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submitted via email

Honorable Members of the Santa Barbara LAFCO

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Re: City of Lompoc/ Bailey Avenue Sphere of Influence Expansion

February 2, 2023 Hearing

Dear Honorable LAFCO Commissioners,

I'm the public member of Alameda County LAFCo and have served in that position for the last 17 years. I'm an attorney during the day. I represent one of the Bailey Avenue property owners in a project in Northern California. At night and on the weekends, I'm a vineyard owner in the Livermore Valley wine country. I'm the only agriculturalist on my LAFCo commission. Over the years, I've participated in many decisions that try to balance Alameda County's growth against infrastructure needs, open space preservation and agriculture preservation. I was asked to provide my thoughts on the SOI application before you. **I would approve it.**

Alameda County isn't only Oakland. Most of Alameda County's land is rangeland, forests, open space and agriculture. Almost every city has an urban growth boundary. A voter-approved measure severely limits urbanization of County land. The intent is for growth to occur in cities. Yet, we often approve SOI changes and annexations of County land into cities while protecting our agriculture and open space.

Our guiding legislation tells us that all LAFCoS are charged with balancing California's orderly growth and development against sprawl, efficient infrastructure and preservation of open space and prime agriculture. I believe that my charge, ultimately, is to preserve and enhance our residents' quality of life.

As you are presented by those opposing this application, it may seem that intensive agriculture and housing are incompatible. **They are not incompatible.** The ag-urban interface can be managed so that farming continues profitably and cities grow and provide a sustainable housing to their residents.

The easiest decision you can make is to draw a line and say, "good." My experience is that thoughtful mitigation and buffers can lead to sustainable, profitable farming while accommodating a growing population in a socially just way. If you approve this SOI amendment application, your work will only begin. If you want to preserve Santa Barbara agriculture, as I do, and provide for Lompoc's residents with the quality of life that they deserve, as I do, you should guide the stakeholders towards success.

If you deny this application, you will leave the hard work for another day and another set of commissioners. But, as the testimony in the record shows to date, the problems of accommodating housing and sustaining profitable ag will not go away. Our housing crisis isn't going away anytime soon. By approving this SOI application, you aren't selecting between ag and housing. Rather, you're allowing both to succeed for our state.

Very truly yours,



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