

**Santa Barbara County *Chapter of the*
California Special Districts Association**

c/o Santa Maria Public Airport District
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Phone: (805) 922-1726 Fax (805) 922-0677

November 6, 2014

The Honorable Das Williams
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0037

SUBJECT: Isla Vista Governance

Dear Assemblyman Williams,

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association (SBCCSDA). Our membership is comprised of 22 special districts, including four community services districts. Cumulatively, the SBCCSDA Board of Directors has decades of experience in governing and managing special districts and serving as Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) commissioners.

It's our understanding that your office is supporting the formation of a community services district (CSD) for the Isla Vista (IV) community via legislative action. It is also our understanding that the intent of this action is to bypass the LAFCO review process.

We are unaware of any published proposal at this time; however, we understand the services under consideration for the CSD (street lighting, sidewalks, parks and recreation, and graffiti abatement) are currently the responsibility of, and being provided by, the County of Santa Barbara (County Service Area 31), Isla Vista Recreation & Park District, and other entities.

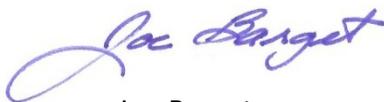
While we understand IV has its own set of unique challenges, we believe the same financial feasibility criteria should be applied to IV as any other proposed district. It is our strong recommendation that you encourage your constituency to use the established LAFCO application process. LAFCO was formed for the express purpose of analyzing the various and complex local issues surrounding incorporation and formation of special districts.

While not always popular, we believe LAFCO is uniquely qualified to make recommendations related to the viability of a CSD. As part of the process we believe a comprehensive financial feasibility study should be completed to determine the financial feasibility of the proposed CSD, and whether other alternatives exist that would better serve the community.

Please accept this letter in the constructive spirit it is offered. As an organization, SBCCSDA is a strong supporter of special districts and local control; however, we are also acutely aware that a CSD must guarantee new or substantially improved services and sufficient funding sources to be viable.

We would welcome a copy of the text that is being proposed or other pertinent information. Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further or to provide additional information for SBCCSDA consideration.

Respectfully,



Joe Barget
Chapter President

c:

State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson

3rd District Supervisor Doreen Farr

University of California Santa Barbara Chancellor Henry Yang

CALAFCO Executive Director Pamela Miller

Santa Barbara County LAFCO Executive Director Paul Hood

California Special Districts Association Legislative Director Kyle Packham

Isla Vista Recreation & Park District Board Chairperson Jeff Bessmer