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February 5, 1992

Mr Richard Sybert
(title)
(address)
Sacramento, CA xxxxx

Dear Mr. Sybert:

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you Monday, and to discuss Growth Management from a County perspective. I would lik to identify those issues which I believe are key areas of concern to counties throughout the state, and hope that these will be reflected in your recommendations to Governor Wilson.

One of the issues that San Diego has carefully studied is the fiscalization of land use decisions. Through the San Diego Association of Governments we have issued a report entitled Regional Government Responsibilities and Revenues. It provides a overview of how our region views the financing issues related to growth management. Specifically, I am referring to the ability o cities to make land use decisions which have significant impact o counties and the levels of service which must be provided to citizens county-wide. As an example I note the instance in which the City of San Diego added 50 police officers to their force at cost of 5.2 million dollars. The cost to the County of San Diego was 7.4 million dollars in associated support services and facilities.

#3

Our losses as a result of the creation of redevelopment areas is equally dramatic. Some forty-six million dollars in revenue have been lost between 1985 and 1991 as a result of redevelopment area Compounding this problem is the fact that despite the loss of tax increment to these entities, the levels of service required of th County remains the same, or, more likely, rises substantially.

should be #1

A second concern in this area is the fiscal impact of annexations and incorporations on counties. Counties retain responsibility f providing county-wide services, but have less revenue with which do this as a result of the incorporations and annexations. I can site a local example in the County of San Diego, wherein we have

lost 5.4 million dollars in sales tax as a result of the incorporation of the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach. Despite the significant diminution of our tax base following an annexation, the county is still required to provide services whic include the criminal justice system, courts, jails, juvenile hall mental health programs, drug programs, indigent care, social services, public health, air pollution control, solid and hazardo waste management, primary medical care, and a host of federally o state mandated programs, to the residents of these cities. Unlik cities, County government has few options to increase revenue, an little discretion on how it spends its revenues.

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Property taxes are yet another area of concern for County government. Proposition 13 has removed our ability to allow the property tax level to remain in balance with the cost of providin required levels of service to the community. There is simply no parity here.

#2

Sales taxes have become a prized revenue source for cities and counties, making commercial development extremely attractive to both jurisdictions. Unlike the cap placed on property taxes by Proposition 13, sales tax can keep pace with inflation and better reflect rising service costs. Because sales tax is allocated bas on where sales occur rather than on where the consumer lives, one community can capture sales tax from another. An excellent examp of the inequity which can arise from this situation is reflected the following figures: the County of San Diego has 20 percent of the population, yet receives only 4.8 percent of the areas' sales tax.

I call to your attention the proposal put forth by Sacramento County, concerning the redistribution of sales tax dollars. This plan suggests a way to correct the inequities in the current situ distribution method. Under the proposed method, there would be a redistribution of the local share of sales tax based on a combination of population and situs, with sales tax growth allocated on a per capita basis. This is a proposal which I believe merits serious consideration. It is a viable means of dealing with growth management and fiscal impacts on County government.

Lastly, there is a need in the County of San Diego for a regional growth management strategy. That need is being addressed by the San Diego Regional Planning and Growth Management Review Board, a board which the voters of this county have already approved. Thi board should be given the time to fully implement its plan, and prove that this process can work. {DON, WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS PARAGRAPH?}

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e.g., Of course, we have a voter approved process in place & hope to see it protected. What we don't have is a solution to the fiscal problems created by growth. We think it urgent that this matter be addressed in the context of your proposed GM plan.

I thank you again for the time you have given us. I appreciate t attention that you are devoting to reviewing the county perspecti on growth management and its fiscal ramifications on county government, and I look forward to the opportunity to talk further with you and your staff on this issue which is so very pressing t the xx (need number) counties throughout the state of California.

Sincerely,

Leon L. Williams
Supervisor, Fourth District

LLW:dja

enclosure (1)