

To: Ventura County Board of Supervisors
From: Santa Clara Valley Together
Re: Agenda Item 126, Designated Disadvantaged Communities
Date July 23, 2024
Via email

Dear Supervisor Long and Members of the Board:

Santa Clara Valley Together would like to endorse the staff recommendation for new Designated Disadvantaged Communities in the Santa Paula unincorporated area. This recommendation is based on your Board's own recommendation from your December study session and has been subsequently reviewed and recommended by the County Planning Commission. After this thorough review, we are confident in your approval and provide this letter in lieu of providing in-person public comment.

The Board Letter lists some examples of General Plan policies that relate to DDCs. In the past we have argued in vain that special consideration should be given to some of these areas in line with those policies, but we did not have the benefit of their designation to justify our position. Your recognition of these areas will allow us to more effectively advocate for the protection and the needs of these small communities.

We would like to thank your Board and the Planning Division for the opportunity to participate in this process. Staff worked hard to include the local community in the process from the very beginning, which allowed our organization to better understand the objectives and the process. This approach has reduced potential points of conflict along the way. While we have not yet gotten everything for which we advocated, we are satisfied that our concerns and suggestions are being given respectful consideration.

Thank you for your support.

Mary Ann Krause AICP

Chair, Santa Clara Valley Together