July 1, 2008

Nancy Weiben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: City of Laguna Niguel Response to 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled “No County for Old Boomers – When Orange County Baby Boomers Retire, Where Will They Live?”

Dear Judge Weiben Stock:

On April 25, 2008, the 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury issued a report entitled: “No County for Old Boomers – When Orange County Baby Boomers Retire, Where Will They Live?”. The Mayors of all Orange County Cities are required to respond to Findings F-1 through F-4 and Recommendations R-1 through R-4. A copy of the Grand Jury Report is attached.

The responses from the City of Laguna Niguel are set forth below. It should be noted that the responses are for the City of Laguna Niguel only inasmuch as the City does not have information regarding the practices or policies of other Orange County Cities or the County of Orange.

Finding F-1: The Housing Elements for the cities and County of Orange do not reflect that the number of affordable senior housing units in Orange County will not accommodate the projected population.

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F-2: The Housing Elements for the County of Orange and the cities do not focus sufficiently on or analyze the population growth and housing needs of the aging baby boomer generation.

City Response: The City disagrees with the finding. Such analysis is not required by State law.

Finding F-3: Not all Housing Elements are available online for easy access by the public.

City Response: The City disagrees with the finding. The City’s Housing Element is available on the City of Laguna Niguel website.

Finding F-4: Municipalities are not proactive enough in encouraging the development of affordable senior housing.

City Response: The City disagrees with the finding. The City is currently engaged in discussion with an applicant who proposes to develop a senior condominium project and is encouraging the developer to include a percentage of moderate income units in the project.
Recommendation R-1: Include the current and projected affordable senior housing inventory by type, location and cost in the 2008 and future years' development of the Housing Element.

City Response: The recommendation will not be implemented. Such information is not required by State law. Additionally, the 2008 Housing Element updates are currently due to the State Department of Housing and Community Development and there is insufficient time to conduct the necessary research and include the suggested data in the 2008 update.

Recommendation R-2: Include sufficient data in the Housing Element to acknowledge the imminent growth in the county's aging population. This data is to include the current population and the growth trend of the aging baby boomer generation as well as the current median income and the income trend of the senior population.

City Response: See Response to Recommendation R-1.

Recommendation R-3: Put all Housing Elements online on each city's website.

City Response: This recommendation has been implemented. See Response to Finding F-3.

Recommendation R-4: Confer with developers to establish the needs for affordable senior housing and to encourage investment in future projects.

City Response: This recommendation has been implemented. See Response to Finding F-4.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury Report.

Yours truly,

Paul Glaab
Mayor

Cc: City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
City Clerk