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# W.E. WATCH

WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH. P.O. BOX 830, SOLVANG, CA 93464  
SERVING THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

September 30, 2009

Joseph Centeno, Chair  
Salud Carbajal  
Janet Wolf  
Doreen Farr  
Joni Gray  
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
205 East Anapamu Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101



Re: Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan update

Dear Chairman Centeno and Supervisors:

We have been an appreciative participant in the Plan update from the Valley Blueprint, GPAC, VPAC, DEIR, various public hearings through the Planning Commission hearings. Now we have reached the culmination of all those efforts. Many of our concerns have been addressed throughout the process and by means of action items inserted in the plan.

W.E. Watch would like to draw your attention to the following for additional consideration.

Protection of the Dark Night Sky –

The sale of new mercury vapor fixtures was essentially eliminated when the sale of mercury vapor ballasts was banned, effective January 1, 2008. Existing mercury vapor lighting in the Valley makes it impossible to maximize the use of the new UCSB-Los Cumbres Global Telescope Project telescope at the UCSB Reserve. Please change Action VIS-SYV-3.2, paragraph 2, Sentence 2 to read: "The goal would be to replace existing high voltage, mercury vapor, and unshielded lighting with lower voltage, shielded lighting."

"Downzone Alternative" –

W.E. Watch vigorously supports the protection of the rural character of the valley through gateways and corridors. We also support the notion that property owners expect a full and complete review of the circumstances, facts, and issues regarding their properties.

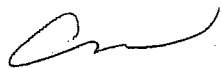
The Planning Commission voted 3/2 to send the SVVCP forward including the downzone alternative. Two of the commissioners voted in the affirmative with a recommendation that the BOS review the appropriateness of specific area downzones. We would like to ask for just such a second look.

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During the planning commission hearings it became apparent that despite the good intentions of all involved the "environmentally superior alternative" was based upon significantly flawed data. The exclusive reliance on assessor's parcels led to the erroneous assumption of the reduction in housing units. When presented with credible evidence of legal parcels with CC's, several commissioners expressed concern that this should be factored into any decision and potential downzone action. It is the opinion of this ardent observer that just such a review is warranted.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,



Cathie McHenry  
President

Cc: Justin Feek, Long Range Planning  
Brian Tetley, Long Range Planning

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