

## Public Comment

**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** victor trujillo <victrujillo1989@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2026 2:59 PM  
**To:** Roy Lee; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Bob Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; sbcob  
**Subject:** Concerns Regarding the Appointment of the New County CEO

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**To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,**

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the appointment of Jana Petersen as the next County Executive Officer.

While Ms. Petersen's background in Boulder County is noted, the decision to hire an out-of-state candidate for a role overseeing 4,700 employees and a \$1.6 billion budget is disheartening to those of us who have spent our careers serving this community. Santa Barbara County faces specific, localized challenges that require a deep, nuanced understanding of our region—knowledge that takes years to acquire on the ground here.

As a qualified professional and an inventor with over 10 years of executive experience, I believe it is vital for the Board to prioritize transparency and local expertise. Choosing an outsider over highly qualified local candidates risks damaging staff morale and delaying progress on urgent local initiatives while a new CEO spends months learning our landscape.

I respectfully request a response detailing the specific metrics used to favor an out-of-state candidate over local professionals with established community ties. As a 35-year resident deeply invested in the success of this County, I believe our leadership must reflect the talent and expertise of the people who actually live and work here.

I look forward to your transparency on this matter.

Sincerely,

**Victor Trujillo**  
CEO / Inventor  
35-Year Resident of Santa Barbara County