

## Notice of Intention to Circulate Petition

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate this petition within the County of San Benito for the purpose of preserving the County's rural, agricultural, and rangelands by requiring approval by a vote of the people in order to re-designate those lands and by re-designating certain commercial land use designations. A statement of the reasons for the proposed action as contemplated in the petition is as follows:

San Benito County is at a tipping point. Our County has experienced tremendous growth pressures, especially from Silicon Valley to the north. Residents are realizing that the County's land use decisions are impacting their daily lives. Their quiet, small town or rural lifestyle is disappearing and they regularly face traffic congestion. It is time to act to protect our County's agricultural, rural and rangelands, while ensuring orderly growth that keeps pace with the expansion of roads and other infrastructure.

County Supervisors have long ignored voters' wishes regarding land use. For example, when the 2035 General Plan was drafted, public comments favoring infill development and reduced sprawl development were largely ignored. When voters passed a referendum in March 2020 to stop development along scenic Highway 101, Supervisors allowed developers to proceed with a C-1 rezone. After voters defeated, in November 2020, an initiative to develop 2,777 acres of agricultural land at Strada Verde, the Supervisors gave the developer, in 2021, another chance to gain project approval.

This Initiative gives San Benito County voters greater control over land use decisions in order to better protect our agricultural, biological and cultural resources, promote infill development, and reduce sprawl development. We wish to follow the example of citizens in Ventura, Napa and Sonoma counties who adopted similar initiatives over 20 years ago and successfully protected their valuable resources and quality of life.

Signed by:

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