and workforce housing units is urgent. We believe that it is imperative for the county government to promote affordable housing for food workers, school employees, and everyone else who makes our community thrive, especially while wages have not kept up with rents and real estate prices. It is time for the County to help form Santa Barbara County's legacy and to promote an inclusive and advancing community.

Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Nancy Avoce  
Assistant Director

Dick Flacks  
Co-President

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