

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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March 2, 2006 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara CA 93101

**Status Report on Preparations for Public Meeting
Regarding the Eastern Goleta Valley**

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission provide direction to staff regarding preparations for a meeting to accept public testimony regarding governmental options for the Eastern Goleta Valley.

Staff suggests the meeting be held on Saturday morning, May 20 at San Marcos High School and that affected local agencies be requested to provide written statements prior to the meeting.

DISCUSSION

The *ad hoc* committee appointed to define plans to accept testimony regarding governmental options for the Eastern Goleta Valley reported to the Commission on February 2. Since that time the staff has contacted the Santa Barbara High School District regarding availability and use of adequate facilities to conduct this public meeting.

Date and Location of the Public Meeting

The auditorium at San Marcos High School has the capacity to accommodate the numbers of speakers we understand may be interesting in attending the meeting. Staff suggests the meeting be held on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 10:00 am. We have requested the school district to reserve the auditorium for the Commission's public meeting at that time.

While May 20 is a later date than those that were mentioned on February 20, there are no pending applications to annex land to either the City of Goleta or Santa Barbara so this meeting date does not affect any pending or known proposals.

Commissioners: Tim Campbell, Chair ♦ Joe Centeno ♦ Dick DeWees ♦ John Fox ♦ Bob Orach ♦ Susan Rose ♦ Bernice Stableford

♦ Jack Hawxhurst ♦ Brooks Firestone ♦ Penny Leich ♦ Cathy Schlottmann ♦ **Executive Officer:** Bob Braitman

Some consideration was given to conducting two public hearings, one on a Saturday and another on a weekday evening, perhaps a Thursday. This option is still available but the staff suggests it may be superfluous. Anyone unable to attend a Saturday meeting can provide written testimony that will be provided to all Commissioners members. Also, it is my experience that with two hearings, some individuals speak at both meetings (insisting that they are giving “different” testimony at each). It is one thing to continue a hearing from one date to another - a frequent occurrence if there is too much testimony for the time allotted for a meeting - and something else to schedule two meetings on the same topic and for the same purpose.

This is entirely a matter for the Commission but staff recommends there be one public hearing, on a Saturday morning, that can be continued to another date if there are too many speakers to be accommodated at the meeting.

Written Statements by Public Agencies

To make the best use of this opportunity for public testimony, it is suggested that local agencies be invited to provide brief written statements prior to the meeting. We can (1) post them on the Commission’s website and (2) provide copies to interested parties. The statements would be comparable to oral testimony each agency might provide at the meeting.

If approved, letters similar to the enclosed draft letter to the City of Santa Barbara would also be provided to the City of Goleta, County Fire Protection District, County Public Works Department for County Service Area No. 3, Goleta Sanitary District and Goleta Water District.

Explanatory Maps of the Study Area

In addition to the foregoing, the staff will prepare for the meeting a series of clear, explanatory maps of the Eastern Goleta Valley showing public agency boundaries, spheres of influence, mobile home parks and other significant features. Copies would be posted on the Commission’s website and available to interested parties.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer