

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment

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From: Holly Lomelino <hollylomelino@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Bob Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; sbcob; Roy Lee
Subject: Mission Isla Vista Housing Project -- Letter for the Record
Attachments: Letter to the Board.pdf

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Dear Chair Capps and Members of the Board,

Thank you so much for your dedication and service to our county and your passion for affordable housing and dealing with the many real issues citizens of our county face.

I enjoyed being able to participate in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors hearing this past Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

I would like to submit the attached letter regarding the Mission Isla Vista housing project at 6737 Sueno Rd. and the recent appeal before the Board of Supervisors.

As a long-time Isla Vista resident and the current tenant at the property, I want to reiterate both my family's deep commitment to this community and my strong concern that our project is being unfairly singled out despite its clear compliance with state law and its clear benefits for students and the neighborhood.

Please consider this letter as part of the official record. I respectfully ask that you follow the law and allow this project to move forward without further delay.

Thank you again for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,
Holly Lomelino

Holly Lomelino
6737 Sueno Road
Isla Vista, CA 93117
September 12, 2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 406 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Mission Isla Vista Housing Development – Appeal of Approval

Dear Chair Capps and Members of the Board,

Thank you for your time and attention during the recent hearing on our proposed housing project at 6737 Sueno Road. I recognize the responsibility you carry in making decisions that balance many voices and priorities in our county, and I appreciate the opportunity to share mine.

My husband and I have lived at 6737 Sueno since 2007, raising our seven children in Isla Vista. We chose to remain in this community, even in a 100-year-old, two-bedroom house, because of our deep love for Isla Vista and for the students who live here. For over two decades we have given our lives to serving this community, and we have seen countless students positively impacted through our work.

I must express my deep concern at the way our project is being singled out. At the very same time that other projects in Isla Vista with **more bedrooms and less parking** are being approved, our proposal is being stalled and made the showcase for the broader parking and housing issues that have long existed here. This is neither fair nor consistent. Parking challenges in Isla Vista are real, but they are not caused by this project, and it is unjust to burden one community-serving project with the responsibility of solving them all.

California law is clear. Under the Housing Accountability Act, SB 330, the State Density Bonus Law, and AB 2097, projects like ours must be approved when they meet objective standards. The law explicitly prohibits requiring parking near major transit stops. And yet, in good faith, we have gone beyond what the law requires by voluntarily providing 24 parking spaces, 100 bicycle parking spaces, tenant transit vouchers, and even evaluating car-share opportunities. This project more than meets its obligations.

Beyond compliance with the law, this project brings clear **community benefits**:

- Affordable units reserved for very-low-income and moderate-income households.
- Infrastructure upgrades including sidewalks, ADA ramps, stormwater systems, lighting, and fire safety improvements.

- Purpose-built, safe, well-managed housing for students, which reduces reliance on overcrowded and unsafe informal rentals.

This project is not just about buildings. It is about giving Isla Vista students a safe place to belong, an alternative to the alcohol-fueled party scene, and a better chance to thrive in community. That is what my family has lived out for years, and this project is a way to expand that impact for the good of students and the broader community.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to follow the law, to act consistently and fairly, and to approve this project without further delay. Please do not let Isla Vista's long-standing challenges be unfairly placed on the shoulders of one project that is, in fact, helping to address them.

Thank you again for your service and your time.

Sincerely,

Holly Lomelino