



**COMMUNITY SEPARATOR RENEWAL AND ADDITIONS
Talking Points for Board of Supervisors Public Hearing
Tuesday, July 19 (Time TBD)
Board of Supervisors Chambers
575 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA
Contact Teri Shore, Greenbelt Alliance: 707-575-3661**

The community separator renewal and additions are the most important greenbelt policy protections in Sonoma County in two decades! They will protect what we have and build on our legacy of natural and ag land protections for future generations.

- Please vote yes today to approve the renewal of voter protections for community separators for another 30 years with a ballot measure for the November 2016 General Election.
- Please also vote yes today on the general plan amendment to add all the community separator lands as proposed and update the policies that protect community separators.
- Thank you to the Planning and Resource Management Department for the comprehensive renewal and additions and incorporating the extensive public input provided over the past year.

I strongly support the ballot measure provisions and general plan policies to:

- Extend voter protections for 30 years for all community separators including those in unincorporated communities
- Prioritize protection of groundwater recharge and adding low-impact development standards
- Stronger polices for no net loss of community separator lands and function

I also strongly support the proposed additions to community separator lands as follows:

- All the proposed priority greenbelt lands across the county.
- Between Cloverdale and Healdsburg
- Around Penngrrove, Rohnert Park, and Cotati
- I specifically support the proposal for including lands in these areas: [Insert the places most important to you]
 - 1st District – Natural lands of the Sonoma Developmental Center in Sonoma Valley, the hills around the town of Sonoma, and farmlands to the southwest of town along Arnold Drive

- 2nd District – Farmlands and natural lands along Petaluma Hill Road south to Adobe Road and Frates Road; adding to the Petaluma-Novato community separator; also lands north of Penngrove and the west side of Cotati
- 3rd District – Lands south and east of Santa Rosa along Petaluma Hill Road and west toward Sebastopol
- 4th District – Farmlands between Cloverdale and Healdsburg; additions around Windsor, Healdsburg, and Larkfield-Wikiup
- 5th District – Dairy and farmlands in the Santa Rosa Plain between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol
- We don't need to build in our greenbelts to provide housing and jobs. We can accommodate growth within the boundaries of our cities, towns, and priority development areas.
- In Sonoma County, more than 10,000 units of housing have been approved but never built, due to a number of market factors—not because of greenbelt protection.
- Community separators and the greenbelts they protect are more important than ever as our county grows and development pressures increase.
- Sprawl is more expensive than city-centered growth and has more costs than benefits in terms of city budgets, human health, and the environment.

CONCLUSION

The continued protection of Sonoma County's greenbelts and farmlands from urban sprawl is important to our economy, environment, and quality of life. Renewing voter protections and adding community separators will preserve what we have and build on the county's legacy of natural and agricultural land for the future.