

From: [Maureen Kelly](#)
To: natasha@sblafco.org
Subject: Richards Ranch will bring much needed housing to our area!
Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:24:19 AM

Sent from my iPhone

My name is Maureen Kelly, and I've been a teacher on the Central Coast for over 35 years. I'm writing to express my strong support for the annexation of the Richards Ranch property into the City of Santa Maria.

As someone who has spent her career educating local children and living within this community, I can speak directly to the challenges of trying to live and work here on a teacher's salary. Over the years, I've watched housing prices rise sharply—far outpacing what many public servants, young professionals, and working families can reasonably afford. It has become harder and harder for people like me to remain in the area we serve.

This is more than a personal issue. The lack of attainable housing is having a serious impact on our schools and the broader community. School districts are struggling to hire and keep qualified teachers because so many simply cannot find housing they can afford nearby. When educators are priced out, it affects the quality and stability of our schools, and ultimately, the future of our children.

The Richards Ranch project represents a meaningful opportunity to help address this housing crisis. It offers the kind of thoughtful, well-located development that can provide real options for families and professionals who are currently being left behind. I urge you to support this annexation and allow the project to move forward.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Maureen Kelly

I want my letter read into the record please!