

August 2, 2001 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

County Grand Jury Report Regarding Natural Resources In the Santa Maria Valley

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive the enclosed report prepared by the 2000-2001 Grand Jury regarding Natural Resources in the Santa Maria Valley.

DISCUSSION

The 2000-2001 County Grand Jury prepared a report entitled "Natural Resources in the Santa Maria Valley," a copy of which is enclosed.

The report mentions LAFCO with regard to Finding 13 and Recommendation 13, as follows:

Finding 13: It is legally possible for Guadalupe to annex currently non-contiguous land for urban growth needs. This would allow the City to plan its future growth on marginal farm land instead of converting adjacent highly profitable prime agricultural farm land to housing tracts.

Recommendation 13: Guadalupe officials should continue plans and programs to obtain LAFCO approvals for expanding the City's Sphere of Influence and City limits to meet City population growth needs as projected by the County through 2030.

They should annex ancient sand dunes (sub-prime agricultural land) northeast of Brown Road and an access corridor across prime agricultural land for needed upscale housing in the Santa Maria Valley. This development of "Guadalupe South" could increase the future real estate tax base and support local businesses.

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Page 2

The staff is unsure by what is meant by annexing non-contiguous lands since State laws require all city annexations to be contiguous (except for City-owned lands and State prisons). It could be the Grand Jury envisions annexations of land for development that are not adjacent to the current City boundaries but which would be connected by means of intervening parcels.

I am writing to make the Commission aware of this matter but no action is required since the recommendation is directed to the Commission.

If you have any questions please contact the LAFCO office.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN

Executive Officer