

January 31, 2023

Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission  
123 E Anapamu Street, #3  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: February 2, 2023 Agenda; Item #1, Bailey Avenue Sphere of Influence

Dear Commissioners,

I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer and rancher in the Lompoc Valley, and as such, I am very well aware of the conflicts that arise between urban and agriculture uses. And as the owner of 120 acres of production agricultural land that is immediately adjacent to the Bodger property to the West, I know that I will be dealing with a dramatic increase in those conflicts if this project is approved.

It is a known fact that new housing developments that have been built next to historically farmed properties have had an extremely detrimental effect on those properties – there are multiple examples of this in Santa Barbara County in the past decade alone. All of the “mitigation” of disputes falls on the owners of the agricultural properties, and they lose the ability to utilize their land to its highest potential.

The land that is being considered for annexation is some of the best soil in the country for producing the high quality food that is so important to all of us, and is something that can never be replaced once it is developed.

Lompoc has plenty of other options for expansion if additional housing is really needed. There are multiple non or under-developed lots that are within the current city boundaries and there is plenty of land to the North that is not suitable for agriculture.

Protecting land that is suitable for growing our food should be our highest priority.

I strongly urge this commission deny the application for the Sphere of Influence request by the City of Lompoc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Campbell  
Lompoc