



A
PRESENTATION
TO THE
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
BY THE
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA FORMATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 25, 1987

PRESENTORS:

CARL BOYER	- CHAIRMAN
ARTHUR DONNELLY	- VICE CHAIRMAN
CONNIE WORDEN	- VICE CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL KOTCH	- STRATEGIC PLANNING

DRAFT TESTIMONY TO LAFCO

GOOD MORNING, CHAIRMAN CHAPPELL, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND STAFF. MY NAME IS CONNIE WORDEN. MY MAILING ADDRESS IS P. O. BOX 233, NEWHALL. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA FORMATION COMMITTEE TODAY ARE THE THREE CHAIRMEN AND A MEMBER OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE, NAMELY MYSELF, CARL BOYER, CHAIRMAN, MICHAEL KOTCH, AND ART DONNELLY. IN TESTIMONY THIS MORNING WE WISH TO BRIEFLY PRESENT:

- 1) A HISTORY OF THE AREA AND THE INCORPORATION EFFORT.
- 2) RESPONSE TO THE LAFCO STAFF REPORT INCLUDING BUDGET AND BOUNDARY DISCUSSIONS.
- 3) CONCLUDING STATEMENTS AND REQUESTS.

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE EARNED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD BY YOU AND RECOGNIZE THAT THE COMMISSION WILL GIVE THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION TO OUR APPEAL. WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE STAFF AND COMMISSION IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORM THE PROPOSED CITY WITH MUTUALLY AGREEABLE BOUNDARIES. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK RUTH BENELL AND HER STAFF, WHOSE PROFESSIONALISM, GOOD COUNSEL AND ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN NOTEWORTHY.

THE PROPOSED CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, A TOPOGRAPHICALLY DISTINCT, BEAUTIFUL VALLEY OF POPULOUS CANYONS, STEEP MOUNTAINOUS RIDGES AND FLOOD PLAINS, IS A MICROCOSM OF EVERYWHERE, OFFERING A DIVERSITY OF HOUSING AND LIFE STYLES FROM EQUESTRIAN ESTATES AND COMFORTABLE TRACT HOMES TO COMPACT CONDOMINIUMS AND APARTMENTS AT PRICES GENERALLY LOWER THAN IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY. THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING INDUSTRIAL PARKS, CORPORATE CENTER AND COMMERCIAL

DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATE THE AREA'S IMPORTANCE IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MARKETPLACE. THE PRIDE OF CITIZENS AND THEIR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IS EVIDENCED BY THE PRESENCE OF MORE THAN 150 SERVICE CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS MORE THAN SIXTY CHURCHES, SYNOGOGUES AND PLACES TO WORSHIP. NEARLY 50% OF THE LABOR FORCE IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY IS EMPLOYED LOCALLY.

TODAY THE VALLEY HAS BECOME THE FASTEST GROWING SECTOR OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY. THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IS BALANCED BY INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL EXPANSION, AND THE INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES AVAILABLE OR THOUGHT TO BE DESIRABLE FOR FUTURE USE IS EXTENSIVE. THIS ATTRACTIVE AREA TODAY HOUSES A POPULATION OF 106,000. THIS IS CONSERVATIVELY PROJECTED TO EXCEED 200,000 IN THIRTEEN YEARS.

THE GEOGRAPHIC SEPARATION OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY FROM THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AND THE BASIN AREA OF LOS ANGELES HAS ENGENDERED A UNIQUE VALLEYWIDE COMMUNITY SPIRIT ENCOMPASSING CASTAIC, NEWHALL, SAUGUS, VALENCIA AND CANYON COUNTRY. COMMONALITIES AND THE SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS HAVE BEEN MANIFESTED MANY TIMES.

THE CITYHOOD EFFORT WAS INITIATED BY BOTH LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WHO FORMED A COMMITTEE TO STUDY INCORPORATION IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES FROM CITIZENS ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THIS STUDY COMMITTEE EVOLVED INTO THE FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE WHICH CIRCULATED PETITIONS SECURING SIGNATURES FROM MORE THAN 25% OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE AREA, IN EXCESS OF 15,500 SIGNATURES. INFORMATION MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH HOMEOWNERS GROUPS, SERVICE

CLUBS, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS, BOARDS OF REALTORS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. A TREMENDOUS INTEREST IN SELF DETERMINATION THROUGH INCORPORATION HAS BEEN GENERATED.

THE TIME HAS COME TO ASK THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THIS APPLICATION TO FORM THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA.

THE PRIMARY REASON FOR SEEKING TO INCORPORATE IS TO OBTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE MORE ACCESSIBLE, RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF CITIZENS, AND TAILORED TO MEET THE SPECIAL IDENTITY OF THIS VALLEY. THIS IS NOT A STOP GROWTH EFFORT. MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMITTEE, RESIDENTS AND GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE AREA RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR QUALITY GROWTH, REALIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES INHERENT IN SUPPORTING A WELL-BALANCED VALLEY WITH ADEQUATE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL EXPANSION. PROPONENTS ACCEPT THE CONCOMMITTANT NEED TO ALLOW QUALITY, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AS A VIABLE MEANS OF FINANCING MUCH-NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE. FURTHERMORE, THE COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ACCOMMODATION WILL BE FOUND FOR THOSE PROJECTS ALREADY IN THE PLANNING PIPELINE, WHICH WILL ADD TO THE REVENUE BASE. LEGALLY THERE CAN BE NO MORATORIUM. THE CITY CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT DEVELOPMENT. THIS ISSUE, RAISED BY SOME OPPONENTS, IS A NON-ISSUE.

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN CHAPPELL, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND STAFF. MY NAME IS CARL BOYER, 3RD. I RESIDE AT 24200 CHERYL KELTON PLACE, NEWHALL. MY MAILING ADDRESS IS P. O. BOX 333, NEWHALL.

I WOULD ASK YOU TO TURN YOUR ATTENTION TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED CITY BUDGET. THE PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET (EXHIBIT I, PAGE

30) ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NO FIGURES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED FOR EITHER FEDERAL OR STATE FUNDING. HISTORICALLY, THESE MONIES HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIAL. MORE THAN \$3.3 MILLION FROM THESE SOURCES WERE SPENT ON CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY IN 1985-86. IT IS REASONABLE TO ANTICIPATE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS WILL FOLLOW A PRUDENT COURSE AND WILL UTILIZE EVERY PROFESSIONAL METHOD TO SECURE THESE MONIES. THEREFORE, THE COMMITTEE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT LAFCO ASCERTAIN FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WHAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY FROM FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT SOURCES FOR THE 1986-87 FISCAL YEAR, AND FOR THE FIVE TO TEN YEARS PRECEDING FISCAL 1985-86. THESE FIGURES CAN BE USED MORE ACCURATELY TO PROJECT A CITY BUDGET. ONE SIGNIFICANT ROAD ASSESSMENT DISTRICT HAS ALREADY BEEN FORMED. SEVERAL WILL BECOME FINALIZED DURING 1987. THESE FIGURES ARE CRITICAL TO THE PROJECTION OF AN ACCURATE CITY BUDGET.

FISCAL ISSUES POSTULATED IN THE CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION PAGES INCLUDE POSSIBLE MOVEMENT OF THE TRUCK WEIGH STATION. THE TRUCK SCALES, LOCATED ON I-5, HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED ON PAGE 53. THEY REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE REVENUE (ESTIMATED AT \$600,000) FOR THE NEW CITY. TWO ADDITIONAL FACTS, NOT IN THE STUDY, ARE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION.

1) DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHWAY 126 AS AN EAST/WEST ARTERY ACROSS THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY IS IMPORTANT TO THE AREA AS A MEANS OF TRANSPORTING PEOPLE, GOODS AND SERVICES. IT HAS BOTH LOCAL AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS CONJECTURED THAT WHEN THE ROAD IS BUILT, THE SCALES WOULD BE MOVED TO PREVENT TRUCKERS FROM BYPASSING

THE WEIGH STATION. THE FUNDING MECHANISM FOR CONSTRUCTING THIS EXPRESSWAY WILL COME FROM PRIVATE DEVELOPERS THROUGH ROAD ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FEES AS THE BUILDING TAKES PLACE. OPTIMISTICALLY, THE COMPLETION OF THE ROADWAY IS EIGHT TO TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE. IN THE INTERIM, A NEW CITY WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THESE FEES.

2) LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE ADVISED US THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT COULD PLACE WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON THE VEHICLES, THUS NECESSITATING THE USE OF SR14 AND I-5 AND ELIMINATING BYPASSING. OTHER ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS ACTIVATING A WEIGH STATION ON SR14 WOULD ELIMINATE EFFORTS TO BYPASS THE SCALES.

THE COMMITTEE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS A THOROUGH FINANCIAL ANALYSIS BE MADE OF THE BUDGETS FOR:

1) PUBLIC WORKS: INCLUDE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING AVAILABLE TO THE AREA DURING 1986-87 (REPORTED AS \$3.3 IN 1985-86) AND NOT INCLUDED IN THE LAFCO REPORT; SPECIAL ROAD ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FUNDS AVAILABLE DURING THE 1986-87 YEAR, AND A BREAKDOWN, PROJECT BY PROJECT, OF WHERE THE STREET CONSTRUCTION FUNDS WERE SPENT IN 1985-86.

2) FIRE PROTECTION: AMPLIFICATION IS NEEDED FOR THE TOTAL COSTS OF WILD LAND PROTECTION IF MODIFICATION OF THE BOUNDARIES IS ANTICIPATED. A SUBSTANTIAL VARIANCE IN PER ACRE PROTECTION MUST BE RESOLVED.

3) SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECTED INCOME AS WELL AS EXPENDITURES FOR TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT IS REQUIRED. A REVIEW OF FINES AND FORFEITURES INCLUSIVE OF THOSE REVENUES

GENERATED BY THE TRUCK SCALES IS REQUIRED TO RESOLVE THE VARIANCE WITH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FIGURES.

A LETTER DETAILING THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS, SUCH AS THE SHERIFF'S FIGURES BEING FOR 1986-87 EXPENDITURES, WILL BE SUBMITTED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PRESENTATION.

THE AREA WEST OF I-5 IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROPOSED CITY. ONE EXAMPLE IS THE VALLEY'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN, IS LOCATED THERE. 3,000 EMPLOYEES, MANY OF WHOM ARE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, ARE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BY MAGIC MOUNTAIN. PROPERTY TAXES AND SALES TAXES GENERATED BY MAGIC MOUNTAIN AND NEARBY COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES (SUCH AS THE RESTAURANT ROW ON THE OLD ROAD) ARE IMPORTANT REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE CITY.

THE COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES USE THE SAME STREETS, WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS, DEPEND UPON THE SCHOOLS AND ADULT RESIDENTS FOR A LABOR FORCE; THEY ARE SERVED BY THE SAME SHERIFF, FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HOSPITALS WHICH SERVE THE PROPOSED CITY.

A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LONG ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES AT THE CORNER OF PICO CANYON AND I-5 ARE CURRENTLY BEING AUGMENTED BY A COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR INCLUDING TWO MAJOR HOTELS (ONE A 130 ROOM HAMPTON INN, AND THE OTHER A 257 ROOM HOLIDAY INN). FOUR MAJOR OFFICE BUILDINGS, AND A TRACT OF VERY POPULAR LARWIN HOMES, THE FIRST FOUR PHASES OF WHICH ARE COMPLETELY SOLD, ARE LOCATED HERE AS WELL. OMISSION OF THESE RESIDENCES AND THE IMPORTANT REVENUE GENERATING BUSINESSES IS UNCONSCIONABLE. THE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND NEW RESIDENCES WILL BE SERVED BY THE VERY SAME SERVICES AS THE BALANCE OF THE PROPOSED CITY.

THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND INTERDEPENDENCIES MAKE SELF-EVIDENT THE AREA SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES.

MY NAME IS MICHAEL KOTCH. I RESIDE AT 28701 WEST SLOAN CANYON ROAD IN CASTAIC. MY REASON FOR SPEAKING WITH YOU TODAY IS TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CASTAIC REGION TO THE PROPOSED INCORPORATION. I AM A RESIDENT OF CASTAIC, A MEMBER OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE CITY FORMATION COMMITTEE, AND AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE COUNTY'S CASTAIC PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE. I MUST INDICATE THAT I AM NOT SPEAKING IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THOUGH I HAVE DRAWN ON WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT CASTAIC IN THOSE SESSIONS TO HELP FORM MY VIEWS FOR TODAY.

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY LAST WEEK TO REVIEW THE SECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE WHICH INDICATES WHAT FACTORS YOU MUST CONSIDER IN REVIEWING OUR PROPOSAL. THE LIST IS IMPRESSIVE, WITH AT LEAST THIRTY ITEMS TO KEEP IN MIND. AMONG THESE ARE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN THE AREA AND ADJACENT AREAS DURING THE NEXT TEN YEARS AND THE NEED FOR ORGANIZED COMMUNITY SERVICES.

THE 1980 LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL PLAN INDICATED THAT THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY, INCLUDING CASTAIC, SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS AN AREA FOR URBAN EXPANSION. THE ADOPTED 1984 SANTA CLARITA AREAWIDE GENERAL PLAN REFLECTS THIS URBAN EXPANSION, ESPECIALLY FOR CASTAIC. PRIOR TO THIS TIME VIRTUALLY ALL TERRITORY WEST OF INTERSTATE 5 AND NORTH OF ROUTE 126 WAS DESIGNATED AS AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE. TODAY THE CASTAIC CORRIDOR ALONG INTERSTATE 5 IS RAPIDLY GROWING AS AN URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREA, AND THERE IS LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SOUTHERN

END OF CASTAIC WILL SOON BE THE MAJOR TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING AREA FOR THE SANTA CLARITA REGION. BY 2010 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE OUT OF FOUR RESIDENTS IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WILL BE FROM THE CASTAIC AREA.

CASTAIC ALREADY SERVES AS THE MAJOR RECREATIONAL RESOURCE FOR THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY. THIS ROLE WILL BE AMPLIFIED BY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REGIONAL PARK IN CASTAIC TO OFFER A GYMNASIUM, TENNIS COURTS, BASEBALL FIELDS, OLYMPIC-SIZED SWIMMING POOL, AND OTHER AMENITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY.

THE EXISTING COMMERCIAL FACILITIES IN CASTAIC ARE MODEST AT PRESENT. THE RESIDENTS TRAVEL TO VALENCIA TO BUY THEIR FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CLOTHING OR TO VISIT THEIR DOCTOR OR THE LIBRARY. THEY TRAVEL TO SAUGUS, CANYON COUNTRY OR NEWHALL FOR HARDWARE AND BUILDING SUPPLIES. THEY GO TO VALENCIA TO WATCH THE MOVIES, GO TO NEWHALL TO DO THEIR LAUNDRY. THEY GO TO CANYON COUNTRY FOR PET SUPPLIES, TACK AND FEED. WHILE WE EXPECT SOME IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS IN CASTAIC, I IMAGINE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SEVERAL REASONS WHY WE WILL HAVE TO SHOP IN THE REST OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY. BUT THIS IS NOT REALLY A DRAWBACK; IT TAKES ONLY ABOUT TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES TO REACH MOST OF THESE PLACES FROM THE CENTER OF CASTAIC.

THE PEOPLE OF CASTAIC READ THE SAME LOCAL NEWSPAPER AS THE REST OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY. OUR CHARITABLE FUNCTIONS AND MOST OF OUR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS TAKE PLACE WITHIN AND AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY. MOST OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP DO SO IN CHURCHES

AND SYNAGOGUES IN SANTA CLARITA. WE HAVE OUR WEDDINGS THERE. WE BURY OUR DEAD THERE.

CASTAIC, THEN, IS NOT AN ISOLATED, SELF-SUFFICIENT COMMUNITY SEPARATE AND REMOVED FROM THE REMAINDER OF SANTA CLARITA. WE ARE UNIQUE IN SOME RESPECTS, AND WE OCCUPY A DISTINCT CORNER OF THE PROPOSED CITY, BUT WE ARE TIGHTLY INTERTWINED IN MANY WAYS. WE SERVE THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY AND WE DEPEND UPON SERVICES FROM THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY.

I TRUST YOU WILL NOW OR EVENTUALLY AGREE WITH ME THAT THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA IN SOME FORM IS FAIRLY CERTAIN. THE AREA HAS GROWN TO A MATURITY AND COMPLEXITY THAT THE NEED FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS INDICATED. THE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICY WHICH INDICATES THIS AREA AS ONE FOR URBAN EXPANSION IMPLICITLY ESTABLISHES A REQUIREMENT FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO SERVE THIS AREA.

ONE QUESTION IS WHETHER CASTAIC SHOULD BE INCLUDED. DURING YOUR DELIBERATIONS I WOULD LIKE YOU TO IMAGINE THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA ESTABLISHED IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WITH AND WITHOUT CASTAIC AND SEE WHICH MAKES MORE SENSE, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE: ON ONE HAND THE SCENARIO WHERE THERE IS A SINGLE UNIFIED REGION, AND ON THE OTHER SCENARIO THAT HAS ONE URBANIZED AREA WITH A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND ANOTHER URBANIZED AREA WITHOUT SUCH GOVERNMENT.

I WOULD URGE YOU TO KEEP IN MIND THE THIRTY-ODD FACTORS WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED IN YOUR REVIEW. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE DEPENDENCE THAT CASTAIC HAS ON SANTA CLARITA, AND THE RESOURCES THAT CASTAIC OFFERS TO THE REST OF THE CITY. AND PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE

FACT THAT AT LEAST HALF THE VOTERS OF CASTAIC SAW ENOUGH MERIT IN THE CITYHOOD PROPOSAL THAT THEY SIGNED THE PETITION ASKING FOR A CHANCE TO VOTE ON THE ISSUE.

WHEN YOU HAVE CONCLUDED YOUR STUDY, I FEEL CONFIDENT YOU WILL AGREE THAT CASTAIC IS A STRONG AND INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROPOSED CITY.

CHAIRMAN CHAPPELL, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND STAFF, I AM ART DONNELLY, A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY FORMATION COMMITTEE, RESIDENT OF 25571 VIA BRAVA, VALENCIA.

THE COMMITTEE SPEAKERS HERE THIS MORNING REPRESENT NINETEEN YEARS OF ELECTED OFFICE EXPERIENCE, COLLECTIVELY TEN YEARS OF SERVICE AS APPOINTEES TO GOVERNMENTAL OFFICES, AND OVER FIFTY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, THE BALANCE OF THE COMMITTEE HAS HAD SIMILAR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. SUPPORTING THE FORMATION COMMITTEE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS ORGANIZATIONS, AMONG THEM THE CANYON COUNTRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTING OVER FOUR HUNDRED MEMBERS, THE VALENCIA INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION WHERE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY INDUSTRIES EMPLOY MORE THAN EIGHT THOUSAND PEOPLE, SERVICE CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING OPTIMISTS, ROTARIANS, SOROPTIMISTS, AND NUMEROUS HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS.

THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN LAUNCHING THIS EFFORT. INCLUDED IN THE SUBMITTAL TODAY WILL LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM SOME OF THESE GROUPS; OTHERS WILL FOLLOW.

I, AS WELL AS THESE OTHERS, BELIEVE THAT CITYHOOD WILL END

THE SEVENTY TO ONE HUNDRED MILE ROUNDTRIP TO THE NEAREST LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKER. CITYHOOD WILL END DAYTIME MEETINGS IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION. CITYHOOD WILL PUT AN END TO THE EXTRAORDINARY COSTS OF TRAVEL, LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS AND PARKING, AS WELL AS INCOME LOST BY BEING AWAY FROM OUR BUSINESSES AND OUR JOBS. CITYHOOD WILL END THE POWERLESSNESS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY, WHO WILL BE ABLE TO ELECT THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES, GIVE THEM DIRECTION, PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS, AND DEMAND RESPONSIVENESS.

WE ARE NOT ANTI-GROWTH. IT IS QUALITY GROWTH THAT WILL GIVE OUR CITY THE ABILITY TO PROSPER. NEW RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY, JUST AS THE DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENCES OF OUR VALLEY ARE OUR MAJOR STRENGTH. IT IS IN QUALITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUED COMMUNITY CONTRASTS, PLANNED BY LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS, UPON WHICH OUR HOPES FOR THIS AREA REST. WE ASK ONLY THAT YOU AGREE WITH US THAT THE CITIZENS OF THIS PROPOSED CITY BE ALLOWED THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND DECIDE THIS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE AT THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION.

OPPONENTS OF THE INCORPORATION EFFORT HAVE INDICATED THIS IS A "NO GROWTH" PROPOSAL. THIS WE EMPHATICALLY DENY. THE COMMITTEE IS DESIROUS OF QUALITY, PLANNED GROWTH AND HOPE TO EMULATE THE KIND OF AWARENESS THAT YOU, MR. CHAPPELL, MR. JACKSON, AND MR. BERNSON, MUST BRING TO YOUR DELIBERATIONS AS COUNCILMEN. WE ARE MINDFUL, AS YOU ARE, THAT A CRITICAL BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR HOUSING, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AS WELL AS SENSITIVITY TO

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS, SOCIETAL NEEDS AND CITIZEN DEMANDS MUST BE OBTAINED.

WE DO NOT DENY THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY, AS EVERYWHERE, WHO WANT TO STOP DEVELOPMENT. THEIR SENTITMENTS SHOULD BE HEARD AS WELL AS THOSE DESIRING QUALITY EXPANSION IN CREATING A DYNAMIC WELL-BALANCED COMMUNITY.

IN CONCLUSION, THE FORMATION COMMITTEE STRONGLY SUPPORTS AND ENDORSES THE LAFCO STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR A CONTINUANCE AND RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THIS HEARING BE CONTINUED AND OPEN TO TESTIMONY FOR A TWENTY-EIGHT DAY PERIOD DURING WHICH TIME A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF ANY PROJECTED SHORT-FALL OF REVENUES BE EXAMINED. WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THROUGH A RIGOROUS REVIEW FUNDING WILL PROVE ADEQUATE.

FURTHERMORE WE HAVE RETAINED THE SERVICES OF OLIVER, STOEVER AND LASKIN, WHO ARE PREEMINENT IN REPRESENTING CITIES, AND THE BIG EIGHT FIRM OF ARTHUR YOUNG TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN BUDGETARY AND BOUNDARY CONSIDERATION.

THERE IS A STRONG HISTORIC PREROGATIVE FOR A TRADITIONAL NOVEMBER VOTE SO CITIZENS CAN ENJOY MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION AT THE POLLS AND SO THE CITY WILL BE PERMITTED THE OPTIMUM PHASE-IN PERIOD.

WE URGE THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS WEST OF INTERSTATE 5 TO INCLUDE SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN, THE AREA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER, CASTAIC, COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES, INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION AREAS ALREADY IN THE PLANNING PROCESS, AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TRACTS OF HOMES WEST OF I-5 WHICH ARE ALREADY BUILT OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

TWICE BEFORE THIS AREA SOUGHT SELF-GOVERNMENT. BY LOCAL MAJORITIES OF 57% AND 62% THE AREA VOTED IN 1976 AND 1978 TO FORM ITS OWN COUNTY. THOSE EFFORTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN CONVINCING THE BALANCE OF THE COUNTY TO APPROVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS.

WE ARE ONE VALLEY, ONE COMMUNITY POSSESSING A COHESIVE "COMMUNITY SPIRIT." IS THIS A RADICAL PROPOSAL? NO. EIGHTY-FOUR TIMES PREVIOUSLY CITIES HAVE INCORPORATED IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY ALONE. THE PROPOSED SIZE OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND COHERENT PLANNING. THIS IS A NEW ERA, ONE WHICH DEMANDS BOLD SOLUTIONS, AND YET THE CONCEPT OF CITYHOOD IS IN KEEPING WITH THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE BASIC DESIRE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

AS ADVOCATES WE WANT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SANTA CLARITA WHILE ENCOURAGING WELL PLANNED GROWTH WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING EVERYTHING THAT WILL IMPROVE THE VALUES AND QUALITY OF THIS UNIQUE VALLEY.