

From: [Ashley Nagaoka](#)
To: [Brian Hiefield](#); [PER Meetings](#)
Subject: Anthem Church design - opposition
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026 10:13:18 AM

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Hello,

My name is Ashley Nagaoka and I am a homeowner at 6570 Covington Way, Goleta. I live across the street from the land where Anthem is proposing to build their new church. I am not able to attend the Design Meeting on 5/26 at 3pm hence sending my email.

I am not against the church having a church, I am opposed to the location they have selected. The design infringes upon the butterfly habitat and sets unwarranted precedent for future builds in our city to encroach upon protected land. Also the design in no way accommodates the amount of parking spaces the church will need to run all of their daily activities. We've seen this first hand when Anthem holds their events in that space; overflow parking then comes on to Covington Way, or even more unsafely, on Los Carneros. It creates an unsafe area for families.

I hope the city takes these points in to consideration.

Thank you,
Ashley Nagaoka
360-961-9111

From: [Jennifer Smith](#)
To: [City Clerk Group](#)
Subject: Fw: Anthem Chapel Project
Date: Friday, May 15, 2026 11:06:29 AM

From: J Bodenhamer <jbodenhamer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 10:20 AM
To: Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofgoleta.gov>
Subject: Anthem Chapel Project

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Hi Jennifer,

I'm writing again about the proposed Anthem Chapel project on Los Carneros and Covington currently moving through Design Review.

The core issue is parking vs. actual use capacity. Based on my reading of the Design Review Board updates, parking doesn't appear to be getting addressed at the level of actual proposed use. The project proposes less than half the parking needed based on their current weekly attendance, without credible data to support that reduction (no honest attendance modeling, peak demand analysis, or overflow plan).

If the building operates anywhere near its implied capacity, the parking will completely overwhelm the Lake Los Carneros neighborhood and put the safety of residences and our children at risk.

Before this moves further, there should be:

- real, data-backed – and honest – demand assumptions
- justification for reduced parking
- a clear, enforceable overflow plan

Otherwise, our neighborhood is at serious risk.

Thank you,
Jeremy

From: [Melissa LDT](#)
To: [PER Meetings](#)
Subject: Proposed New Anthem Church
Date: Friday, May 15, 2026 11:25:24 AM

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To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express deep concern about Anthem Church building at Lutheran Church on Covington. We recently bought a home on Camino Venturoso because it was biking distance to school, lake and shops. I am opposed to their building solely due to the traffic. This neighborhood is full of children on bikes and walking dogs. Every time there is an event at Stow the cars park on Covington blocking the view of people who are coming from the park and it's so dangerous. I have personally almost hit a few people coming out of cars or slammed on my brakes with kids shooting out between cars. It is a matter of safety. Stow only has events once in a while. Anthem has church every Sunday and we all know they do not have enough parking stalls no matter what they say. I am a faithful church goer and know first hand that there is a favorite service that is always packed and not enough parking even though they have multiple services PLUS they also want to host events. This is a small community with elderly, families and animals. I beg you to reconsider and choose a better option for this space that is more conducive to the neighborhood for the safety of all humans and animals. Lake Carneros is such a special sacred place of refuge and it will be lost with loud music on a weekly basis all year long.

Thank you for listening and considering my opinion

Melissa Veenstra

From: [Jeff Havlik](#)
To: [PER Meetings](#)
Subject: Anthem Church
Date: Monday, May 18, 2026 9:51:53 AM

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Please approve the church as requested by Anthem. They are a very positive influence in the neighborhood and the greater Goleta area.

J. Jeffery Havlik
p: 805.687.1707

From: ssmaxwell@cox.net
To: [PER Meetings](#)
Cc: [Paula Perotte](#); [Jennifer Smith](#); [Luz Reyes-Martin](#); [James Kyriaco](#); [Stuart Kasdin](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Opposition to Anthem Chapel Project (APN 077-160-022)
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 1:11:36 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to publicly state my ongoing opposition to the proposed Anthem Chapel Project at 6595 Covington Way. This item is currently on the agenda for Preliminary Review at the DRB meeting scheduled for May 26.

Although changes have been made to the plans that make the buildings more aesthetically pleasing, the basic problems remain the same – the building complex is too large for the area, parking is grossly inadequate, increased traffic will impact safety and slow emergency response times and impede evacuations during natural disasters, and the planned space will impede on the ESHA buffer existing on the lot for monarch butterflies and raptors.

The proposed 20,000+ sq ft Anthem complex is incompatible with the natural setting of Lake Los Carneros and the nearby Stow House and Railroad Museum. After walking back the projected height of the building at the last DRB meeting, current plans are again asking for an adjustment to exceed the maximum building height by 2 feet, 8 inches, and to have the standalone cross exceed architectural projections maximum height by 3 feet, 10 inches. This will make the building visible from paths in the Los Carneros preserve, as well as make it stand out on Los Carneros Road – which is itself a protected view corridor as identified in the city master plan. The DRB should insist that Anthem follow the building height limitations according to city code.

The plans continue to have only 117 parking spaces planned, far fewer than needed for a congregation that regularly overflows the parking lot every Sunday at their current location, GVJH. Although in the past Anthem has publicly claimed a congregation size of around 300, counts of cars at the current location would indicate they have at least 500 members, and perhaps as many as 1000. The shortage of parking spaces in their lot will inevitably lead to overspill into the neighborhood – blocking driveways and impairing safe passage out of side streets onto Los Carneros and Covington. The current lot has served as overflow parking for events at Stow House for years. This would clearly no longer be possible. Stow House events combined with church services would lead to a

parking nightmare.

The plans continue to have two driveway entrances off Los Carneros. There is no dedicated turn lane of Los Carneros onto the property. When the Anthem lot has been used for parking for Music at the Ranch, congestion was a huge issue on Los Carneros. Impatient drivers get tired of waiting on cars pulling in and go around into oncoming traffic. Bike riders have no where to go to get out of the way of turning vehicles. It's a dangerous situation.

The overflow parking in the neighborhood and traffic congestion on the major arteries of Los Carneros and Covington Way would also greatly impact the safety of our neighborhood in the event of an evacuation, or for response times for emergency vehicles. With the recent designation of parts of our neighborhood as Very High Fire Risk areas, it is more important than ever that the streets remain as open as possible in the event of a disaster.

I also want to point out one important area of feedback from the DRB and the public that the applicant did not address or attempt to change in the plans – their request for an adjustment to the ESHA buffer zone from 100' to 50'. The 100' buffer zone was established as the best practice for protecting the monarch butterflies and other vital wildlife in the area. Though Anthem has beautiful concept drawings showing “mitigation” of the buffer zone to “improve” it, that is not the intention of a buffer zone. It is a wildlife area – period. Encroachment could take the form of people walking through the area, but the buffer zone is also meant to protect it from encroachment due to noise and light. The plans currently show the area between 51' and 100' being landscaped for passive recreation, and for outdoor space for the proposed daycare and preschool. Of note – there are planned entrance gates from this “passive” recreation area into the 50' buffer zone. Encroachment seems planned and likely. Anthem has been a historically terrible steward of this vital ESHA zone, placing tents, parking vehicles, and leaving trash in the area. There is no reason to think they will take better care of the area in the future. The 100' buffer zone MUST be kept and enforced.

In the letter from the city about the project, the city states that this project doesn't qualify for exceptions to the Class 32 exemption for CEQA. I would argue that the city needs to run their own assessments, instead of relying on reports paid for by the applicant. In particular, I think there should be exceptions because the site IS a habitat for endangered, rare, or threatened species (monarch butterflies), and it will GREATLY impact traffic and noise in the area. I'd also like to point out that although in the letter the city provided a link for the Notice of Exemptions and all supporting analysis to

support the exemption, the page the link leads to does not have the information in regards to this particular project.

A congregation and building use plan of this size needs to be in a more appropriate area to accommodate anticipated traffic, noise, safety, and environmental concerns. The amount of “adjustments” Anthem has requested to code to enable this project to move forward proves that point – Anthem needs the building to be taller than code to fit in the space they need for planned usage. Anthem needs the adjustment to the ESHA because otherwise the building won’t fit on the property. It’s clear that this lot is not the place for the complex Anthem is envisioning. I strongly urge to DRB to hold Anthem to code without allowing any adjustments.

Respectfully,

Kerri Maxwell
6597 Camino Venturoso

From: [Nomo Nagaoka](#)
To: [PER Meetings](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the DRB Public Hearing on May 26 at 3pm
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 9:54:10 PM

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To the Design Review Board,

I am writing to express my continued opposition to the proposed project near the Lake Los Carneros neighborhood.

My family lives within viewing distance of the proposed building and we would be directly impacted by the increased traffic, parking overflow, and noise associated with this development. We have two young children who regularly ride their bikes around our neighborhood, particularly along Covington Way, where overflow parking already tends to occur during larger nearby events. I am deeply concerned that this project would significantly increase traffic and street parking in our neighborhood, creating dangerous conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.

The proposed parking appears completely inadequate for the size of the congregation and planned activities. With only 117 parking spaces, it is inevitable that surrounding residential streets will absorb overflow parking. This will reduce visibility for drivers, create blocked sight lines, slow emergency vehicle access, and increase risks for children and families who live nearby.

I am also concerned about the noise impacts this project would create. Our children have early bedtimes and we already experience noticeable noise from evening activities near Stow House when our windows are open. The cumulative impacts from weekly services, youth events, special gatherings, traffic, and outdoor activity would fundamentally change the quiet residential character of the Lake Los Carneros neighborhood.

I respectfully urge the Design Review Board to carefully consider the long-term safety and quality-of-life impacts this project would have on the surrounding community and to reject the proposal in its current form.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Noboru Nagaoka

From: [Barbara Rose McCaffrey](#)
To: [PER Meetings](#)
Subject: Fw: Anthem construction
Date: Sunday, May 24, 2026 5:10:49 PM

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Cc: representative Luz Reyes-Martinez

From: Barbara Rose McCaffrey <brmccaffrey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 1:27 AM
To: Luz Reyes-Martin <lreyes-martin@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Anthem construction

Hello Ms. Luz Reyes-Martinez,

This email is in regards to the Anthem plans to build a mega church at the Los Carneros Road site. Firstly I want to remind you that it is not zoned for a preschool, social services site, business transactions, wedding and funeral events, youth counseling and entertainment and sports, etc. because that is what will develop there along with enormous structures, noise, fire hazard, traffic, pollution, cars parked, etc. Every day I drive past the little memorial site along Los Carneros Road to Corey who was walking and hit by a car at 6:30 am. I invite you to come by and get out of your car to take a good look at the size of the land and the junk already piled and parked on the property and also visualize what is in the works for our lovely Los Carneros neighborhood and Stow House areas. I also encourage you to picture three services every Sunday along with the weekday events, lighting, noise, traffic, parking, fire or emergency exits, etc. for the people not of the congregation.

I have lived 40 years on Camino Venturoso. I can attest to Anthem noise, pollution, traffic, double parking, litter, shouts, youth misbehavior to the neighborhood, and the general rundown and cluttered whack a mole eyesore that continues developing at the actual site. Many times, I have called the County of Santa Barbara Public Works regarding trash, inhabitable motor homes, canopies, trash, dead branches, multiple square storage units, scattered sports equipment and chairs and tents and coverings, etc. piling up on the property. You represent the neighborhood's wellbeing not the church developers, staff, elders, etc. who are trying to sugar coat and push this mega church through the system.

Lastly I would like to call to your attention that there are some members of various councils and departments who support and/or attend Anthem Mega Church not Chapel and would likely have a favorable preformed view of this situation. D.Merrick routinely forwards my concerns to another person along with others who I cannot name who pre favor the construction of this inappropriate mega build eyesore, fire hazard, and impingement on our

beautiful peaceful neighborhood that you represent. There are others in city of Goleta employment who think that it is a good idea to inflict Anthem Chapel on their citizens.

Sincerely;

Barbaras Rose McCaffrey

From: Catherine Bartsch <catherinesb7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 7:30 AM
To: PER Meetings <PERmeetings@cityofgoleta.gov>
Subject: Opposition to the Anthem Church Project on Los Carneros Road

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Hello,

My Name is Catherine Bartsch. We live on Covington Way in Goleta (25 years+) I am once again writing to voice our very strong objection to the proposed building of Anthem Chapels new church project on Los Carneros Road. We have attended the design review board meetings in the past and plan to be at the one this coming Tuesday, 5/26, as well.

Unfortunately, the issues leading to our strong opposition have not changed even with the changes Anthem has come back to the review board with. It really comes down to this: The project is WAY TOO BIG for the proposed site. It really is that simple. Anthem Chapel has a building planned for a congregation of 300 members currently with the hope of expanding to 500. They are including a daycare and preschool on site as well. All of this leads to these problems:

Architecture - The building size and scale are too large for the surrounding neighborhood. The request to exceed the maximum height of our zoning district from 25 feet to 27 feet 8 inches would make the building the most prominent in the area. In addition, the standalone cross would be at a height of 33 feet, 10 inches.

ESHA Buffer - Anthem is requesting a reduction in the Monarch Butterfly buffer from 100 feet to 50 feet. This is a direct violation of code, which states “No development, except as otherwise allowed by this element, shall be allowed within ESHAs and/or ESHA buffers.” Allowing a variance is incompatible with a

city that features a Monarch butterfly on its city logo. By allowing the variance, the city would be setting a precedence for future reductions in the buffer. Anthem has repeatedly violated the ESHA buffer for storage of their trailers and equipment, as well as trash - there is no reason to think they would honor the ESHA buffer in the future.

Safety - Inadequate parking spaces (only 117!) for the congregation size will lead to on street neighborhood parking, slowing access for emergency vehicles. Blocked site lines will be dangerous to neighborhood pedestrians and cyclists. Increased traffic would be dangerous during an emergency, and parts of our neighborhood have recently been designated a very high fire risk zone. Both Los Carneros and Covington are critical evacuation routes in the event of a fire emergency. Adding a second driveway entrance off Los Carneros, a two- lane road with no room for turn lanes, would inevitably lead to very congested roads and accidents.

In addition, on any given Sunday, you can see cars parked in the RED zone (Fire Lane) at their current Goleta Valley Junior High location. This is a major safety hazard that goes unchecked week after week. Please see pictures at the end of this email on how the parking looked this last Sunday, May 24, 2026.

Noise - The Goleta General Plan identifies Christ Lutheran Church as a sensitive noise receptor, as well as all residential neighborhoods. Past gatherings of Anthem have created significant amplified noise. The cumulative noise generated by large weekly services, evening youth events, special activities, related gatherings, and traffic would fundamentally disrupt the quiet character of the Lake Los Carneros neighborhood.

Threats to Scenic and Visual Resources - the city General Plan identifies Los Carneros Road as a Designated Scenic Corridor, “locations ... that serve as public vantage points for viewing scenic resources.” Views of the mountains, the fields around the lake, and Stow House would all be jeopardized. Visitors to Lake Los Carneros would see the structure from inside the Preserve area.

I understand the Design Review Board oversees the design of the proposed building / project. However, if the design creates issues with safety and the ESHA buffer it seems that is of critical importance and therefore is, in fact, part of the “design”.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments. I hope they make a difference in the ultimate decision with this proposed project.

Have a nice day -

Catherine and Jim Bartsch

(6416 Covington Way)

Pictures of the **RED ZONE** parking this last Sunday (5-24-26):



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- El uso de teléfonos celulares mientras se maneja está prohibido.
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- Las sustancias prohibidas, armas, cuchillos y otros objetos que se usan como armas están prohibidos.
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- Los estudiantes no deben usar teléfonos celulares mientras conducen.
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From: [Gina McCaffrey](#)
To: [PER Meetings](#)
Subject: Design Review Board Hearing -- Opposition to Anthem Church Project
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 7:34:33 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Design Review Board,

I am writing as a local resident to urge the Board to reject the design of the proposed Anthem Church project. While I understand the desire for a community space, the current structural scale and site layout is just too large.

I ask the Board to deny this project based on the following design and layout flaws:

- **Parking lot size safety hazards:** Allocating only 117 parking spaces for a massive congregation will force an immense overflow of cars onto our quiet neighborhood streets, turning daily traffic into a battle. More alarmingly, our area was recently designated a High Fire Risk Zone, and Los Carneros and Covington are critical evacuation routes.
- **Acoustics:** We chose this neighborhood for its peace and quiet. The facility's physical design lacks the necessary mitigation to contain the amplified sound and cumulative noise from weekly services and outdoor gatherings.
- **Environmental encroachment:** The site plan slashes the Monarch Butterfly ESHA buffer. Shrinking this buffer is a reckless layout choice that violates city code and sets a terrible ecological precedent for a city that proudly features the Monarch on its logo.
- **Excessive scale—visual impact:** Allowing the building and its 33-foot-plus cross to exceed zoning height limits is over-scaled, and will permanently block public views of the mountains, the fields, and the historic Stow House area along a Designated Scenic Corridor.

Goleta's design guidelines and zoning codes exist to protect our quality of life. Please uphold these standards, recognize these layout flaws, and reject this preliminary design.

Respectfully,

Gina McCaffrey
6562 Camino Venturoso

From: [Lurana Stewart](#)
To: [Brian Hiefield](#)
Subject: New Anthem Chapel Facility 6595 Covington Way
Date: Sunday, May 24, 2026 8:37:47 PM

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May 24, 2026

Attn: Brian Hiefield

Re: New Anthem Chapel Facility 6595 Covington Way

Dear DBR Members:

We are writing to express our strong support for this application before the DRB. There are a number of reasons why and the following are important to us:

First, we live in Goleta and we attend Anthem Chapel. Anthem is a family oriented church. We've been meeting at temporary facilities for more than eight years. Our church needs a permanent home; a place where our Jr. High and High School students can come. We also have a large group of college students. Also many Goleta families are in desperate need of a day care and pre school. This could eventually fill that void.

Granted we were making a bit of noise when the tent structures were up. Having a permanent structure would curb the noise concern eliminating any outdoor amplification. Parking would not be an issue as any overflow would be sent to the Stow House parking lot. In addition the Stow House would have the opportunity to use the church site for additional parking.

The current vacant lot would have beautiful landscaping which would enhance the ESHA. The designs have been reviewed and edited several times. All our reports have been reviewed by city consultants and all agree.

It's been said that property values would probably decline; we can see that the opposite would happen.

We believe this structure would really benefit the community.

We believe the positives out number the negatives.

We thank you for listening and ask for your approval of this structure today.

Sincerely,

Jerry and Lurana Stewart

From: [Kelly Soifer](#)
To: [Jennifer Fullerton](#); [Katie Maynard](#); [Anne Miller](#); [Cary Penniman](#); [Rita Serotkin](#)
Cc: [Cam Audras](#); [Peter Imhof](#); [Dana Murray](#); [Mary Chang](#); [Paul Izquierdo](#); [Luisa Negrete](#); [Molly Cunningham](#); [Travis Lee](#); [Andy Newkirk](#); [Angeline Foshay](#); [Christina McGuire](#); [Lisa Prasse](#); [Brian Hiefield](#); [Sean McLaughlin](#); [Anne Wells](#); [Darryl Mimick](#)
Subject: I oppose the Anthem Project!
Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 9:48:59 AM

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Hello all,

First of all, I thank you for your service. I know that you have to juggle many requests and opinions all the time.

I have lived in the Santa Barbara area since I came to UC Santa Barbara in 1979 and have lived in Noleta (off Turnpike) since 1996. I care very much about the city of Goleta and want to see it remain the "Good Land".

I want to affirm that under no circumstances do I want to see the Anthem development project move forward. I worked in and belonged to churches in the area for over 30 years and am very familiar with the machinations of church life. I am frankly appalled at the arrogance of Anthem toward their neighbors.

I have several friends who live in that neighborhood, and all of them have complained to me about the noise and impact of Anthem on the neighborhood, from their abuses of their sound system, to parking, to their mistaken assumptions around their "rights." I am deeply disappointed at how the Lutheran church has allowed them to take over and even represent them in all negotiations. This is a terrible stewardship of that property.

Please protect the entire area around Stow House and Lake Los Carneros for the public. I often walk around the Lake property and cherish the protection and vibrancy of wildlife there. I cannot believe that Anthem wants to demand that the city give permission for their project in return for usage of the parking lot. That tells you everything you need to know about them. Thank you for your attention to this.

--

Kelly Soifer

Santa Barbara, CA

(805) 895-7645

"Dona nobis pacem"

From: [Kelly Teich](#)
To: [Brian Hiefield](#)
Subject: Anthem Project at 6595 Covington Way
Date: Monday, May 25, 2026 9:40:44 PM

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Dear DRB members,

As a Goleta resident and local architect, I am writing in support of the Anthem Chapel project. Having presented numerous projects to local design boards over the past 20 years, I find it surprising that this project has generated such significant opposition, and I encourage the Goleta Design Review Board to evaluate and approve the project based on its merits. The proposed church has been thoughtfully designed by a reputable local firm and demonstrates sensitivity to the surrounding neighborhood, environmental considerations, and nighttime lighting impacts. The applicant has made substantial efforts to address the concerns raised by neighbors. However, it is evident that much of the opposition is not focused on the quality or design of the project itself, but rather on the proposed use of the site. Your approval of this project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kelly Teich, AIA
President

The Warner Group Architects, Inc.

1250 Coast Village Road, Suite J
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Tel: 805.969.5074
Fax: 805.565.3797
www.wgarch.com
kelly@wgarch.com

From: [Jennifer Smith](#)
To: [City Clerk Group](#)
Subject: Fw: 6595 Covington Way
Date: Monday, May 25, 2026 5:00:44 PM

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From: ssmaxwell@cox.net <ssmaxwell@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 4:51:38 PM
To: Paula Perotte <pperotte@cityofgoleta.gov>; Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofgoleta.gov>; Luz Reyes-Martin <lreyes-martin@cityofgoleta.gov>; James Kyriaco <jkyriaco@cityofgoleta.gov>; Stuart Kasdin <skasdin@cityofgoleta.gov>
Subject: 6595 Covington Way

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Dear Mayor Perotte, and City Council Members,

For almost a year now, the city has been considering an application from Anthem Chapel to build a new church complex at 6596 Covington Way. These plans have been met with strong neighborhood opposition, including from myself.

Neighbors are deeply concerned that the planned usage will be detrimental to our local quality of life. Speakers at DRB meetings have mentioned the grossly inadequate parking, which will lead to overflow parking on the surrounding streets. Other concerns are traffic safety, a real concern for both daily commuters, as well as congestion slowing response times in the event of an emergency or an evacuation in the case of a natural disaster, such as a fire. Noise complaints have long been an issue with Anthem – their insistence on amplified music and use of loud volume speaking with microphones disturbed the neighborhood when they used the lot during COVID, and there is nothing to indicate they would do anything differently with a permanent building on site. Their current plans ask for an adjustment of the ESHA buffer zone that protects monarch butterflies and raptors, from 100’ to 50’ – with planned “passive recreation” areas within the reduced buffer zone. For a city that proudly features a monarch butterfly on its logo, the buffer zone must be kept in place with no adjustments.

Anthem has a large congregation. They claim 300 people, but vehicle counts and room capacity sizes at GVJH, where they currently hold services, indicates a more plausible

count of close to 1000 – and like most churches, they want to keep growing. They also plan to use their new complex to host a daycare and a preschool. Bible study, weddings, and other special events will mean that the facility will see heavy usage most days of the week.

That is a problem for the Goleta Valley Historical Society and Stow House.

In the past, the lot has been available for overflow parking for Stow House. It is filled to capacity, and over capacity, during beloved events such as Music at the Ranch and the Fiddler's Festival. The current owners of the lot, Christ Lutheran Church, have always allowed free use of the lot – because they believe in supporting the greater community.

Anthem has verbally promised they would continue to allow lot usage for overflow parking. At the same time, they have stated that it will be with permission only. Recently, event organizers who have asked to use the lot have been told that first they will need to write a letter on company letterhead, in which their organization affirms support for the Anthem build project, and send it to the city. Organizers have felt coerced into writing this “support” letter, even when they know nothing about the build project or when they actually oppose it. Clearly Anthem will be under no future obligation to allow parking in their lot.

The city needs to pursue purchasing the lot from Christ Lutheran Church. The current lot that serves Stow House is too small for events, has inadequate handicap parking accessible to Stow House, and a portion of the lot is actually owned by the fire station, which may need the space for future modernization and expansion of their building.

The Stow lot is also used by the adjoining South Coast Railroad Museum. Last summer, Anthem representatives told the Railroad Museum that if they publicly supported the Anthem build project, Anthem would provide parking spaces for the museum – and the space indicated for future parking was the actual ESHA zone.

The Stow lot, and at times the Anthem lot, has also been used by the neighboring Islamic Society of Santa Barbara mosque, local birdwatching groups, and by Goleta residents who drive to the area to enjoy the Los Carneros Preserve.

Even if Anthem agrees to continue to allow the Goleta community to use their lot, the actual available parking spaces on the lot will be about a third fewer than currently available, because of the 20,000+ sq ft building complex which will house the new Anthem Chapel. On days when Anthem itself is using the lot, there will be NO parking

available for community events, and cars from both the Anthem congregation and the events will overflow into the surrounding neighborhood, leading to unsafe travel conditions for vehicles, bike riders, and pedestrians.

There is strong neighborhood and community support for the city to purchase the lot. The Lutheran church is asking \$2 million. A fundraising campaign partnered between the city and community, incorporating donations and grants to purchase and then develop the lot for permanent community event parking would be successful. Having the city control the lot would also ensure that the monarch butterflies and raptors in the ESHA continue to be protected.

Please take all the above facts into consideration. Purchasing the lot would truly be a worthwhile investment benefitting all of Goleta. I look forward to hearing from you, and discussing in the future. I will continue opposing the Anthem development, and advocating for a better outcome.

Respectfully,

Kerri Maxwell