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February 1, 2023

Mr. Mike Prater
Executive Officer
Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
Submitted via email to lafco@sblafco.org

RE: City of Lompoc Bailey Avenue Sphere of Influence (SOI) Proposal

Dear Mr. Prater and Members of the Commission:

Discussions regarding future growth require careful thought and deliberation, and the City of Lompoc's proposal has been analyzed, scrutinized, and debated over many years. Many issues and challenges facing regions, cities, and communities are interrelated, and require broad thinking and proactive decision-making. Unfortunately, and despite the best of intentions to address public interest and concerns, we stifle ourselves with prolonged processes and ultimately, inaction, due to an inability to agree on overarching priorities and an inability to balance competing objectives.

The overarching priority for our region is the provision of housing, including attainable and affordable housing. The interrelated issues and challenges include:

- 1) Social impacts, including housing insecurity, poverty and homelessness, affecting individuals and families, young and old.
- 2) Job creation and economic development, and the ability to bring in new employers and industries, reliant on adequate housing supply for the region.
- 3) Attraction and retention of employees in key industries, including public safety, health care, and education, serving our communities, and providing quality service and care to residents.

Lompoc's sphere of influence proposal allows for proactive future planning to address anticipated community needs. One can easily contend that this would merely address needs that have gone unmet for many years. An approval for a sphere of influence expansion will allow Lompoc to take the next step, as part of diligent and responsible governing.

CHUEN NG, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT