



May 7, 2025

ATTN: Commissioners  
Santa Barbara LAFCO  
108 E Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Transmitted via email to: [natasha@sblafco.org](mailto:natasha@sblafco.org)

**Subject: Support for Richards Ranch Annexation into the City of Santa Maria**

Dear Commissioners,

As both a homeowner in the Orcutt area and a local business owner deeply invested in the vitality and future of our region, I am writing to express my strong support for the annexation of the Richards Ranch property into the City of Santa Maria.

Our community is in dire need of more attainable housing and thoughtfully planned retail opportunities. Like many local employers, I've experienced firsthand how the high cost of living and limited housing availability have made it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain talent. The Richards Ranch proposal presents a unique and much-needed opportunity to address these challenges head-on.

The proposed annexation offers a variety of benefits that align with the long-term needs of our region:

- It introduces much-needed housing for working families and future generations.
- It creates commercial space that will stimulate local economic activity.
- It supports a walkable, well-designed neighborhood that reflects the character and values of Orcutt.
- It improves traffic circulation, particularly at Union Valley Parkway and Clark Avenue, benefitting both current and future residents.
- It includes a fiscally responsible tax-sharing agreement between the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Maria—ensuring both jurisdictions benefit from shared property tax revenues to support fire, law enforcement, parks, and road maintenance.

Most importantly, the Richards Ranch project demonstrates regional cooperation and a proactive approach to planning for infrastructure, housing, and economic growth.

I urge the Commission to recognize the widespread local support for this project and the many ways it can contribute to a more livable, sustainable, and economically resilient future for our region.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most Sincerely,

Ronald G. Reilly, PE  
416 Saint Marys Court, Santa Maria, CA 93455