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From: Sam Fearer <sefearer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 2:26 PM
To: natasha@sblafco.org; lafco@sblafco.org
Subject: Public Comment for 2/2/2023 LAFCO meeting – LAFCO File No. 22-07 for Bailey Avenue Sphere of Influence Amendment

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing today to urge you to deny the approval of LAFCO File No. 22-07, a Sphere of Influence (SOI) Amendment at Bailey Avenue.

Denying this action would affirm LAFCO's commitment to informed development, would protect local agriculture, and would function as a critical step towards building a future of responsible regional housing that meets the needs of both the local community and the State.

With local governments throughout the region scrambling to meet the onerous demands of RHNA, urban-adjacent open lands are increasingly eyed as quick-fix solutions to state and local housing problems. Agricultural lands like those in question along Bailey Avenue are particularly vulnerable to rezoning efforts– the first action in an irreversible conversion process that threatens environment, food security, local economy, and a cherished way of life.

This action would pave the way for the irreversible loss of nearly 150 acres of prime farmland. Unlike housing or other forms of development, these resources cannot be relocated elsewhere. If the City of Lompoc is allowed to expand its SOI to include the desired parcels, there is no question – under the current housing climate – about what the future of these sites will hold. The City should not approve this application without first analyzing potential impacts of future development on these 148.3 acres. The City of Lompoc contains sufficient vacant and undeveloped land within its current boundaries to accommodate the housing needs of both the community, and those required by the state.

Please uphold your commitment to the residents of Santa Barbara County and the State of California by discouraging urban sprawl and denying this proposal.

Regards,
Sam Fearer

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