



March 31, 2024

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Item D-4 on Board of Supervisors Agenda for April 2, 2024.
Long Range Planning Work Program

Chair Lavagnino and Members of the Board,

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (League) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Long-Range Planning Work Program. We appreciate that the staff and the Board undertake this process to make the work of the department clear to the public. We support your staff's recommendation to dedicate 2.5 FTE toward Housing Element Implementation items. The Housing Element includes 25 Programs that need to be implemented by 2031 and is likely to require this level of staffing commitment for years to come.

We do suggest that the staff provide more detail regarding the programs that will be implemented over the coming fiscal year, including those to be undertaken by Planning and Development staff as well as those assigned to other departments.

According to the Housing Element, three programs that are especially important to the League are to be undertaken in this coming fiscal year:

- Program 12, regarding development of County owned sites selected as part of the Housing Element rezone process;
- Program 21, studying development of a Local Preference in housing ordinance; and
- Program 23, the Workforce Housing Study.

We request the investigation of options to finance affordable housing (included in Program 5) be accelerated. This program is currently slated for January 2026. Given the desperate need for affordable housing and the time involved to develop appropriate funding sources, the League believes this item should be undertaken immediately.

Thank you again for holding a public hearing on the work program for Long-Range Planning and for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Vicki Allen in black ink.

Vicki Allen, Vice President, Communications
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Handwritten signature of Dianne M. Black in blue ink.

Dianne Black, Vice President
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara