



City of Gonzales



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December 1, 2022

Jose L. Rios
Mayor

LAFCO of Monterey County
132 W. Gabilan St. Suite 102
Salinas Ca. 93901

Scott Funk
Mayor Pro Tem

Dear LAFCO Commissioners:

Liz Silva
Councilmember

With the lack of housing available in our area, it is imperative that we allow for the reasonable annexation of our communities. Not only are we losing local talent because of the dearth of housing available, but the low supply and high demand makes housing in Monterey County unattainable for most people; forcing our constituents to suffer from preventable issues such as homelessness and overcrowding, which can have other detrimental consequences that affect us all.

Lorraine Worthy
Councilmember

Paul Miller
Councilmember

Housing is one of the areas that not only our local communities, but the State is prioritizing. However, it is common knowledge that building housing/planned subdivisions is a complex, cumbersome, not to mention expensive process that is reliant on many factors including some that are outside the developer's, landowners, and cities' control.

Carmen Gil
Interim City
Manager

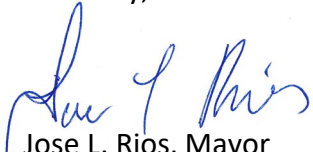
The economy, the driving force behind the establishment of these projects, tends to dictate when and how developers can proceed. Therefore, even though the land is annexed into the City, allowing for additional housing and development - there is no telling when exactly these projects will come to fruition. Adding additional barriers to the requirements already in place tends to make the entire process of developing extremely lengthy, and almost impossible. Ultimately, those that suffer the consequences from the never-ending process are those who are working endlessly to try and achieve the "American Dream" of home ownership.

Deploying strategies to delay, kill or threaten potential projects, such as demanding the purchase of agricultural easements years prior to development, is counter-productive to the establishment of housing and contradictory to smart-growth principles. Further, stringent strategies such as these prevent our communities from providing quality-of-life opportunities and access to amenities that as City leaders we strive to achieve.

Gonzales will continue to be a safe, clean, family-friendly community, diverse in heritage, and committed to working collaboratively to preserve and retain its small town charm

Your support for the proposal before you from the City of Soledad for the 654-Acre Miramonte Sphere of Influence Amendment and Annexation is imperative as housing is, unfortunately, a limited, unattainable commodity in our area and the proposed Amendment and Annexation plan for mixed-use development is aligned with all our efforts to increase local housing stock. Providing affordable housing itself supports local agriculture and our economy. We urge you to support Soledad's Sphere of Influence Amendment and Annexation and prevent any further delays, as delaying your decision could threaten the entire project and make the project subject to increased costs, making it harder to materialize.

Sincerely,



Jose L. Rios, Mayor
City of Gonzales