

September 11, 2006

Bob Braitman, Executive Officer  
Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission  
105 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman:

For the past four years, representatives from the Committee for One and West Santa Barbara Committee have been working towards the extension of the City of Santa Barbara's Sphere of Influence to the unincorporated areas of Eastern Goleta. In May of 2005, the City Council received a presentation from neighborhood representatives and accepted more than 4,000 signatures in support of extending the sphere of influence to Eastern Goleta.

Based upon this broad show of support for extending the City's Sphere of Influence, the City Council has given its unanimous support to this application and encourages the Local Agency Formation Commission Board (LAFCO) to approve the change.

The Committee for One's application to LAFCO would pre-zone the area to reflect or parallel existing County zoning in the sphere expansion area. The City of Santa Barbara is in support of this and we have recently amended our General Plan to be consistent with that intent.

With regards to the future annexation of this area, the City's intent is to pursue an annexation at an appropriate time with the concurrence of the County and LAFCO. It seems appropriate at this time though to amend the Sphere of Influence to respect the desired wishes of substantive number of residents in this area.

We are also very encouraged by the prospect of excluding the mobile home parks as islands in order to ensure the residents of these mobile home parks that the County's existing mobile home rent control ordinance will remain in effect. We appreciate your support in this area, the legal opinion outlining a viable process for your Board's consideration of this, and trust that the LAFCO Board will join us and the mobile home park residents in providing them with certainty they desire. In addition, the City Council has stated that the intent of any future annexation would be to retain the Goleta Sanitary and Goleta Water districts as independent districts providing water and sewer services to that part of the Goleta Valley. This is also consistent with the LAFCO staff comment in the recently completed Municipal Service Reviews.

Again, thank you and your Board for your consideration of the request from the Committee for One. The volunteer efforts of these neighborhood organizations should be applauded and respected by all of us. We have seen substantive community support for this change, and encourage LAFCO to modify the City of Santa Barbara's Sphere of Influence accordingly.

If you or members of the public would like any additional information, they can contact Paul Casey, Community Development Director, at 564-5503.

Sincerely,

Marty Blum  
Mayor

cc: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator