

Ramirez, Angelica

Special Issues - Planning & Development

From: Joe Armendariz <joe@armendarizpartners.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Ramirez, Angelica
Cc: Miyasato, Mona; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; stevelavagnino
Subject: County Budget Workshop (Planning & Development)



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Monday, April 13, 2020

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Greg Hart, Chair
Supervisor Williams, Supervisor Hartmann
Supervisor Adam, Supervisor Lavagnino

Re: Planning & Development

We respectfully ask that these comments be read into the record

Good Morning Members of the Board:

Along the lines of our previous comments, the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association believes it is absolutely essential that our County's Planning and Development Department becomes focused on moving projects through the review and approval process expeditiously. Our County needs to play a pivotal role in helping with the creation more jobs and more business opportunities to get the economy back on its feet.

We are calling on the County to fast track all job-creating projects currently in the County pipeline to help get people employed and the County solvent. We believe the market-place should decide what is a viable business idea and what is not. We believe it is bad policy to allow outside special interests to have a disproportionate say in what local projects are approved, and which ones are not.

It is not an overstatement to say that people's livelihoods are at risk. Hundreds of millions of dollars in new and much needed revenue is at stake. In many cases re-training the local labor force is going to be needed to create new jobs. Therefore, growing our local tax base is vital so that we can get tax revenue back into our local education system. North County has perhaps been hardest hit by the Coronavirus as there are far fewer white collar jobs, the type of

businesses that are weathering this storm much easier, in the North County. The North County needs more jobs, including blue-collar and white collar. And the North County also needs more property tax revenues to fund its k-14 public education system.

The Planning and Development Department is the revenue generating arm of the County. Using it to simply generate fees isn't good enough. The County needs to focus like a laser beam on economic development, especially in the North County, so that the property-tax revenue pie can double, and even triple as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Joe Armendariz
Executive Director, SBCTA
www.sbcta.org