Leave93436.org
A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization
EIN: 39-3822308
Federal Public Charity Status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Serving the Vandenberg Village and 93436 Community

November 25, 2026

Mike Prater, Executive Officer
Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Via email: lafco@sblafco.org

Re: Item 3, December 10, 2026 Agenda, Fire and EMS Service Review (Resolution LAFCO No. 2026-15)

Dear Mr. Prater:

Leave93436 submits this comment on Item 3 seeking a record correction and five written Service Review determinations for Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills (2020 Census CDP population 10,879: Vandenberg Village 7,308; Mission Hills 3,571; Census CDP counts, not a County Fire service-area count).

Record correction: Attachment D, item 3 (marked "Change Made"), states Chapter 1 Determination (3) for Lompoc Fire added "staffing shortages will force Lompoc Fire to begin taking Engine 52 out of service due to insufficient personnel," yet Exhibit D omits that sentence. Please restore it to Determination (3) and state plainly any reduction in County Fire or Sheriff service levels.

Requested written MSR determinations:

- Station 34 coverage: County Fire is Authority Having Jurisdiction at Station 34 (3510 Harris Grade). Modeled drive times (Exhibit B) place substantial portions of sampled land-area points (100 m grid, not residents or calls) in both communities outside four minutes from Engine 34, the urban first-due travel time recommended in the 2020 County Fire Standards of Cover study (a study recommendation, not an adopted standard; modeled times, not dispatch data). Please obtain Station 34 call counts, population served, and actual response times.
- Engine 52 and automatic-aid reliance: Lompoc City Fire funds Engines 51 (115 S. G St.) and 52 (1100 N. D St.; 30 FTEs, nine daily personnel). The MSR notes "ongoing engineer shortages" and Rescue 51 brownouts; Attachment D cites Engine 52 going out of service due to "insufficient personnel"; and City HR told Council on May 5, 2026 (Santa Maria Sun, May 28, 2026) that staff leave over "the low pay level for each position in the Fire Department as compared to other surrounding agencies." Under Cooperative Dispatch (May

12, 2025), Lompoc Fire may respond first or as backup. The County appears to rely on City-funded engines for automatic aid when Station 34 is committed, and that reliance is weakening and has not been analyzed. Please quantify automatic-aid flows and analyze impacts on Station 34.

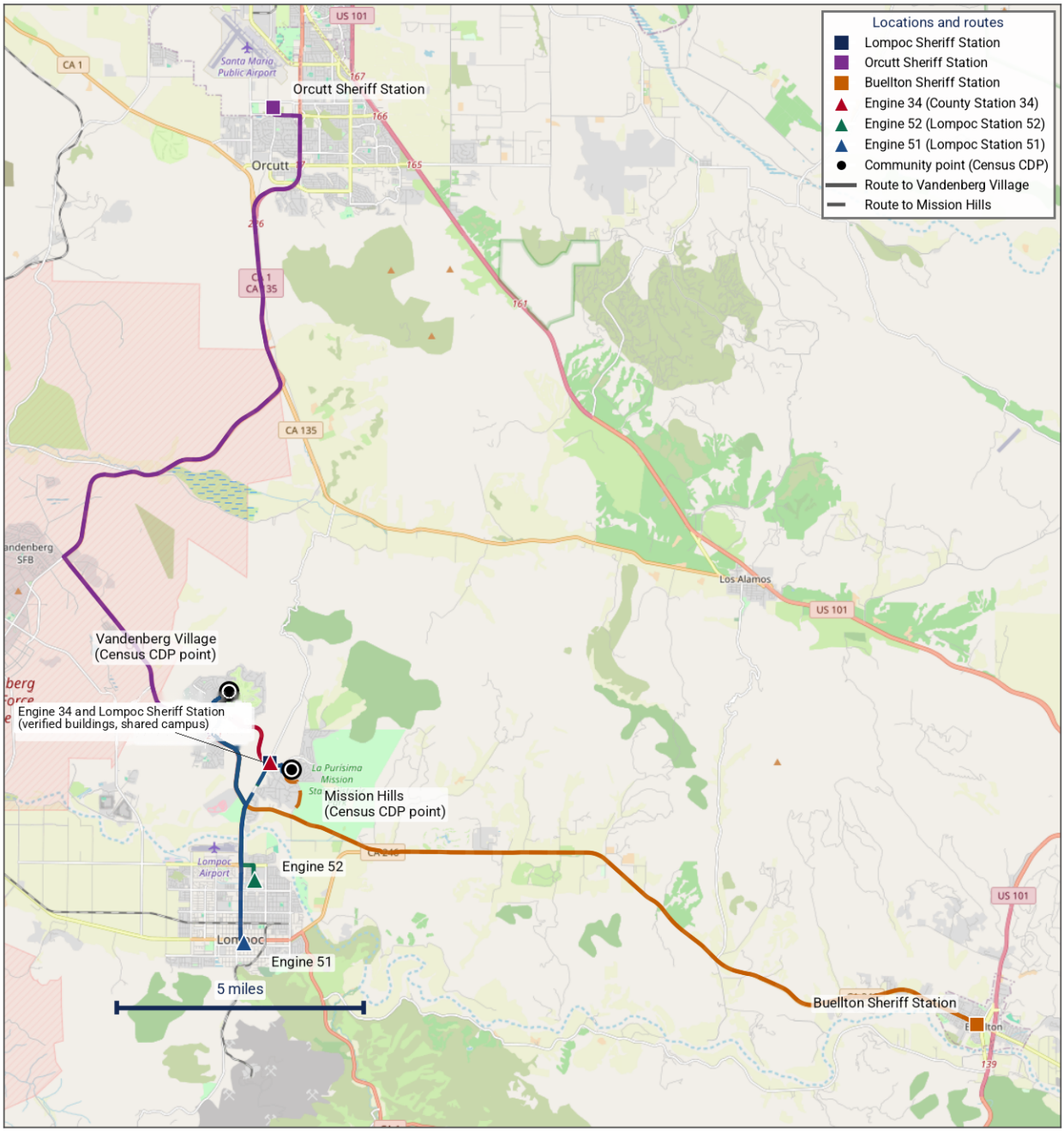
- Sheriff coverage: Patrol for these communities (121 sq. mi.) is assigned to Lompoc Station (3500 Harris Grade Rd., sharing a campus with Station 34), with no public record patrol moved to Buellton or Orcutt after 30 Sheriff positions ($5,044,794) were unfunded in FY 2026-27 (Resolution No. 26-147; April 2026 workshop noted "less patrol coverage in county unincorporated areas"). Residents report reduced presence and an often unstaffed station; station staffing does not establish mobile patrol locations or response times. Modeled drive times (Exhibit B) place all sampled points outside eight minutes from Orcutt and Buellton (a hypothetical comparison; the workshop lists a performance measure, not a standard, of 75 percent of in-progress calls within eight minutes). Please obtain patrol staffing, staffed hours, and actual response times.
- Egress and roads: The Safety Element flags Vandenberg Village South and Gardengate Lane for fewer than two egress roads. Caltrans reported 22 collisions (2018-2022) at Highway 1 and Santa Lucia Canyon Rd. before closing northbound left turns in Aug. 2025 (retaining emergency access) and rerouting traffic toward Constellation Rd. (SBCAG, Feb. 12, 2025); CHP-cited press reports note four fatal Highway 1 collisions between Lompoc and Vandenberg Village (2023-2024). Caltrans Project 05-1N890 (VSFB Gate to 0.3 mi north of Purisima Rd.) cites poor pavement (Fall 2028-Spring 2030 construction; SBCAG, Sept. 17, 2026), amid a countywide PCI of 58 and $358.87M backlog (FY 2026-27 CIP). Please obtain collision, delay, and pavement records.
- Cumulative housing demand: Beyond Lompoc's about 9.2 percent growth (2020-2050) and 302 unincorporated Vandenberg/Mission Hills units, demand includes Burton Ranch Specific Plan (Feb. 6, 2024), Constellation hotel/residential (approved Nov. 17, 2026; resident evacuation and Highway 1/Constellation Rd. comments), and pending Apollo Way (Jan. 12, 2026 Caltrans safety-analysis request). Please analyze added call load on Station 34 and Sheriff responders.

Attachment: Exhibits A and B, maps.

Sincerely,

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Demand Better For Our Residents
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Exhibit A. Sheriff and fire station locations and computed drive routes to Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills



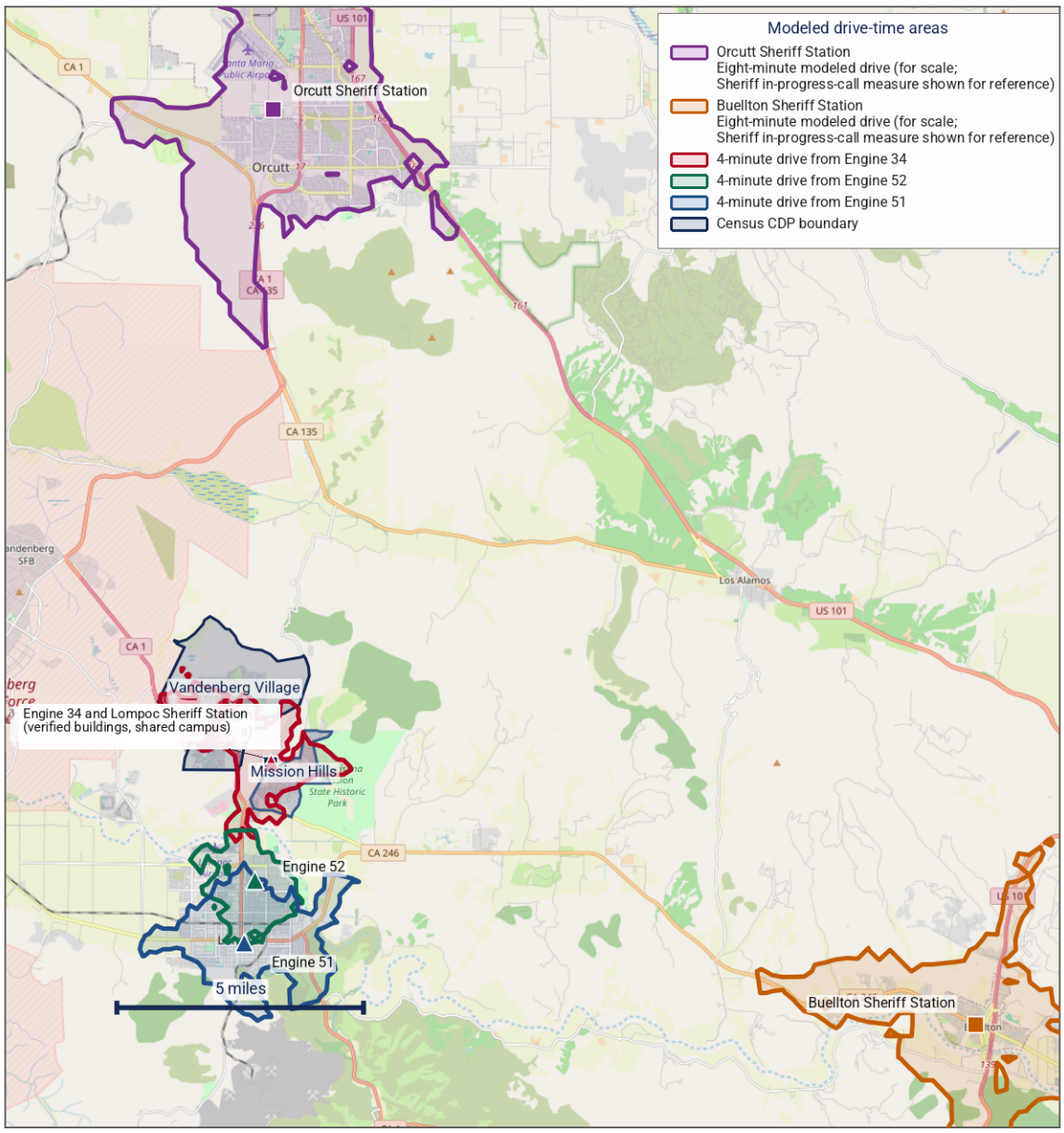
Computed drive estimates

From	To	Distance	Drive time
Orcutt Sheriff	Vandenberg Village	19.1 mi (30.7 km)	25 min
Orcutt Sheriff	Mission Hills	20.5 mi (33.1 km)	27 min
Buellton Sheriff	Vandenberg Village	19.2 mi (30.9 km)	32 min
Buellton Sheriff	Mission Hills	16.6 mi (26.7 km)	29 min

From	To	Distance	Drive time
Engine 34	Vandenberg Village	2.5 mi (4.0 km)	5.4 min
Engine 34	Mission Hills	0.6 mi (1.0 km)	2.1 min
Engine 52	Vandenberg Village	4.7 mi (7.6 km)	10.0 min
Engine 52	Mission Hills	3.3 mi (5.3 km)	7.2 min
Engine 51	Vandenberg Village	5.8 mi (9.3 km)	11 min
Engine 51	Mission Hills	4.4 mi (7.0 km)	8.7 min

Distances and times are computed estimates (OSRM/OpenStreetMap), not measured response times. Engine 34 and the Lompoc Sheriff Station are verified building rooftops on Assessor parcel 097-380-043 (about 80 feet apart; they appear as one marker at this scale). Other station points are from the County Cutbacks map file. Official addresses: Lompoc Sheriff Station, 3500 Harris Grade Road; County Fire Station 34, 3510 Harris Grade; Lompoc Fire Station 52, 1100 North D Street; Lompoc Fire Station 51, 115 South G Street; Buellton Station, 140 W. Highway 246; Santa Maria Station (Orcutt), 812-A W. Foster Road. Destinations are 2020 Census Gazetteer internal points for the Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills CDPs. Official Sheriff records assign Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills patrol to the Lompoc Station. Station staffing does not establish where mobile patrol deputies are located or their actual response times. Orcutt and Buellton routes are hypothetical comparisons. Basemap: © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Exhibit B. Modeled drive-time coverage compared with documented response measures



Share of sampled land-area points (100 m grid), not residents or calls, outside the modeled drive time

From	Measure	Vandenberg Village	Mission Hills
Orcutt Sheriff Station	Eight-minute modeled drive (for scale; Sheriff in-progress-call measure shown for reference)	100% outside (median 25.7 min)	100% outside (median 27.4 min)
Buellton Sheriff Station	Eight-minute modeled drive (for scale; Sheriff in-progress-call measure shown for reference)	100% outside (median 31.7 min)	100% outside (median 28.0 min)
Engine 34	4 min (Citygate 2020 urban first-due travel)	84% outside (median 5.7 min)	23% outside (median 3.0 min)
Engine 52	4 min (Citygate 2020 urban first-due travel)	100% outside (median 10.1 min)	100% outside (median 7.3 min)
Engine 51	4 min (Citygate 2020 urban first-due travel)	100% outside (median 11.6 min)	100% outside (median 8.8 min)

Modeled drive time, not dispatch data; ambient drive times understate real response once call processing and turnout are added. The Sheriff measure is from the FY 2026-27 Sheriff budget workshop, p.15: deputies arrive at 75 percent of in-progress calls (person or property) within eight minutes of dispatch. That measure does not define a turnout deduction, so the full eight minutes is applied as travel time. The four-minute fire rings are the urban first-due travel component recommended in the 2020 County Fire Standards of Cover study (Citygate Operational Enhancements Update), which defines 1:30 call processing, 2:00 turnout, and 4:00 travel as parts of a 7:30 total from 9-1-1. Both Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills exceed 1,000 people per square mile on 2020 Census Gazetteer land area (about 1,387 and 2,954), the Citygate urban density threshold. Engine 34 and the Lompoc Sheriff Station are verified building rooftops on Assessor parcel 097-380-043; other station points are from the County Cutbacks map file. CDP boundaries are 2020 Census TIGER/cartographic place polygons via the Census Bureau. Official Sheriff records assign these communities' patrol to the Lompoc Station. Station staffing does not establish where mobile patrol deputies are located or their actual response times. Orcutt and Buellton routes are hypothetical comparisons. Basemap: © OpenStreetMap contributors. Routing: OSRM/OpenStreetMap.