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November 19, 2014

Mr. Joe Barget, Chapter President
Santa Barbara County Chapter
California Special Districts Association
3217 Terminal Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Dear Mr. Barget

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the formation of a community services district (CSD) for the community of Isla Vista (IV). I appreciate you reaching out to my office early with your concerns and position about such a proposal.

As you know, the problems that plague IV are not new. The recent events in IV have only heightened the conversation around IV's self-governance as a solution to these problems. Additionally as you may be aware, following these events, a local coalition was formed to determine the best direction for IV self-governance and the CSD option has garnered much local support.

A CSD is one of many governance options that have been considered throughout the years. Since cityhood is not a viable option for IV, stakeholders believe that a CSD is the best alternative to provide the necessary services IV needs while also recognizing its unique challenges. Primarily, a CSD would provide the option for the community to tax itself for specific services. This would establish local political control and ability to retain its financial resources. All funds generated by the District would be for the District and remain in the District. As you mention, the only entity under local control is the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD). A CSD can assume the services of the IVRPD, and add additional powers such as water, fire protection, collection of disposal of garbage, street lighting, police protection, and others. Additionally, a CSD provides the potential to tailor a governance structure and powers to the unique needs of IV.

While I understand your concern about going through the local LAFCO review process, there are a couple of factors that make the option infeasible. The only member of LAFCO that represents IV is Supervisor Farr. Therefore, there is limited direct experience with IV-specific issues in the representation on LAFCO's Board; experience that is critical in determining the best governance option for the community. Lastly, the state is heavily invested in the predominant student population of IV, many of whom attend Santa Barbara City College and UC Santa Barbara. IV is also a part of the UCSB community and the state has the power to legislate policies that will improve the educational opportunities of that



institution. I would certainly argue having a safer, better represented local community will have a measurable positive impact on the education provided by UCSB.

Having grown up in Isla Vista, I am exceptionally passionate about the issue of self-governance. I am interested in helping the IV community achieve the level of services and local attention self-governance can bring and have been working with local stakeholders to figure out the best way to achieve that. I am open to the possibility of doing legislation if it turns out that is what is needed.

While legislation has not been introduced at this time, our office will do its best to keep you apprised of any legislative action we decide to move forward with. Additionally, you should feel free to reach out to my staff at any time regarding this issue. Darcel Elliott of my Santa Barbara district office and Sara Arce of my capitol office are both working on this issue and can be reached via the following:

Darcel Elliott
(805) 564-1649
Darcel.Elliott@asm.ca.gov

Sara Arce
(916) 319-2037
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Again, thank you for reaching out to my office. I look forward to working with you on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, 37th District

DW:saa