

GEORGE T. POPPIC

P. O. Box 1307
Oxnard, California 93030

November 2, 1972

Mrs. Jane M. Tolmach
Councilwoman
City of Oxnard
656 West Douglas Avenue
Oxnard, California 93030

Dear Mrs. Tolmach:

During and following the joint Hearing of the City Council and the Planning Commission on Tuesday evening, October 24, 1972 on the matter of the Central Industrial Project, certain thoughts crossed my mind that I feel most obliged to review with you.

First, let me affirm my deep concern, just as you, when considering the many near destitute Mexican-American families that are living within the old Virginia Acres Tract, not by choice, but by the hard facts of economics. I too am a compassionate person and do often offer assistance, both financially and as an advisor to my many wonderful Mexican friends. I was born and raised in this community and have a long and lasting relationship with these very wonderful people, and my purpose here in telling you this, is to assure you that I am just as concerned as you.

However, as a Councilwoman, you also have the additional obligation and duty of studying and offering to the City plans and methods of improving its economy and its environmental conditions. I felt in your questioning members of the Oxnard Redevelopment Agency as well as various staff members of the City of Oxnard that you did not, at that time, pursue your obligation as a Councilwoman as it relates to the improvement of our industrial tract and the possibility of drawing new businesses to the City by offering an industrial area suitable for their use. In turn, I might add, there is the employment potential for the many families of which we are both so very concerned.

In order to entice new businesses to our area we should consider planning for the future. I firmly believe that the redevelopment plan for the Central Industrial Project does offer this possibility at the rate of expenditure of one dollar for the City and three dollars for the Federal Government. If the plan is not carried through, any new businesses seeking land and people within the old Virginia Acres Tract are faced with an environment that is notoriously inadequate and indicates further a lack of concern or judgment by the City fathers. Consider, as a prospective purchaser would, the obvious physical proximity of food processing plants to chemical and fertilizer formulation plants coupled with the dwellings located here and there throughout the entire site.

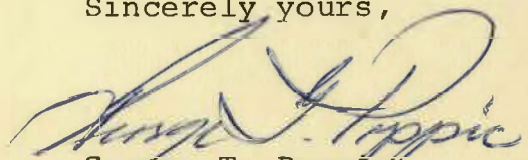
Environment and ecology alone, of course, are not totally valid premises to invoke the Redevelopment Plan, however, economics are; and the costs that would be incurred to meet all of the requirements of the various State and Federal authorities within the Tract would be monumental in itself.

With these thoughts in mind I strongly urge you to vote for the Redevelopment Plan, not only to assure the City of future benefits from the Federal Government as relates to housing for the poor and other matters related to human betterment, but to have a plan of development that will automatically invite industry to come and locate in our City which in turn will improve the tax base, will assist materially in reducing unemployment; and at a minimum cost to the City; and many of these costs in themselves may be tendered as services performed.

Thank you for the opportunity of writing this letter to you and I hope that I have influenced your thinking to some extent.

Please be assured that no other Councilman has received such an appeal nor a copy of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



George T. Poppio

GTP:ld