

DATE: 06/04/2019

TO: PAUL HOOD, E.O., LAFCO BOARD MEMEBERS, and ALTERNATES

FROM: ART HIBBITS, 1251 E. HWY. 246, Lompoc, Ca. 93436

SUBJECT: LAFCO AGENDA JULY 11, 2019, ITEM

For many years, we have watched Lompoc and many other Communities continuously annex and expand on to surrounding Prime Agricultural Lands.

When the Knox Nesbitt Act went into effect, we all thought maybe, that behavior by incorporated Cities would cease...Wrong!

In spite of LAFCO and Proposition 13, the requests for expansions of Spheres of Influence and Annexation, never seem to end.

So how is that all working out? In Lompoc for example the following results seem obvious to everyone except our elected official:

- (1) Annexing new areas, when you have an existing inventory of vacant land within the City, only depresses the value and utilization of properly zoned, available parcels, within the existing service area,**
- (2) The financial negative effects are even more significant for approved but not built projects, and even worse for the vacant, unoccupied buildings,**
- (3) Numerous studies show that POST PROP 13, the massive costs of providing the required services and infrastructure, to the expansions, produces short term profits and long-term RED INK, in the future. That Future is upon us now, in Lompoc.**

(4) OK, forget all the studies, just look at the City of Lompoc's proposed budget, which avoids raising taxes, by unacceptable cuts to Police, Fire, Planning, Zoning Enforcement, and other services, while failing to address many existing problems, and

(5) Aside from the massive financial negatives, there are all the well-known results: Increased traffic and crime, increased fees and utility costs, and potential tax increases or Bankruptcy.

To conclude, this is not the time to reduce the protections that LAFCO must provide. Rather, it is the time to honestly look at the results of past decisions and make necessary corrections, that will prevent any future, irreversible loss of some of the most productive Agricultural Lands anywhere.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Hibbits