

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 07/25/05
Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 08/09/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

STAFF CONTACT: Lori Norton, Analyst
X 3421

SUBJECT: Board of Supervisors Response to 2004-05 Grand Jury Report – “A Good Neighbor Policy”

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt the Housing and Community Development Department responses to Findings 1 and 2 and Recommendation 1a and 2, as the Board’s responses to the 2004-2005 Grand Jury Report “ A Good Neighbor Policy – Santa Barbara County’s Inclusionary / Affordable Housing Monitoring Program”
- B. Adopt the proposed response to Recommendation 1b as the Board’s response.
- C. Authorize the Chair to execute the letter (Attachment 1) transmitting the Board’s responses to the Presiding Judge and the Jury Foreperson.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with the Board of Supervisors’ Strategic Goal # I : An Efficient Government Able to Anticipate and Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Grand Jury Report (Attachment 2) was released on June 3, 2005. In accordance with Penal Code Section 933(c), the governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days after issuance of the Grand Jury report. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors’ response must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Courts no later than September 1, 2005.

Generally, Grand Jury Report responses are placed on the Departmental Agenda. Due to the non-controversial nature of the report, response, and the Board's constrained meeting schedule during the month of August, the item has been placed on the Administrative Agenda for August 9, 2005. This will allow the Board two opportunities, if necessary, to discuss and adopt a response. If desired, the Board may direct staff to schedule the item for discussion on August 16, 2005.

The "A Good Neighbor Policy" Grand Jury Report contains 2 Findings and 2 Recommendations. The Housing and Community Development Department and the Board of Supervisors are the only required responses for Santa Barbara County. In addition, The City of Santa Barbara Community Development Department is required to respond directly to the Grand Jury.

The Housing and Community Department submitted their response to the Grand Jury on July 22, 2005. It is recommended the Board adopt the Housing and Community Development Department's responses (Attachment 3), as the Board's responses to those finding and recommendations. Housing and Community Development agrees with findings 1 and 2, and has implemented recommendations 1a and 2.

In addition to the above, the Board of Supervisors is the sole required respondent to recommendation 1b which is as follows: **"The Housing and Community Development Department needs more staff dedicated to the monitoring program. The Board of Supervisors should fund sufficient support staff positions."** Following is the proposed response to this recommendation to be considered by the Board:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted at this time; however, it may be considered at a later date. On May 3, 2005, the Board of Supervisors received a report on the Affordable Housing Program compliance monitoring by the Housing and Community Development Department. At the conclusion of the report, the Board directed the County Auditor-Controller to design a plan for a baseline audit of the compliance monitoring program and to return to the Board with suggested parameters for such an audit. Further, the Board directed that a project team consisting of the County Executive Officer, the Auditor-Controller, County Counsel and the Housing and Community Development Director conduct a management review of the compliance monitoring program and return to the Board with recommendations as appropriate. If, as a result of the above, it is determined that the Department needs more staff dedicated to the program, the Board may implement the Grand Jury's recommendation.

Mandates and Service Levels:

California Penal Code Section 933(c) requires that no later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report on the operations of a public agency, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under their control. These comments, in and of themselves, do not change existing programs or services levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The recommended responses do not have a fiscal or facilities impact.

Special Instructions:

The response of the Board of Supervisors must be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than September 1, 2005. The Clerk of the Board is requested to return the signed letter to Brenda Castillo, County Executive Office, for distribution to the Superior Court. The signed letter, written responses and a 3-1/2" computer disc with the response in Microsoft Word must be forwarded to the Grand Jury.

Attachments:

1. Board of Supervisors Transmittal Letter
2. 2004-2005 Grand Jury Report – "A Good Neighbor Policy"
3. Housing and Community Development Response

C: Charles Foley, Foreperson, 2004-2005 Civil Grand Jury
Ron Cortez, Deputy County Executive Officer
Ed Moses, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development

August 9, 2005

The Honorable Judge Anderson
Superior Court
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
Charles Foley, Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Board of Supervisors' Response to FY 2004-05 County Grand Jury Report titled: "A Good Neighbor Policy" Santa Barbara County's Inclusionary / Affordable Housing Monitoring Program

Dear Judge Anderson:

During its regular meeting on August 9, 2005, the Board of Supervisors adopted the responses (Attached) of the Housing and Community Development Department as its responses to Findings 1 and 2, and Recommendations 1a and 2 in the 2004-05 Grand Jury Report— "A Good Neighbor Policy" Santa Barbara County's Inclusionary / Affordable Housing Monitoring Program.

In addition to the above, the Board of Supervisors is the sole required respondent to Recommendation 1b which is as follows: **"The Housing and Community Development Department needs more staff dedicated to the monitoring program. The Board of Supervisors should fund sufficient support staff positions."** Following is the response to this recommendation adopted by the Board:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted at this time. However, it may be considered at a later date. On May 3, 2005, the Board of Supervisors received a report on the Affordable Housing Program compliance monitoring by the Housing and Community Development Department. At the conclusion of the report, the Board directed the County Auditor-Controller to design a plan for a baseline audit of the compliance monitoring program and to return to the Board with suggested parameters for such an audit. Further, the Board directed that a project team consisting of the County Executive Officer, the Auditor-Controller, County Counsel and the Housing and Community Development Director conduct a

management review of the compliance monitoring program and return to the Board with recommendations as appropriate. If, as a result of the above, it is determined that the Department needs more staff dedicated to the program, the Board may implement the Grand Jury's recommendation.

The Board thanks the Grand Jury for its report and its interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Susan Rose
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attachment

C: Ron Cortez, Deputy County Executive Officer
Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer
Ed Moses, Director of Housing and Community Development