

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2006

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

RECEIVED
VENTURA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

July 18, 2006

JUL 20 2006

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

Honorable John R. Smiley, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
Hall of Justice, #2120
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED *AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN VENTURA COUNTY CITIES*

Dear Judge Smiley:

The Simi Valley City Council reviewed the *Affordable Housing in Ventura County Cities* report during its July 17, 2006, meeting and is in support of the eight findings and five conclusions contained therein.

With regard to the first of the Grand Jury's two recommendations, the City has worked and will continue to work with businesses and developers to actively pursue solutions to the social, economic and environmental problems associated with the issues of affordable housing. In response to the second recommendation that the City should educate its residents on how local services (education, police, health care, etc.) depend upon the availability of affordable housing, the City has not adopted any formal policy of educating its residents regarding this issue. However, when affordable housing projects are proposed, the need and benefit of developing new affordable housing opportunities is nearly always a topic of public discussion. In addition, the City's Housing and Special Projects Division staff will be attending meetings at the City's four Neighborhood Councils during September to make presentations regarding the benefits of developing new affordable housing.

A comprehensive update to the City's General Plan including the Housing Element is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006. The Grand Jury's two recommendations will be incorporated into the Housing Element, and will address how the City might be able to increase its efforts to work with local businesses and developers to further promote the development of affordable housing. In addition, the Housing Element update will address specific measures that will be taken to educate the public regarding how local services depend upon the availability of affordable housing.

Please contact me at your convenience if there are additional questions or if additional information is needed regarding the City's affordable housing programs. The City Council sincerely appreciates the Grand Jury's interest in this important subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Sedell".

Mike Sedell
City Manager

cc: Director of Environmental Services
Deputy Director/Housing and Special Projects
2005-2006 Grand Jury Foreperson, James H. Dekker