



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 303, Los Alamos, California 93440



"WORKING TO SAVE RANCHING"

June 1, 2017

The Honorable Joan Hartmann
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Subject: Planning & Development Annual Work Plan for FY 2017 - 2018

Dear Chair Hartmann and Members of the Board:

The Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association most appreciates the opportunity to comment on the budget review process with respect to the Planning & Development Department's Long Range Planning Division's Annual Work Plan for FY 2017 – 2018.

We are aware of the discussions that took place during the April Budget Workshops and believe there is an opportunity within the existing budget constraints for you to provide the resources for the Long Range Planning Division to undertake projects that are of priority importance to the agricultural community.

The Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association understands the urgency to work on the Union Valley Parkway Extension (UVP) and we support this project. While the UVP was not initially a stated priority project for our Association and the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the UVP is nonetheless important to the ranching community because it corrects a serious circulation deficiency in one of the only two public venues that highlight the ranching culture through the skills related to working horsemanship: The Elks Rodeo and similar competitions where the community can view these Western traditions. The traffic jams created by the current inadequate ingress and egress to the facility discourages attendance to these events and creates an unsafe back-up onto Highway 101 for those accessing the frontage road and the Rodeo grounds entrance.

We respectfully recommend that the Union Valley Parkway Extension could be included along with our priority projects – the Agricultural Permit Tier Program, Categorical Exclusions for agricultural activities in the Coastal Zone, and Agricultural Second Units – in the following manner:

First: Hoop Structures, budgeted at \$213,000, do not need a full environmental analysis. They could be addressed by categorizing the structures as agricultural equipment and through the Agricultural Permit Tier Program, assign Hoop Structures the appropriate permit path.

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Second: The Union Valley Parkway is estimated to cost \$156,000 (which includes \$76,000 (0.5 FTE) and \$80,000 outside contract labor). This work can be accomplished by utilizing the \$213,000 savings from the proposed Hoop Structure budget allocation. This provides \$57,000 in available funds for other priorities.

Third: The Agricultural Permit Tier Program and Categorical Exclusions are currently funded at \$95,000 (0.6 FTE) each, for a total of \$190,000. We believe that the available funds can supplement the work effort to address the appropriate permit paths assigned to all proposed agricultural land uses including current uses and the priorities of the agricultural community: Hoop Structures, and Agricultural Second Units.

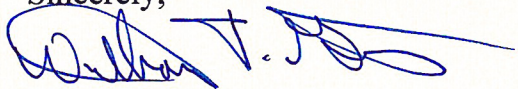
Finally: During your April budget workshops, County Counsel suggested that the Land Use Code and the CZO may need to be amended once a permit path is assigned to Hoop Structures. We believe that when similar amendments are made to the Land Use Code and the CZO for the Agricultural Permit Tier and Categorical Exclusion projects, the available funds can also be applied to include Hoop Structures and Agricultural Second Units in the update of the zoning ordinances.

Given the substantial work that has already been done on Residential Agricultural Units, Residential Second Units in the AG-I zone district, along with the Residential Incentive Unit in the Gaviota Coast Plan, there should be enough background information (such as the number of RAUs and RSUs that have actually been built) to plan for these items.

The Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association also believes that this approach can accomplish several important planning initiatives including bringing clarity to the planning process, addressing our generational housing situation and supporting the County's financial circumstances by generating property tax revenues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We understand the challenges that you face in making choices for the various county departments, but hope you will favorably consider our priorities to help the County's #1 industry – agriculture.

Sincerely,



Bill Giorgi, President

CC: Dr. Glenn Russell, Planning and Development Department