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Maya Kulkarni, Transportation Planner I

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

February 2, 2024

Dear Santa Barbara County Association of Governments,

I am writing in strong support for the City of Guadalupe’s Measure A Cycle 4 Application titled “Enhancing School Safety with Sidewalks.” The City of Guadalupe is a small, disadvantaged town in the heart of the central coast. Many of its roads are without sidewalks, creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians and drivers alike.

This is a situation that the City would particularly like to avoid for students attending Guadalupe Junior High School and Guadalupe Early Learning Center. Both projects are currently under construction and are expected to welcome students in the fall of 2025. To be ready for that opening, the schools must have adequate support infrastructure, including sidewalks.

Completing the sidewalk in front of these two schools will provide a direct connection to nearby housing developments, and provide a safe and secure path for children and their parents to walk to the schools. This will encourage active modes of transportation, include biking and walking.

The safety and active transportation benefits of this proposed project cannot be overstated. As many of our residents know too well, it is California’s disadvantaged communities that so often bear the brunt of negative consequences associated with transportation infrastructure – as well as lack of infrastructure. Therefore, this project is also about environmental justice and ensuring resources in Santa Barbara County are used to advance safety and active transportation in an equitable manner.

Your full consideration of this application is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,