



Local Agency Formation Commission Board of Directors
Attn: Commission Analyst/Clerk Natasha Carbajal, natasha@sblafco.org
511 East Lakeside Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

RE: LAFCO File No. 22-07 for the City of Lompoc's Bailey Avenue Sphere of Influence Amendment

Dear LAFCO Commissioners,

I am pleased to write you today regarding the City of Lompoc's "Bailey Avenue Sphere of Influence Amendment" on your agenda for February 2, 2023.

The Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce, representing over 277 local businesses, recognizes the critical need for more housing in our city. The shortage of housing within city limits – especially a variety of different types of units – is one of the top barriers our members face in attracting and retaining employees, as well as to expanding their businesses. It has proven impractical to expect that private sector redevelopment of existing properties is the only pathway to achieve more housing.

After a careful review of the proposal, our Chamber Board of Directors is strongly in support of the City of Lompoc's sphere application to explore an adjustment to its boundaries. We believe this is the right move and support the concept. Certainly it merits further analysis.

Additionally, the Chamber has worked with regional efforts, such as the Econ Alliance, REACH and chambers across the central coast, to bring more jobs to our area, and in particular northern Santa Barbara County. With Vandenberg Space Force Base only a handful of miles from city limits, Lompoc is the perfect place to accommodate more housing for the government and commercial components of the base to thrive.

This is why exploring the opportunities within a sphere of influence process makes so much sense to our Board of Directors. By initiating the project, the City can commence the relevant studies that will answer all of the relevant questions. Initiation costs the County nothing, but *not* moving forward could cost the community a great deal.

We urge you to vote to approve the Sphere of Influence Amendment so that the City of Lompoc can begin analysis of the proposal's impacts.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeVika Stalling".

DeVika Stalling
President & CEO
Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce



Lompoc Valley Chamber Board of Directors:

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Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness

CFO: Bill Hughen, Jr.
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