

SANTA BARBARA REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 3, 2012

Supervisor Doreen Farr
Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
County Administration Building
105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SUBJECT: Miramar Hotel Re-Development

Dear Supervisor Farr and members of the Board:

The Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest business association in the Region. Since its founding in 1875, the Chamber has represented business interests and committed its focus to building and sustaining a vibrant economy and a high quality of life for the Region.

The Chamber of Commerce believes that the redevelopment of the Miramar Hotel is in the best interests of the community. We encourage the Board of Supervisors to continue to work with Caruso Affiliated to facilitate the demolition and redevelopment of the hotel.

The Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce supports the Caruso Affiliated request for a one-year extension of the Miramar Hotel coastal development permit.

The Chamber board supports a plan to immediately remediate and demolish all buildings on the Miramar site. In exchange for this work, the board recommends a five-year extension of the project's entitlements.

The Chamber board supports the concept of economic incentives to speed the demolition of the current site and the construction of a new hotel. The economic incentives should be based on similar incentives that have been applied to support the development of other hotel projects in the Region. The Chamber board does not support the waiver of transient occupancy tax.

Thank you for your consideration of the perspective of local business.

Sincerely,



Janet A. Garufis
Chairwoman

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