



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

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May 5, 2015

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
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SUBJECT: Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett and Supervisor Long for this Board to Provide Annual Funding for the Boys & Girls Clubs Serving the Three Federally Identified Disadvantaged Communities in the Unincorporated Area of Ventura County.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Provide annual funding in the amount of \$150,000 each to the Oxnard, Santa Clara Valley and Ventura Boys & Girls Clubs that serve, or plan to serve, youth in the unincorporated areas of Nyeland Acres, Piru and Saticoy which are identified by the Federal government as Disadvantaged Communities in Ventura County.
- 2) Instruct the CEO's office to establish appropriate reporting guidelines for the Clubs to ensure the Board's intentions regarding the funding are being carried out.
- 3) Encourage the cities in Ventura County to join us in acknowledging that the unique value of Boys & Girls Clubs to our communities is so significant and consistent with the mission of local government that some local government funding is warranted for Clubs within their particular governing area.
- 4) Direct the County Executive Office to include the contribution in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget.

DISCUSSION:

Boys & Girls Clubs can play a vital role in positively shaping the lives and futures of at-risk youth in Ventura County. The Clubs provide job preparation and readiness education for middle & high school students. Teens specifically learn valuable career path information, with special emphasis on academic success and continuing their education. Ventura County Boys & Girls Club members have a 97% high school graduation rate, 0% teen pregnancy

rate and 83% improved family relations. These are real benefits that directly benefit our community. As our Board heard in the presentation a few weeks ago, for every \$1 invested in the Boys & Girls Clubs in Ventura County, the Clubs generate \$15.45 of positive economic impact in the region.

Boys & Girls Clubs operating in unincorporated areas identified as "Disadvantaged Communities" are struggling to raise the funds needed to keep these effective programs operating. The three Disadvantaged Communities are identified using Median Household Income (MHI). A MHI of less than \$48,706 is the Disadvantaged Community threshold. The maps and GIS files are derived from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey and are compiled for the 5-year period 2006-2010. Nyeland Acres, Piru and Satcoy are the unincorporated areas that meet the Disadvantaged Community criteria.

Our research indicates that \$150,000 covers most of the annual cost of service in each of these clubs.

The historical sources of funding for Boys & Girls Clubs are not likely to provide the Clubs with adequate funding. Because these are disadvantaged communities, there is less ability for the local community to self-fund their local Boys & Girls Club, and County government should step up to keep these critical services funded.

Because County government provides municipal services to the unincorporated areas, our Board has a special responsibility to ensure that youth in these disadvantaged communities have the ability to access the positive environment, skill-building and life enrichment experiences offered by Boys & Girls Clubs. Working parents in these communities can focus on their jobs with the knowledge that after school their children are safe, staying out of trouble and experiencing education skill building, volunteer opportunities, physical activity and healthy nutrition.

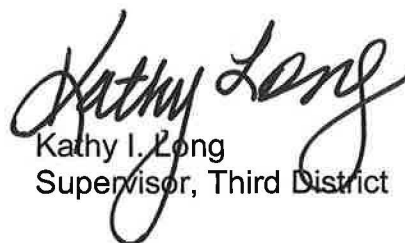
The County provided CDBG funding to the Boys & Girls Clubs until the past few years. It is our recommendation that our Board returns to our long-held practice of providing some funding for Boys & Girls Clubs that serve our unincorporated, disadvantaged area youth.

Ventura County residents are fortunate that the Boys & Girls Club professionals in our communities provide safe, nurturing and effective programs for our youth. We hope you will join us in supporting their efforts in the unincorporated area and also encourage the elected representatives of the cities to support the Boys & Girls Clubs within their jurisdictions.

Cordially,



Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District



Kathy I. Long
Supervisor, Third District