



3/3/2023

Chair Parke and Planning Commissioners
Santa Barbara County Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

RE: Solomon Hills Project

Chair Parke and Planning Commissioners:

The Santa Barbara County Chambers of Commerce, including the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Buellton Chamber of Commerce representing businesses throughout Santa Barbara County, would like to express our support for the Solomon Hills Project and the associated initiation request.

Struggling to attract and retain employees due of the high cost and lack of housing stock is one of the top issues we consistently hear from local businesses. This economic need for increased housing supply, on top of the State’s mandates, requires the County to think seriously about which projects make sense for our communities, and will provide the most value. Solomon Hills has the potential to be the type of big picture project our county needs to begin proactively addressing the current housing crisis.

Solomon Hills indicates a potential leap forward in the way we are addressing the lack of housing supply in Santa Barbara County, which could mean impactful results for the county’s local employers who suffer every day to retain and recruit employees, as well as many of their employees who struggle with increasingly difficult commutes – often from outside of Santa Barbara County.

We ask that you approve the initiation request so that a further study of the project can be conducted. The applicant appears very willing to work with the County to design a project that best fits our region’s needs. As our local businesses continue to struggle with a growing workforce of employees commuting from outside the county, we hope that the County would welcome a regional project like this with open arms. Support for this initiation would send a strong signal of the County’s commitment to think outside of the box and explore all available options as we continue to work toward addressing the housing shortage which continues to limit our local economies.

Please support this initiation request and take the next step in making significant proactive progress toward addressing our region’s housing needs. Thank you for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce
Buellton Chamber of Commerce