



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 15, 2013

Paul Hood
Executive Officer
SBLAFCO
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Re: Santa Rita Hills Community Services District (SRHCSD) – Request for Sphere Expansion and Authorization to Construct Access Road Outside of District

Dear Mr. Hood:

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) on July 31, 2013, reviewed the *Santa Rita Hills CSD-Request for Sphere of Expansion and Authorization to Construct an Access Road Outside of the District*. This item was included in the LAFCO June 6, 2013 LAFCO agenda. The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) is concerned about the impacts to the agricultural resources involved with the SRHCSD request. The AAC serves as an advisory group by reviewing matters that have agricultural resource issues, such as, land use, economics, pesticides, legislation, water, regulatory issues, property rights and agricultural practices.

In July, the AAC formed a subcommittee to thoroughly review the SRHCSD annexation request and to meet with the different stakeholders involved with this proposal. The subcommittee presented the results of their review process to the AAC during the July 31st 2013 meeting.

The AAC have the following recommendations regarding the SRHCSD annexation request:

- Limit the Sphere of Influence Expansion exclusively to the "Access roadway per the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)."
- Unless objections are raised by the access road landowner(s), authorize the District to provide services outside of its boundaries exclusively to construct and maintain an access road between Sweeny Road and the District Boundaries via the "MOA" alignment.
- Do not authorize the District to exercise the power of eminent domain.

Furthermore, the AAC encourages the different stakeholders involved with the SRHCSD request to memorialize the current intent of conversations regarding the public or private nature of the access road and future land use intensity on the parcels through a more permanent mechanism, such as an easement. Additionally, the AAC recommends LAFCO to include the MOA documentation as an exhibit in the next LAFCO staff report.

Sincerely,



Paul Van Leer, Chair
Agricultural Advisory Committee

Committee Members

Bradley Miles
Ron Caird
Sharyn Merrit
Mike Ruffoni
Ruth Jensen
Kari Campbell-Bohard,
Claire Wineman
Paul Van Leer-Chair
June Van Wingerden
Lisa Bodrogi
Willy Chamberlin
Daren Gee

Representing

1st District Supervisor, Salud Carbajal
2nd District Supervisor, Janet Wolf
3rd District Supervisor, Doreen Farr
4th District Supervisor, Peter Adam
5th District Supervisor, Steve Lavignino
California Women for Agriculture
Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Santa Barbara Flower & Nursery Growers' Association
Central Coast Wine Growers Assn
Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Assn.
Strawberry Commission