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May 8, 1981

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003

Re: Request for Study Session on
establishing a Ventura County
Commission on the Status of Women.

Dear Supervisors;

The Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition has been building its membership of organizations and individuals in Ventura County since late in 1979, initially out of a felt need to form a network of information for and about women in this county. After several months of networking efforts many of us recognized our need for a county commission on the Status of Women to put us into the state-wide and even nationwide resource network of these commissions. We realized that we are "sandwiched" between Los Angeles, which has such a commission on both the county and city levels of government, and Santa Barbara, which has a county commission; but without our own commissioners we have no one to be in direct contact with their commissioners. Further, without our own commissioners we do not have access to information about the specific problems of women in Ventura County or the resources for dealing with those problems, except in a piecemeal fashion.

Therefore we want to have one (or several) study session(s) with you, to supply you with information we have gathered about the value of such a commission and to discuss this matter with you in detail. We would be glad to have a committee of coalition members from all over the county meet with the Board of Supervisors at one of your regularly scheduled meetings in Ventura. Or we can set up five separate committees (with some overlapping of members) to meet with each supervisor separately at their district office during evening hours. Since we are aware of time constraints especially in terms of budget considerations (although you will find this to be a small factor in the overall budget), we are very willing to

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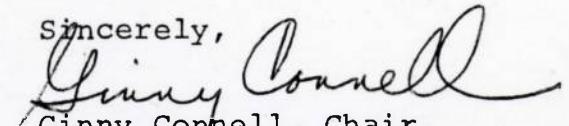
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take time off from work to meet with you at your convenience.

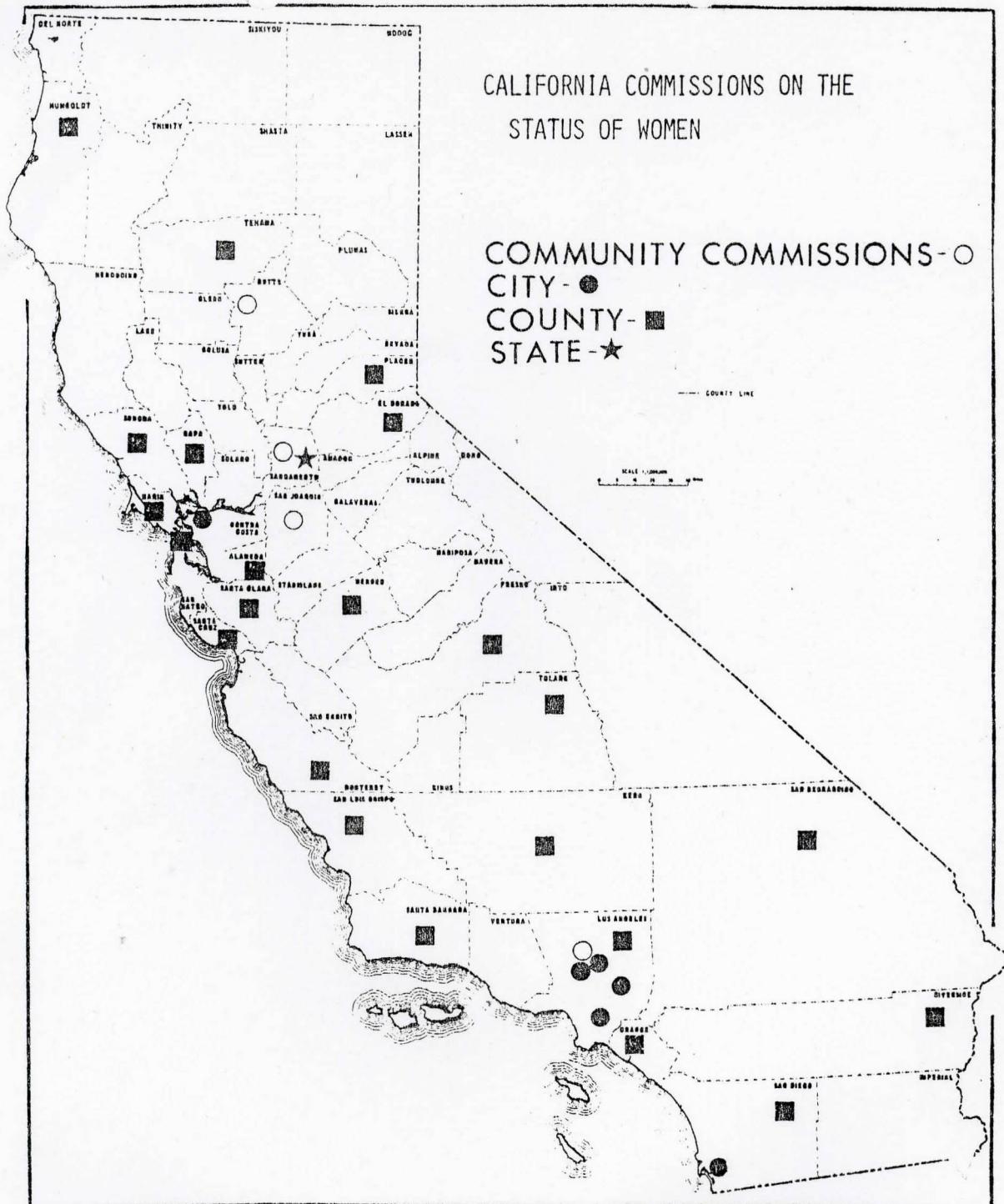
Thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Enclosed is one information sheet supplied by the California Commission on the Status of Women.

Sincerely,


Ginny Connell, Chair
Ventura County Women's Equity
Coalition

GC/bdm
encl



In 1961 John F. Kennedy established a National Commission on the Status of Women, starting a wave of governmental attention to women's issues that was to have far-reaching effects. In its 1963 report, the President's Commission urged every state to establish a commission on the status of women. As a direct result of this recommendation many such commissions sprang up across the nation; California's was established legislatively in 1965.

In 1969 the Sacramento Community Commission for Women was formed and became the first local commission on the status of women in the western United States. Humboldt County and the City of San Francisco followed closely behind with the establishment of local commissions in their areas. Now California has 23 County, 6 City, and 4 Community commissions on the status of women. Each commission is unique in that each is designed to meet the needs of women within their own geographic area. Each commission has been formed as the direct result of the dedication and determination of women within the community. The organizational structure and the goals and objectives of many commissions have altered over the past years, but all continue to strive to meet the needs of California women.

It is significant to recognize that California is the only State in the Union which can boast of many commissions on the status of women. It is hoped that still more will be formed in other areas of the state.