

CITY of CARPINTERIA CALIFORNIA

October 15, 2009



Fletcher Phillips, Foreperson
Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Ground Jury Room
County Courthouse
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Members of the City Council

Gregg Carty - *Mayor*
Al Clark - *Vice Mayor*
J. Bradley Stein
Joe Armendariz
Kathleen Reddington

Re: Follow-Up Response to 2006 – 2007 Grand Jury Report: Affordable Housing in Santa Barbara County – Myth or Reality?

Dear Mr Phillips:

We are in receipt of your letter dated October 7, 2009 regarding follow-up information from the 2006 – 2007 Grand Jury Report on affordable housing in Santa Barbara County. Your letter requests an update of the current status of progress in implementing one of the Grand Jury recommendations, specifically Recommendation 2 of the subject report. The response provided by the City at that time is also cited below.

Recommendation 2: *At least annually, each jurisdiction should hold informational community meetings to explain all aspects of its affordable housing program.*

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City of Carpinteria's Housing Element provides for an Annual Housing Summit. While such an event has yet to occur, it is planned within the Work Program for the Community Development Department for this fall. Therefore, the recommendation will be implemented within the next few months.

The Annual Housing Summit is a component of a Public Education and Outreach Program of the City's Housing Element. Other components of the Program include providing the annual Housing Element Progress Report; holding workshops; and conducting outreach to developers and non-profit organizations that build affordable housing. Due to limited staff and financial resources, rather than creating an independent Public Education and Outreach Program, the Program elements are being addressed through public outreach and education efforts that are a part of other Housing Element programs. These include the City's Annual Report (see excerpt attached), and participation in the HOME and CDBG programs.

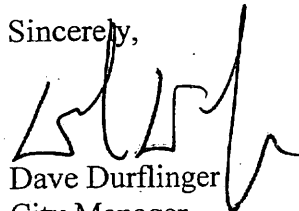
Since the time of the 2006 – 2007 Grand Jury Report and our response, the City has held several public meetings wherein our affordable housing programs were discussed. Additionally, City staff participate in many public meetings for HOME and Community Development Block Grant funding and to coordinate and interact with other housing providers and local jurisdictions that also support affordable housing in the County. In particular, the following public meetings were held in Carpinteria to discuss affordable housing.

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- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Regional Housing Needs Assessment Briefing to the Planning Commission, March 2008
- Annual Housing Element Progress Report, City Council Public Hearing, August 2008
- Special Planning Commission Hearing on Draft Housing Element Update, June 2009
- City Council Hearing on Draft Housing Element Update, August 2009

Additionally, the City Council will review the 2008 Housing Element Progress Report at its October 26, 2009 meeting. Through these outreach actions and many others, we continue to support affordable housing within the City of Carpinteria and disseminate information to the public regarding the City's programs. Please let us know if you have any further questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Dave Durflinger
City Manager

Enclosure: Excerpt: Housing Element Annual Progress Report - 2007