

Response



City Of Camarillo

601 Carmen Drive • P.O. Box 248 • Camarillo, CA 93011-0248

Office of the City Manager
(805) 388-5307
Fax (805) 388-5318

October 21, 1998

The Honorable Charles W. Campbell, Jr.
Presiding Judge, Superior Court
Ventura County Government Center
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RECEIVED
OCT 23 1998

WJL WA
27 OCT 1998

73
RECEIVED
OCT 23 1998

Dear Judge Campbell:

Please forgive our delay in responding to the June 29, 1998 final supplemental report entitled, *County of Ventura Redevelopment Study* as prepared by the 1997-98 Grand Jury. Given the fact that the study involved the redevelopment activities of three cities (not including the City of Camarillo), we incorrectly believed that the only agencies needing to respond to this report were those studied. We recently were informed that we are required to respond and hence the reason for letter.

The City of Camarillo is a relative newcomer to redevelopment in that we did not establish the Camarillo Corridor Redevelopment Project until 1996. This project primarily involves the redevelopment of Ventura Boulevard along with several neighborhood shopping centers and some of the older industrial areas within the city.

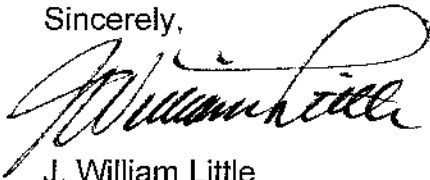
Our comments regarding this report are as follows.

1. The report fairly describes the laws governing redevelopment and the requirements of those laws as they pertain to redevelopment agencies.
2. The City of Camarillo agrees with the conclusion that redevelopment is the best tool available to cities at this time to accomplish substantial change relating to blight and other deteriorating conditions within a city. We further acknowledge that redevelopment must be used cautiously and after complete study of its "pro's and con's."
3. As to the report's recommendations, the City of Camarillo does not believe there are sufficient redevelopment problems between cities to justify seeking a change in state law to create a state mediation board to settle disputes over redevelopment actions. Apparently, the Grand Jury viewed the litigation which occurred between the cities of Oxnard and Ventura over the redevelopment of the San Buenaventura Mall as the

reason for their recommendation. We believe that type of situation occurs very infrequently and that litigation also occurs between cities outside of the redevelopment process as the City of Camarillo experienced five years ago when the Premium Outlet project was approved. Further, the city does not necessarily agree that loopholes exist in AB 1290 as to the definition of blight and therefore does not support the recommendation that state action is necessary to change those definitions.

If further comment or clarification should be desired, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. William Little". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

J. William Little
City Manager