

**From:** [Graham Updegrove](#)  
**To:** [natasha@sblafco.org](mailto:natasha@sblafco.org)  
**Subject:** Richards Ranch Study Session  
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Commissioners,

As a REALTOR®, I see firsthand how limited the housing supply is for residents of all ages in Santa Maria and Orcutt. Richards Ranch offers an opportunity to deliver much-needed homes in a region that's long struggled to keep pace with demand.

Annexing Richards Ranch allows for the kind of housing the community needs close to jobs, schools, and services. The annexation enables coordinated infrastructure improvements and planning with the City of Santa Maria, ensuring homes are supported by services, circulation improvements, and commercial development that can serve new and existing residents.

Approving this annexation sends a strong message that Santa Barbara County is serious about addressing the housing crisis. It tells young families and employees that there's a place for them here—not just in the workforce, but in the community.

This is one of the few remaining opportunities to provide infill housing at scale in a logical growth area. Leaving it in limbo risks further stagnation and delays in meeting real housing needs.

Regards,  
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