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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 24, 2017

Chair Hartmann and Board of Supervisors 105 E. Anapamu Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Proposal to Governor's Drought Task Force – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Hartmann and Supervisors:

The Goleta Chamber of Commerce represents 450 businesses and 30,000 jobs in the Goleta area and we support and applaud the Santa Barbara County Operational Area Proposal to the Governor's Drought Task Force report that will be presented to the Board on April 4th, 2017.

The Chamber's Public Policy Committee has dedicated a year-long project in 2017 to research and analyze issues around long-term water security for the Goleta region and County. We are inviting various agencies to meet with our committee so that we can learn what long-term strategies are being considered, the pros and cons of those strategies, the connections and convening that we may offer and support for their work. We aim to present a white paper at the end of the year with our findings and recommendations from the business community's unique and important perspective.

Another goal is to help facilitate a regional dialog and cooperation between communities, so that comprehensive plans can be achieved for the future of our water supply. We were pleased to learn that the County had convened a Drought Task Force, facilitated by the Office of Emergency Management and that all County agencies participated in the working group. Robert Lewin, Director of OEM made a presentation to our committee on March 23rd and we were duly impressed with the scope of work and the resulting list of priority projects.

We therefore lend our support to the Board of Supervisors to approve this report and make every effort to support the request for funding that the report provides. Water security for our region is of critical importance to health and safety, quality of life and business prosperity. Our emphasis is that a funded plan for future inevitable drought conditions are essential to the local economy and jobs. Businesses need certainty and this plan helps address those needs.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kristen Miller President/CEO