

Michael F. Brown
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CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEMORANDUM
March 20, 2006

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Michael Allen, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board
Re: Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure H 2006

Supervisors Carbajal and Firestone have submitted the attached rebuttal to the argument in favor of Measure H 2006, the Mission County Formation Ballot Measure. This matter will be considered as Departmental Item #1 on the March 21, 2006 Board of Supervisors' agenda. Rebuttals to arguments in favor of and in opposition to Measure H 2006 must be submitted to the County Elections Office no later than 5:00 PM on Friday March 24, 2006.

Many of the claims in the pro-split ballot statement are simply incorrect:

- The majority of members of the current Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors live in the north.
- Although populations of north and south are about equal, currently a majority of the funds of the County are spent in the north.
- The proposed Mission County would suffer an annual deficit of \$30 million, not including the millions that will be spent for startup costs, such as acquiring office space and equipment and hiring new staff. New revenue figures have not changed these facts.
- Projected “efficiency savings” are speculative and unlikely. Much of the county budget is for state mandated services such as courts that cannot be cut below minimum levels.

Legally, counties must have balanced budgets. The proposed new Mission County would be forced to raise fees and taxes or reduce services like road maintenance, public health and public safety. The enormous cost and complexity of dividing Santa Barbara County in two is not justified by the proponent’s frustrations with county land-use policy decisions. Cities control this function for most of our residents and legitimate concerns with policies of elected officials are best addressed at the ballot box.

Most of all, Santa Barbara County’s desirability and reputation are the envy of all who visit. Our economy is strong, land values are high, and our quality of life is great. We have built our strong communities together.

Read the County Auditor’s independent analysis. The numbers speak for themselves. We are stronger together.