Via Email

February 20, 2009

TO: Mr. Bob Braitman: LAFCO

FROM: James and Roxane Mattinson
1150 N. Fairview Avenue
Goleta, CA 93117-1819

RE: City of Goleta SOI Hearing, March 5, 2009

1. The north Fairview area has repeatedly voted "NO" to cityhood, which is why we were gerrymandered out of the final City of Goleta boundaries.

2. We see no benefit to our area from SOI/inclusion in COG. Nor has the city provided any information re: possible benefits to our neighborhood.

   Several of our neighbors have asked "what's in it for us?" But COG has given us no clear reason why we should support SOI/ inclusion.

3. COG has demonstrated no interest in our concerns about COG's long- range plans for our neighborhood.

4. Our concern is that a few individuals are the driving force behind this entire maneuver. Only they would benefit from SOI/inclusion to the detriment of our unique area as a whole.

07/10/09

TO: SANTA BARBARA LOCAL FORMATION COMMISSION – ATTN: BOB BRAITMAN

FROM: SANTOS AND RITA OJEDA

SUBJECT: LAFO COMMISSION MEETING, MARCH 09-2009 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE (SOI) OF THE NORTH FAIRVIEW AREA

SIR,

SANTOS AND RITA OJEDA OF 5989 CUESTA VERDE, GOLETA, CA. 93117 WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND AND SPEAK AGAINST THE MOTION (SOI) TO PUT OUR NORTH FAIRVIEW AREA IN THE CITY OF GOLETA.

WE HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST THE ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF GOLETA BEFORE AND AFTER THIER WAS A CITY OF GOLETA.

IT IS OUR WISH TO STAY IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA. WE DO NOT WANT THE MUNICPALITY OF THE CITY OF GOLETA TELLING US WHAT IT WANTS WITH OUR ACREAGE OR COMMUNITY.

SINCERELY,

Santos and Rita Ojeda

Mr. & Mrs. Santos Ojeda
5989 Cuesta Verde
Goleta, CA 93117
PH. 805/685-5318

Via Email

February 16, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman
Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

Regarding the March 5, 2009, Commission meeting that will review the City of Goleta's Sphere of Influence Application, I am a resident of Area C (North Fairview), and I OPPOSE the City of Goleta's attempt to add our area into their Sphere of Influence.

Sincerely,

Jean J. Paynter
5944 Via Lemora
Goleta, CA 93117-1806
Phone: 964-2058

John P. Peterson

5992 Cuesta Verde
Goleta, California 93117
805 967 8570
Jack.peterson@mindspring.com

February 11, 2009

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
Attention: Bob Braitman
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

I object to the City of Goleta SOI Application of January 16, 2009 to include the North Fairview area in the city's Sphere of Influence This SOI Application is just the initial step by the City to try to bring this area into Goleta. I have lived in the North Fairview area since year 1960 when I purchased this residence on which was then know as North Patterson Avenue. Subsequent street name change, to Questa Verde, and numeric to align with the grid. I elected to buy in the North Fairview surroundings for the more openness (larger lot sizes) afforded in this area. My concern to remain separate from the City of Goleta is partly that as a City area it wouldn't be long until the City would rezone the now more open/rural areas to smaller city lots and thereby destroy the ambiance of this North Fairview area.

I urge that you reject the North Fairview SOI

John P. Peterson

1148 N. Fairview Ave.
Goleta, CA 93117
February 19, 2009

Robert Braitman
Chairman
Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman:

I am writing to you in regard to the city of Goleta's pending sphere of influence application. We have lived on North Fairview Avenue for 19-1/2 years, having moved here for the openness and rural atmosphere, which we continue to cherish. We do not wish our area to become part of the city of Goleta.

I am a frequent walker, and thus know firsthand the risks of traveling the Fairview hill above Cathedral Oaks. There are no sidewalks on either side, and cars often go by at 40 or more mph, which can be scary when one is on foot with no place to get off the road. The increased traffic which would result from any further development of the area would make such walking even more dangerous.

My second principal objection to annexation to the city of Goleta and the attendant rezoning and development which would likely follow, is the issue of evacuating for wildfire. As you know, our area was seriously threatened and impacted by the Gap fire last July, including mandatory evacuation and flames that came within 1/4 mile of homes. The only way out by vehicle is down Fairview Avenue to Cathedral Oaks. When we evacuated last summer, we could barely get down the road to safety due to the volume of traffic and the presence of non-residents who wanted to get a closer look at the fire. Having additional homeowners and renters living in this area with such limited ingress and egress could be catastrophic in the event of the need to flee from fire.

Please do not allow the city of Goleta to add the North Fairview Avenue neighborhood to its sphere of influence. We do not wish to be included within an area that could then be annexed to the city. You saw the turnout and heard the opinions of many North Fairview residents at the November 20, 2008, meeting held at the Goleta Library. You said at that time that you understood and appreciated our views. I trust that you will remember your thoughts and impressions from that meeting and act to deny the inclusion of the North Fairview area in the sphere of influence for the city of Goleta.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Redmond

Patricia Redmond
805-683-1226

Mr. Russell J. Redmond
1148 N. Fairview Ave.
Goleta, CA 93117

Feb. 18, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman
C/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman,

As a twenty-year resident of the unincorporated North Fairview Avenue area, I am very concerned that the City of Goleta's attempts to include our neighborhood within its 'sphere of influence' are only a precursor to annexation by the City. In my opinion, annexation by the City of Goleta would likely lead to rezoning and an inevitable increase in housing and population density. This would negatively and permanently impact the rural environment that we know and love. It would also reduce much of the orchard acreage that was so helpful in protecting the City of Goleta's northern border from last summer's Gap Fire.

Although I have attended and/or viewed on public television several of the Goleta City Council meetings regarding the inclusion of our neighborhood in Goleta's sphere of influence, I have yet to hear of any benefit this inclusion or the inevitable annexation would bring to the current residents.

I am very much opposed to having the unincorporated areas of North Fairview Avenue included in the City of Goleta's sphere of influence and urge you to recommend that our neighborhood be excluded from any of Goleta's growth boundary plans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Russell Redmond

Tracy L. Reynolds
1189 Edward Place
Goleta, CA. 93117

Feb. 16, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman and LAFCo Board Members
C/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the LAFCo Board Members regarding the City of Goleta's proposed Sphere of Influence and the possible consequences this could have on the residents of North Fairview Avenue's "Area C".

I was raised in the area in question, and subsequently moved back in 2000 to care for my elderly disabled parents. Unfortunately they have both passed away, but I have chosen to remain in their home. The sense of close-knit community and unique culture in our neighborhood is one that I have never experienced in any other neighborhood that I have resided in. I have known most of my current neighbors since I was born, and the sense of love and family is abundant. It is a rare occurrence to find this type of community in today's fast paced and dynamic world. It would be heart breaking to jeopardize this rare and endangered community by changing its status and including it in the City of Goleta's proposed Sphere of influence.

It is inevitable that with change comes more change. The possibility that the City of Goleta would pursue the annexation of this area in the future is a reality. This could result in the loss of the identity of our area and have far reaching consequences on the retention of our beloved community. The possibility that the urban boundary line could sweep up to include our neighborhood making it easier for the City of Goleta to change the current zoning status is a risk that we are not willing to take. A certain member of the Goleta City Council has already expressed his desire to have sidewalks installed in our neighborhoods. This is counter to what the residents of our area desire. The reason we live here is the rural and rustic nature of our area. It would destroy our culture and community if changes of this nature were to occur. We need to save our extraordinary neighborhood before such a concept succumbs to extinction.

It has been no secret that the vast majority of the residents in Area C adamantly oppose inclusion in a SOI and/or annexation into the City of Goleta. I would like to utilize this opportunity to reinforce that sentiment again, and implore the LAFCo Board Members to heed the desires of our North Fairview community members and deny the City of Goleta's application to include Area C in its Sphere of Influence.

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my desires.

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Reynolds

Tracy L. Reynolds
North Fairview Resident

Via Email

February 19, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman
c/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman:

Regarding the City of Goleta's Sphere of Influence Proposal before LAFCO, we live in the North Fairview area included in the proposal. We do not want a change made to our status. The residents of this area have made it very clear to the City of Goleta that we are unanimously opposed to this. Over 50% of the residents signed a petition stating this to the City of Goleta. Unfortunately they have still insisted in pursuing this area for their Sphere of Influence.

Our area has always been a rural area and we want it to remain that way. We are fearful that should the City be successful and annex us that this will raise the urban line into our area. This could open our area to re-zoning and development. We residents DO NOT want denser housing, sidewalks and street lights. We want the North Fairview area to remain the way it presently is--RURAL.

Please listen to the will of the people of this area by voting against this area for the City of Goleta's Sphere of Influence.

Thank you for an opportunity to respond to LAFCO.

Sincerely,

Howard and Gail Shannon
1146 N. Fairview Road
Goleta, CA 93117

Steve Sheaffer
1198 Edward Place
Goleta, CA 93117
ssheaffer@cox.net
805/967 9987

Feb. 15, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman
C/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Cc: 2nd Board of Supervisor, Janet Wolf

Subject: City of Goleta Area C SOI Application Appearing on LAFCo Agenda for March 5th.

Dear Mr. Braitman:

Thank you for meeting with the four of us on February 10th. regarding the City of Goleta's SOI issue on the LAFCo Agenda for March 5th.

Per your invitation, I am writing to inform collectively the (7) LAFCo Commissioners of our North Fairview Area C Neighborhood overwhelming consensus on the SOI issue. As you know, in February 2008, our neighborhood submitted a Petition signed by (97) of our Area C residents to be removed from any future City of Goleta SOI consideration . The Petition was submitted to both the City of Goleta and to our 2nd District Board of Supervisors Janet Wolf. At that time, both Janet Wolfe and ourselves thought that we were eliminated from a future City of Goleta SOI Application based on the East Goleta LAFCo decision on not going into the City of SB SOI. However, even after holding (2) meeting with City of Goleta Staff and speaking at the last (3) Goleta City Council Meetings, the City of Goleta went ahead and submitting their SOI Application *(including Area C) to LAFCo on January 16th.

The reasons are varied for why our residents do **not** wish to be included in the City of Goleta's SOI, but the central issue is that we are quite satisfied with being an unincorporated county area and definitely *do not want to be annexed*. *We desire the status quo*. *Some of the key additional reasons for not being in the Goleta SOI are:*

1. Area C is a rural area in the foothills of Goleta and we do not want such urban features as crowded and wider streets, sidewalks and city-type lighting.
2. Although Area C largely consists of homes on large lots with wide setbacks, we also have a substantial portion of our land in agriculture, including a large organic farm and many multi-acre producing orchards.
3. Although the City of Goleta uses the argument of Area C having common municipal services with the City of Goleta, all of our municipal services to our knowledge are also provides to several of the other residential areas in the unincorporated county. In fact, our municipal services are essentially the same as provided prior Goleta cityhood, so our feeling is that common municipal services is an irrelevant argument.
4. Although the City of Goleta uses the argument that we use their facilities (streets, parks, library (which is actually City of Santa Barbara run) etc), we also use these same facilities in the City of Santa Barbara without paying a tax directly to the City.
5. The residents of the City of Goleta have seen their carefully crafted General Plan torn apart in recent years by development interest, but the residents of Area C clearly do not want this development. We believe the City of Goleta's intention is to annex Area C and then begin to rezone our open spaces and farms for high density housing.
6. An annexation would result in the urban line being moved up beyond La Goleta Road to the upper edge of Area C. This would represent a dangerous precedence by not protecting the Santa Ynez foothills and it would represent the only urban sprawl into the Goleta foothills.

We agree with the LAFCo Executive Officer, Mr. Bob Braitman's, recommendation of having an SOI Application accompany concurrently an Annexation Application. We desire the LAFCo Commissioners vote in favor of this recommendation since:

1. The City of Goleta will probably not submit another stand-alone SOI Application for Area C, knowing the result of the upcoming LAFCo vote of 2009.
2. If the City of Goleta were to submit a concurrent SOI/Annexation Application, our residents would be faced with a choice immediately, without being placed in an unwanted SOI forever where we would be forced to continually monitor a future City of Goleta Annexation Application to LAFCo. By making the Application a concurrent SOI/Annexation, our residents would immediately challenge such an Annexation attempt with 25% written challenge, and a subsequent Annexaction vote within Area C would clearly defeat an Annexation attempt. By using the concurrent approach, we would avoid dragging the process our over the years.

It is therefore requested that the LAFCo Commissioners vote in favor of the concurrent SOI/Annexation approach.

Thank you for an opportunity to respond to LAFCo.

Sincerely

Steve Sheaffer

Steve Sheaffer
1198 Edward Place
Goleta, CA 93117

Feb. 18, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman
C/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Encl: " North Fairview Neighborhood Balks at Goleta's Influence" written by Sonia Fernandez on 2/2/09

Dear Mr. Braitman:

I thought it would be informative if the LAFCo Commissioner's were aware of local press write-ups regarding our North Fairview area SOI issue. The North Fairview resident's strong opposition to the City of Goleta SOI Application has been covered in virtually all local press and internet news sources, including the: 1) NewsPress, 2) SB Independent, 3) Santa Ynez Reporter, and 4) NoozHawk.

Enclosed is the latest NoozHawk coverage of our plight.

If the LAFCo Commissioners vote to retain Area C in the City of Goleta SOI, it is likely there will be more local press coverage like the coverage enclosed. On the other hand, if the Commissions vote for your recommendation of concurrent SOI/Annexation, the Sonia Fernandez's of the world I suspect are going to write a "happy ending" story for North Fairview.

Sincerely

Steve Sheaffer

North Fairview Neighborhood Balks at Goleta's Influence

By **SONIA FERNANDEZ, NOOZHAWK STAFF WRITER** | Posted on 02/02/2009

Residents step up their campaign against inclusion in Goleta's Sphere of Influence and will take their case to LAFCO.

The foothills neighborhood along North Fairview Avenue is close to the hustle and bustle of Goleta but has a rural, bucolic feel. That's just the way residents like it and many have come together to fight the city's Sphere of Influence plans. (Michelle J. Wong / Noozhawk photo)

When you drive north on Fairview Avenue from the city of Goleta, you head into the country. The sidewalk disappears, horses peer out at you from their corrals, the sleepy neighborhood rolls up and down the foothills north of Cathedral Oaks Road.

And the neighbors like it this way. Ask Tracy Reynolds, who spent her childhood in this unincorporated area.

"I grew up here," she said of her family home, which she left in her early adult years, only to return later to take care of her aging parents. Not much has changed, she noted.

So when she and her neighbors found out that Goleta was planning to include their area in its Sphere of Influence proposal, they weren't too thrilled.

"Actually, we found out by accident," said resident Gail Shannon.

When the city of Santa Barbara more than a year ago proposed to include the eastern Goleta Valley in its Sphere of Influence, a move that was turned down by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission, the North Fairview residents assumed they were part of that group. So they didn't expect to be part of the Sphere of Influence that Goleta is proposing as part of its work on the General Plan, and for more than a year have been fighting the possibility at city meetings — seemingly to no effect.

Currently there are three primary areas Goleta is exploring for inclusion in its SOI, which is a boundary set by LAFCO in accordance with what the city sees as the nearby areas that most likely would have impacts on a municipality. One of Goleta's potential tracts is Glen Annie Golf Course, whose owners want it to be part of the city. The area known as the South Patterson "ag block" is another, and so is the North Fairview neighborhood.

The main concern, say North Fairview residents, is that inclusion in the city's sphere will lead to inclusion in the city's urban limit line, which could open the rural area to more density and development.

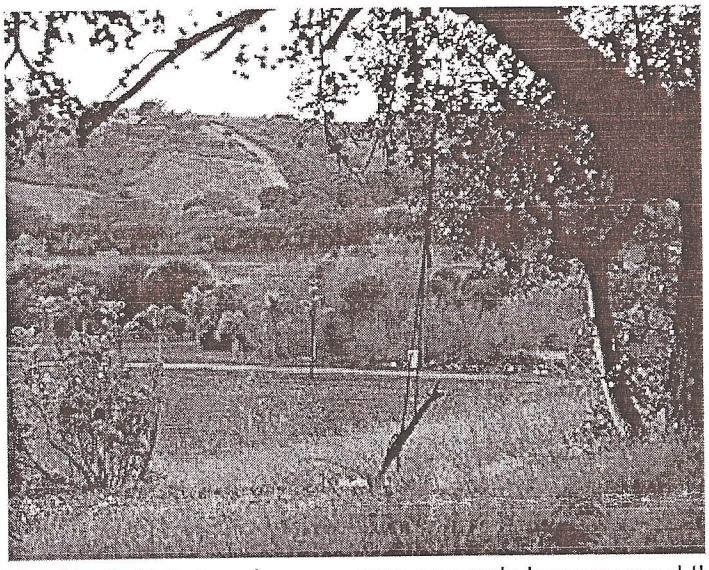
"What is at stake is the character of the neighborhood," Shannon said. "We like things the way they are."

Last year the neighbors presented a petition to the city against inclusion in the sphere. It was signed by the vast majority of the residents in the area.

For Goleta, the issue is also one of future development — and its impacts to the city. These areas are reachable only through city streets. Should any development or other activity occur within the area, city streets and services are likely to be affected. While other parts of the 2nd Supervisorial District are under a development freeze pending an updated Goleta Valley Community Plan, the North Fairview neighborhood is not.

According to City Manager Dan Singer, inclusion in Goleta's sphere does not necessarily mean more development.

"There's no change in the services provided or change in the character of their neighborhood," he said. "It just gives us a chance to be at the table with the county if there's some major development there."



The North Fairview Avenue area can only be accessed through the city of Goleta, which says it's concerned that the neighborhood could someday see additional development — along with increased impacts for the city. (Sonia Fernandez / Noozhawk photo)

What might be at the heart of the dilemma is perhaps what inclusion in a Sphere of Influence implies. While the city believes inclusion in the SOI does not necessarily mean annexation, the prevailing thought that the neighbors have is that inclusion will eventually turn into annexation.

History has been mixed on the South Coast. The city of Santa Barbara once had a Sphere of Influence that extended well beyond its boundaries, but never pursued annexation. About 18 months ago, however, when Santa Barbara made a bid to LAFCO to include the eastern Goleta Valley up to Goleta city limits, the agency turned down the request. LAFCO said that any municipality — Goleta or Santa Barbara — wishing to include the so-called "Noleta" area in its sphere would have to provide a concurrent annexation proposal.

"They decided that for the area between the two cities the policy is that we would amend the Sphere of Influence only with a concurrent annexation," said Bob Braitman, LAFCO executive officer. Because an annexation is decided by a vote of the people, it would be up to residents in the eastern Goleta Valley, in this case, to decide if they want to be in anyone's Sphere of Influence.

In the case of North Fairview, however, there is no access outside of Goleta city limits. At the same time, Goleta has no annexation proposal for the North Fairview area.

For the North Fairview neighbors, who have all along been hoping that Goleta would drop them from their Sphere of Influence plans, it may well come down to an appearance before LAFCO.

"I guess we're just going to have to keep fighting this," Shannon said.

The agency may grant Goleta's Sphere of Influence proposal, although there is indication that LAFCO might want to give Goleta the same response it did Santa Barbara. According to both Braitman and Singer, however, the actual annexation, if any, will still come down to a vote of the people.

"The people are totally empowered in this," Singer said.

Goleta's Sphere of Influence proposal is scheduled to come before LAFCO on March 5.

Write to

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sleep
1045 N. Fairview
Goleta, CA
93117

02/09/09

Mr. Bob Braitman
C/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman:

Regarding the pending changes in the Sphere of Influence regarding North Fairview, please be advised that **we in no way wish to have any changes made of any kind with regard to our current status.**

It is our wish that the City of Goleta cease and desist in their attempt to change or amend this status. We wish to remain exactly as we are now and will take every action to prevent actions counter to our wishes.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry and Ruth Sleep
(805) 964-8879

William H. Spaulding
1189 Edward Place
Goleta, CA. 93117

Feb. 16, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman
C/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman and LAFCo Board Members,

I would like to advise you of my position with respect to The City of Goleta's application to include Area C in their Sphere of Influence. I have been a resident of the North Fairview area for about three years. Its unique rural nature is one of its most attractive features. Unfortunately, if a change in status were to occur by being included in the City's SOI, this could all change.

The friends I have made over this short time period are life-long. I have lived in many cities and differing neighborhoods throughout my life, and nowhere else have I experienced such a close sense of community and family. It's a whole different culture up here, where everyone knows each other, and actually cares. To change that status by including the area into the City's SOI could be a tragic mistake. If we lose this area to change, we will never get it back, and that truly would be a pity.

Please consider my request and remove the North Fairview Avenue neighborhoods, Area C, from the City of Goleta's SOI application.

Thank you,

Bill Spaulding

5990 Cuesta Verde
Goleta, Ca 93117
805-964-8265

February 18, 2009

Mr. Bob Braitman
c/o Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93101

Dear Mr. Braitman:

Regarding the City of Goleta's Sphere of Influence Proposal before LAFCo for the North Fairview area, we do NOT want to be included in the City of Goleta's Sphere of Influence. This is a rural neighborhood and is above the urban line. The City of Goleta admits that the vast majority of neighbors in this area do not want to be under their sphere of influence but they have continued to bully their way through this. We have made our wishes known with a petition and at their meetings. We do not want to be connected to them in any way. Please listen to the will of the people.

Thank you,

Sharon Wilson

Scott Wilson