



ISLA VISTA RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

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August 12, 2003

Board of Directors

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Honorable Clifford R. Anderson, III
Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
P.O. Box 21107
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

*RE: Response to 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report
Isla Vista Take Charge*

Honorable Judge Anderson:

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The County of Santa Barbara, University of California at Santa Barbara and the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District has been tirelessly working towards the completion of the Isla Vista Master Plan. The completion of this extensive and comprehensive planning process will be completed in the summer of 2004.

While this year's Grand Jury report recognizes the accomplishments of the planning effort, it fails to take note of how this opportunity has been seized upon by all agencies to not only develop a vision for the community, but to additionally create an implementation plan with a clear rundown for who is responsible for implementing the plan (i.e. Chapter 5 IV Master Plan).

We partially agree with finding 1 that many agencies provide services in Isla Vista. We disagree with the finding 1 that the Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District is the only agency providing services to the community of Isla Vista. County Service Area #31 and the Park District share coterminous boundaries. Two Special Districts serve Isla Vista. Multiple agencies serving an unincorporated or incorporated area are not unique. Various overlapping agencies with different jurisdictions often provide municipal services, even in incorporated areas. Isla Vista is not unique in this respect.

The Grand Jury's intentions were clear; they felt that an agency with centralized authority and responsibility would lead to a better community. But in fact, the process of creating such a government has been in the past as it would be today, divisive. Support of the current master plan would likely evaporate if a new agency were introduced. Currently, the Park District with its partners are on the verge of building a community center to serve seniors, children and teens. A change in this direction would

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likely have a and negative impact on the accomplishments reached to date. Anything less than a municipal government that provides city services will not give the Isla Vista Community the authority to "take charge".

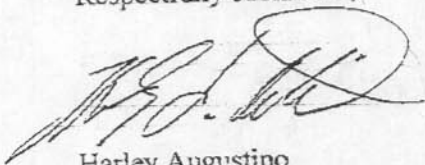
As in previous years, and this year, the residents of Isla Vista, County of Santa Barbara, UCSB, and the Park District working together are in charge. The MOU between the Park District, UCSB, and the County of Santa Barbara was clear in stating that the County had plenary land use authority in Isla Vista. Nevertheless, Isla Vista is a unique community; collaboration is a defining characteristic of who we are. We believe that people working together can make a difference.

The Park District and the community believes that while there may have been shortcomings in the past regarding planning and public improvements, the community and the responsible agencies are now united and believe that by working together, in tandem can have a much greater impact on the quality of life issues, than one agency. This may be contrary to the beliefs of the Grand Jury members, but ultimately how a community structures its government is an issue that the community must decide. Perhaps the biggest threat to changing Isla Vista is the recent state budget that shifted redevelopment funds from the County to the State of California in order to balance the budget.

Over the last 13 months, the IV PAC/GPAC has held more than 31 public meetings to assist in the preparation of the draft plan. Never during these meetings did the subject arise of creating a CSD to provide services to the community of Isla Vista. However, when the Grand Jury did release the report, ripples of consternation did emerge regarding the Grand Jury's recommendation and finding of creating a CSD.

Based upon our experience, current events, progress and confidence in the Master Plan and concerns about disrupting the accomplishments to date, we will not implement recommendation 1 of the 2002-2003 grand jury report entitled *Isla Vista: Take Charge*. Please call me if you should have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Harley Augustino
Chairperson
Isla Vista Recreation & Park District

Cc: Santa Barbara County LAFCO
Isla Vista Foot Patrol
SB County Board of Supervisors
IVRPD Board of Directors