



July 10, 2019

Mr. Paul Hood  
Executive Director  
Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: LAFCO Agricultural and Open Space Policies

Dear MR. Hood:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Agricultural and Open Space Policies. The City of Solvang supports the policy recommendations of the Environmental Defense Center's Open-Space Preservation and Education Network ("OPEN") as expressed in its March 16, 2018 and May 8, 2019 letters to LAFCO, as well as the recommendations of the CALAFCO White Paper.

OPEN's letters and the CALAFCO White Paper highlight the importance of preserving agricultural land in Santa Barbara County and emphasize that it is a core LAFCO responsibility. They also recommend that LAFCO undertake a comprehensive review of its policies and process along with local spheres of influence. Protecting agricultural lands and open spaces while encouraging infill development and containing urban sprawl should be among LAFCO's highest priorities.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Gassaway".

David Gassaway  
Solvang City Manager

cc: Solvang City Council Members  
LAFCO Commission Members