Re: VCPC Meeting Thursday June 8, 2017 - Item 6, General Plan Update

June 6, 2017

Ventura County Planning Commission
Hall of Administration
Resource Management Agency/Planning Division
Attn: Anna Hall / anna.hall@ventura.org
800 S. Victoria Ave., L#1740
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

Re: VCPC Meeting Thursday June 8, 2017 - Item 6, General Plan Update

Dear Commissioners;

MATERIAL ITEMS OMMITTED: The Planning Commission should not approve the contents of the background reports because material background issues are not included. The Major Findings Executive Summary states: “The Background Report provides a “snapshot” in time of the County’s existing conditions and represents the first major technical product of the general plan update process. It presents the physical, social, and economic resource information required to support the preparation of the General Plan.” Thus the findings are NOT CORRECT and ARE INADEQUATE because material background information has been omitted. Thus, it is impossible to move forward with the visioning process until background information is updated.

One of the more obvious material items is the omission of data concerning impacts created by illegal immigration which is negatively impacting law enforcement, deflating wages, adding to the housing problems, inflating rents, and contributing to the shortage of resources. It is estimated that over 10% of the county population does not have legal status. A number of other issues are herein referenced within my comments in staff Exhibit 5 titled public comments.

The “Public Comments” within Exhibit 5 are summarized as follows: The data suggests an extremely low participation rate by the public in the update process. Out of a population of over 800,000 people, there were only 36 written comments. Only 11 of those comments were from individuals. Only 9 of the comments were from businesses (and six of those were from agriculture interests). Governmental organizations account for the remainder.
Public participation, in a democratic society, is the hallmark of government. From voting to running for office, organizing protest groups, or joining activist organizations, most of us either practice or believe in an activist role for citizens in governmental affairs. Public participation has come to define good planning. A comprehensive plan should be one done with the people, not for the people.

Respectfully,

Charles Spraggins
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