



CITY OF SANTA MARIA
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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May 30, 2014

Mr. Paul Hood, Executive Officer
Santa Barbara County LAFCO
103 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Proposed 2014-15 LAFCO Budget

On behalf of the City of Santa Maria, I'd like to take this opportunity to provide you with some comments and concerns regarding LAFCO's proposed 2014-15 budget.

First off, to the best of my knowledge and my staff's knowledge, the City never received any correspondence regarding your proposed budget or the proposed increases therein. I actually received a courtesy copy from another City Manager after a brief discussion regarding this matter.

Second, your proposed budget is increasing by twenty-two percent over the prior year which means the increased costs will be passed along to cities throughout Santa Barbara County. For Santa Maria, we are already looking at a multi-million dollar budget deficit next fiscal year and any increased costs to the City will only compound that matter.

I understand that the bulk of the increases come from an increase in Contractual Staff Services and the amount you are placing in your contingency reserve. Regarding the Contractual Staff Services, the City of Santa Maria has always had a reputation of doing more with less; accordingly, I would ask that you reassess the need for increased staff services in light of the dire financial conditions in some of the cities within Santa Barbara County. In addition, I would ask that the Commission reconsider the significant increase in your contingency reserve.

Thank you for your consideration regarding the above and I ask that you kindly pass along a copy of this letter to your Commission prior to your June 5th meeting.

RICHARD J. HAYDON
City Manager

cc: City Council