

February 13, 2020



The Honorable City Council
City of Goleta
130 Cremona Drive
Goleta, CA 93117

Re: Hearing of February 18, 2020 regarding NZO applicability to SyWest Property

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

I believe you are all aware of the Foodbank's ongoing effort to locate and secure a suitable long-term facility to house our local operations. We have undertaken an exhaustive search of all available land and/or buildings in the Santa Barbara/Goleta region, and we have found that there is a serious lack of available modern and suitable industrial-style building inventory. Examples of such modern and suitable industrial buildings are the new Direct Relief building and similar new buildings constructed within the Cabrillo Business Park. Current state-of-the-art standards for these buildings include adequate loading facilities, an open and uninterrupted interior floor area, and a clear height of at least 30-32 feet high. This clear height measurement is critical and allows stacking of product/inventory with a significantly higher efficiency over the older buildings in the Goleta area that were built in the 1970's and 1980's. And a modern facility in the local area is critical to allowing us to consolidate our operations locally, and reduce travel for our employees and be proximate to those we serve in our community. As a non-profit entity, the increased efficiencies from our consolidation into a modern state-of-the-art facility are essential to keeping our operating costs at their lowest possible margin so that we can continue to deliver the maximum benefit to those in need.

To assist with our mission to find a long-term and permanent home for the Foodbank, we appreciate if you would include in any adoption of the NZO a provision for an extended period of time under which pending development applications that are 'Deemed Complete' can continue to pursue their entitlements. For several years, we have been engaged in ongoing discussions and exploratory talks for a potential new facility at the site of the former Drive-in; while there is no commitment in place yet that we could locate at this site, we would like it to remain as one of the Foodbank's potential options.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erik Talkin".

Best regards,
Erik Talkin – Chief Executive Officer
Email cc: Ms. Deborah Lopez, City Clerk

FoodbankSBC.org

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