



June 21, 2022

RE: Item 12 – Sphere of Influence

Dear Mayor Osborne and Lompoc City Councilmembers,

For 20 years, Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) has worked to promote economic and social justice, preserve environmental and agricultural resources, and promote sustainable communities.

Although SBCAN and other community groups have been concerned about the Bailey Avenue corridor since before 1999, we received no advance notice of Item 12 prior to the agenda packet being posted. SBCAN urges you to continue this item to a future date to give the community more time to review the staff report and attachments.

If you do move forward with a decision this evening, we urge you not to adopt the resolution to initiate the Sphere of Influence Adjustment.

We understand the desire to acquire more land to build more housing, however, this parcel will not be the right fit. Lompoc has ample space within city limits to build infill housing without contributing to urban sprawl and increased vehicle miles traveled.

LAFCO denied Lompoc's request to expand its Sphere of Influence over these parcels 23 years ago. There have been no significant changes since then that would cause LAFCO to come to a different conclusion now. If anything, it is more urgent to protect this land for prime agricultural use as more land in the county has been converted to urban use in the last two decades.

In March of 2013, the Environmental Defense Center on behalf of SBCAN submitted a detailed letter regarding the value of the prime soils in the Bailey Avenue corridor. SBCAN is committed to protecting prime ag land and discouraging sprawl throughout the county.

Please recognize that the Bailey Avenue parcels are not suitable for inclusion in the City's Sphere of Influence. SBCAN urges you not to go forward with this resolution or further efforts to annex this land.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Ken Hough,
Executive Director

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