

REACH

Ideas + Action for a Thriving Central Coast

March 8, 2020

Mayors and Councilmembers
Cities of San Luis Obispo County

Subject: Letter of Support for San Luis Obispo Countywide Regional Compact

Dear San Luis Obispo County Mayors and Councilmembers:

It is our privilege to address your councils on an issue of significant importance to the future of our region. Formerly known as the Hourglass Project, our organization is called REACH – a Regional Economic Action Coalition. As an Economic Impact organization, we are uniting public, private and civic leaders across the Central Coast of California, from Vandenberg Air Force Base to Camp Roberts, encompassing 12 cities, 2 counties and about a half a million residents to ensure current and future generations have the opportunity to thrive on the Central Coast.

Housing and infrastructure are critical to the future of our region, because the talented members of our workforce and our private sector job creators depend on long-range, regional planning, prioritization and investment in infrastructure and housing. These are the foundations of our community and our economy.

In December 2018, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors approved a historic housing package that addressed a number of key policies that impact housing in our region. One of these items was the adoption of a county-led regional infrastructure and housing strategic planning effort. This effort was resourced by the board with a full-time equivalent position to focus solely on this countywide collaborative effort.

Over the past year, the administrative officer directed the actions of the principal analyst charged with working within the county, with cities and multiple partner organizations to set a vision for this bold and critically important effort. This effort has resulted in a framework and broad support among government and private sector stakeholders, alike.

The compact under your consideration is enthusiastically supported by the REACH Board of Directors, and key business leaders from San Luis Obispo County and Northern Santa Barbara County.

We urge your support for the compact. By signing this compact, your demonstrated leadership and commitment to working together will have a lasting impact on the long-term interests of our community. As this regional planning work progresses, we encourage the Cities and San Luis Obispo County to include North Santa Barbara County in this important effort, because jobs and housing are independent of our city/county boundaries. By broadening this countywide effort, together, we can take a necessary step in realizing our full potential to create a Central Coast where residents have an opportunity to thrive.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 805-476-0412, or Andrew Hackleman at 805-391-4580.

Sincerely,



Melissa James
President/CEO
REACH