

MAYOR LOPEZ, MAYOR PRO TEM PINKARD 10/28/97 JANE TOLMACH
COUNCILMEN HOLDEN, MAULHARDT & ZARAGOSA 656 DOUGLAS OXNARD

YOU TOOK THE RIGHT ACTION ON OCTOBER 14, 1997. PLEASE STAY WITH THAT DECISION TONIGHT TO RETURN TO A SEVEN MEMBER PLANNING COMMISSION, GET RID OF THE HEARING OFFICER, AND DELEGATE HIS POWERS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. THAT IS THE ORDINANCE BEFORE YOU FOR THE FIRST READING. THAT IS WHAT YOU VOTED FOR ON THE 14TH.

THE PRESENT POWERS OF THE HEARING OFFICER ARE TREMENDOUS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL STAFF PERSON. THE POWER TO GRANT ZONE VARIANCES, SET CONDITIONS ON SPECIAL USE PERMITS, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND PARCEL MAP APPROVALS INVOLVE ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY. THERE IS NOTHING MINISTERIAL ABOUT SETTING CONDITIONS. WE WANT 7 PLANNING COMMISSIONERS TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS. IT IS BAD ENOUGH TO HAVE STAFF DECIDING WHAT IS EXEMPT FROM CEQA. (Resolution No. 10851 adopted in early 1995 allows the City Manager or designee to decide what projects are exempt from an EIR.)

GETTING RID OF THE HEARING OFFICER AND HAVING THOSE DECISIONS MADE BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MOST OF THE MORE THAN 6000 SIGNERS OF OUR PETITION.