



CITY OF FILLMORE

CENTRAL PARK PLAZA

250 Central Avenue

Fillmore, California 93015-1907

(805) 524-3701 • FAX (805) 524-5707

July 9, 2008

Don Cody, Foreperson
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Cody:

In response to the Ventura County Grand Jury report titled, "Fillmore-Piru Memorial District Reorganization" the City of Fillmore submits the following response.

Recommendations

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that the District be reorganized as a subsidiary district of Fillmore through the State legislative process.

City Response: The City disagrees with the Grand Jury's recommendation. The City Council, at their October 9, 2007 regular meeting authorized the Mayor to send a letter to LAFCO indicating that the City does not support dissolving the district (see attached letter dated October 11, 2007). At a joint meeting with the Memorial District the City informed the District that the City would move forward in whatever direction the district desired. The District stated that they were not interested in dissolution. The District provides and maintains an essential service to the Community – the operation of the Fillmore-Piru Veteran's Memorial Building. The County of Ventura also stated that they would agree with whatever decision the Memorial District made concerning the suggested dissolution.

R-02. The Grand Jury recommends that the Fillmore City Council become the Board of Directors for the new subsidiary district.

City Response: The City disagrees with the Grand Jury's recommendation. As stated above neither the City nor the County of Ventura support the dissolution of the District.

R-03. The Grand Jury recommends that the Board complete AB1234, mandatory ethics training, regardless of a decision to reorganize the District.

City Response: The City concurs with the Grand Jury's recommendation. The County of Ventura is the responsible agency to ensure that AB 1234 is complied with. However, the City has provided opportunities, free of charge, for the District Board members to receive the training.

R-04. The Grand Jury recommends that the District comply with the Military and Veterans Code §1195 regarding elections for board members, unless there is a decision to reorganize the District.

City Response: The City partially agrees with the Grand Jury's recommendation. When there becomes one or more vacancies and there are more candidates than seats available the City agrees that an election shall be held. However, when the number of candidates equals the number of available seats the City believes that it is a waste of Memorial District funds to hold an election.

Please feel free to contact me anytime should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Ristau
City Manager

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JUL 14 2008
VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Cc: Honorable Colleen Toy White, Presiding Judge



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October 11, 2007

Executive Director Everett Millais
Local Agency Formation Commission of Ventura County
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Room 457
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Fillmore-Piru Veterans Memorial District
Oppose Dissolution of District

Dear Mr. Millais:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the Fillmore City Council's position on any action to dissolve the Fillmore-Piru Veterans Memorial District.

The Fillmore City Council does not support dissolving the district. The City Council voted unanimously at its October 11, 2007 meeting to urge LAFCO to not take any action that would dissolve the board or lead to its dissolution.

The Fillmore City Council is supportive for many reasons of the decision of the District's board to not wish to dissolve. Namely, the District provides and maintains an essential service to the community – the operation of the Fillmore-Piru Veterans Memorial Building. The building is critical to the community. Various non-profit organizations and boards meet at the building, and it also functions as a true community center, hosting town hall meetings, pageants, and other community gatherings that could not be accommodated at any other local building. Without this building, and the board and its staff to operate and maintain it, Fillmore would lose a vital place where the community can gather or do its business. The building also provides critical emergency shelter space in the case of a disaster that displaces persons from their homes.

For these reasons, the Fillmore City Council urges the LAFCO board to not dissolve the Fillmore-Piru Veterans Memorial District.

Sincerely,

Steve Conaway, Mayor

c: Supervisor Kathy Long
Fillmore-Piru Veterans Memorial District Board