

- I. 2000-2001 Grand Jury report on A NEW LOOK AT AREA PLANNING
- II. Published May 17, 2001
- III. In 1976, the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) recommended to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) that it consider establishing a Santa Ynez Regional Planning Commission. The Proposal failed.

The 1995-1996 Grand Jury proposed that the Board of Supervisors consider establishing a Goleta Area Planning Commission, finding that "The Grand Jury determined there are sufficient reasons for the Board of Supervisors to explore the establishment of a Goleta Area Planning Commission. LAFCO agreed with the Grand Jury's proposal arguing, among other things that "...an Area Planning Commission should be formed to implement the Goleta Valley Community Plan". That plan was adopted by the Board a few years ago.

With extensive consideration of the Grand Jury's proposal, the County Counsel advised that the Board had authority to create more than one planning commission, and could create Area Planning Commissions if it chose to do so. The Planning Director (at the request of the Planning Commission) advised the Board, among other things, that creating one full-service area commission might lead to demand by other areas of the County such as Montecito and Orcutt for similar treatment. Inconsistency of interpretations and legislative recommendations between the central County Planning Commission and a Goleta Area Planning Commission might prove troublesome. Again the proposal failed.

The 2000-2001 Grand Jury believes that the time has come to address this issue again, though framed somewhat differently.

- IV. Key Grand Jury Recommendations where there is disagreement or need for follow up:

**Recommendation 1: That the Board of Supervisors create, by ordinance and pursuant to Government Code Sections 65100 and 6510, four Area Planning Commissions for the purpose of master land-use planning for the undeveloped (and largely agricultural) lands within the Santa Ynez, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Carpinteria Valleys. These Area Planning Commissions would not be involved with zoning administration, conditional use permits, zone variance, or specific project approvals unless requested to do so by the Board of Supervisors.**

BOS Response: The recommendation will not be implemented as stated because it is not warranted, but may be implemented in a different manner in the future.

The concept of sub-county planning commissions may have merit, but their number, geographic scope and functions would need to be considered and, if approved, a phased implementation approach may be desirable. The response from the Board of Supervisors, Planning and Development, and the County Administrators Office were very similar.

V. Synopsis:

Number of responses to recommendations required – 6

Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent agreed with or implemented the recommendation – 0

Number of responses to recommendations in which the respondent disagreed with the recommendation – 6