

March 19, 2008

Mr. Erik Axelson
Santa Barbara Park Department
610 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear Mr. Axelson,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation to request twelve (12) additional variance dates for mid-week events at the Santa Barbara Bowl. Due to what appears at this stage to be another great year at the Bowl it is necessary to make this request to accommodate the artists who have expressed interest in playing our facility but are unable to give us a Friday or Saturday.

The experience of the last eleven seasons has revealed the annual necessity of additional dates. The only exception was 2001 when the Bowl closed early (the end of August) to allow access for our contractor to begin the renovation of the stage prior to the rains that thankfully never came. At present the Bowl is undergoing further renovation but will be opening in May for events.

Therefore, it is prudent to request the additional variances in advance. This action gives the Bowl Foundation the ability to book shows with the confidence of pre-approved variances rather than to play catch-up in mid-season with shows pending. As you know the music industry generally wants answers immediately and cannot wait weeks for approvals.

In years past I regularly requested six at a time requiring a second request sometime during the season. The last three years I have requested twelve variances in order to save time and attention for both the Board of Supervisors and the Bowl Foundation. These were granted and indeed most of those variances were utilized. Therefore, I would like to request the twelve initially in order to avoid coming back again. This is proving to be a more efficient practice.

This request is important to both the Bowl itself as well as the community. This season will typically produce a number of shows by great artists that include events presented in order to benefit local non-profit organizations. During the last nine years benefits at the Bowl have raised over a million dollars for such organizations.

In addition, the traffic, parking and security mitigation strategies dealing with neighborhood impact continue to work very well. Also, the Bowl staff and the Santa Barbara Police Department work closely together to ensure safety for all at every performance.

Lastly, the type of artists for whom I request the variances is reasonably non-obtrusive in nature. By this I mean that they have either previously performed at the Bowl without incurring any sound fines or that the information I have suggests that they are not likely to incur said fines. I would point out that although the Foundation is requesting twelve additional variances the actual number used may be less. I simply ask for a block of twelve to avoid this process one more time this season. I would also work with County staff on an individual case by case basis for each of the variances.

Thank you for your attention regarding this request. I believe dealing with this issue early in the season will alleviate the need for the kind of prompt action that I have had to request in the past due to pressing contractual obligations. I stand ready to aid this process in any way possible. In keeping with the variance policy regarding the Santa Barbara Bowl as set by the County of Santa Barbara I am informing you of the shows for which I anticipate using some of these variances.

John Fogerty	May 4
Avril Lavigne	May 6
Michael Buble	May 8
Crosby, Stills & Nash	June 11

This list is not complete but history tells us that more artists will become available as the season progresses. Again, for this reason I am requesting the additional variances in advance.

Very Truly Yours,

Sam Scranton, General Manager