

SANTA BARBARA REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 11, 2001

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Chairperson Joni Gray
Members of the Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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Dear Chairperson Gray and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce, the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce will make a joint presentation to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 17, 2001. As a sub-heading of Agenda Item 1, which is a presentation from the State Director of Housing and Community Development, the Chambers of Commerce will focus their joint presentation on the issue of Workforce Housing on the South Coast.

As the top priority of each Chamber, the business community is greatly concerned about the lack of development of affordable Employee / Workforce Housing on the South Coast. There is a serious housing shortage for all citizens in South Santa Barbara County that must be alleviated in the immediate future. There are four housing projects that are currently being proposed in the Goleta area. Collectively, these projects will create a wide variety of housing types and price-ranges of new units that will satisfy many members of this community who do not currently have adequate housing opportunities.

The four proposed housing projects include the Bishop Ranch Project (located in Goleta North of Highway 101, between Los Carneros Creek and Glen Annie Road), the Residences at Sandpiper Housing Project (located in the Ellwood area across Hollister Avenue from the Sandpiper Golf Course), the Campus Pointe Project (located in Goleta on the West side of Los Carneros Road on the old Raytheon Property), and Sumida Gardens (located on the North side of Hollister Avenue between Patterson and Ward Memorial and immediately East of the St. Raphael's Church property).

The current Goleta Community Plan is not scheduled to be updated until 2003. This means that with the necessary time for proper planning and citizen input, the construction of much needed housing would not be possible to be developed on several of these properties until the year 2006 or later, unless the process is accelerated.

Therefore, the Santa Barbara Region, Goleta Valley, and Carpinteria Valley Chambers of Commerce urge the County of Santa Barbara to encourage the rapid development of a broad range of housing types on these properties. We ask the Board of Supervisors to work with the developers of these projects and immediately commence processing the development plans necessary for the creation of these badly needed housing units.

Affordable Employee / Workforce Housing is a priority of the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce, Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce. We are confident that it is also a priority of the County of Santa Barbara.

Respectfully,



Steve Cushman
Executive Director
Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce

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