



Dear Goleta Water Board Directors:

We are the board members of the Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network and we write in response to the criticisms you have been receiving because of your vote in October requiring the Covid-19 vaccination. We want you to know that we enthusiastically support the policy you wisely adopted. We do not need to repeat the scientific facts and the reasons why a vaccine mandate is fully justified under the circumstances. The vaccines are safe, and there is no reason, except for demonstrated medical reasons, for your employees to not be vaccinated. The people criticizing you who refuse to be vaccinated have deliberately decided to risk inflicting preventable harm on family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and community. We are most grateful that their irresponsible opinions did not carry the day.

The Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network works both independently and in coalition with others to achieve social and economic justice, to promote a clean sustainable environment, to support quality and affordable health care, to create and maintain safe, affordable housing for all income levels as well as addressing other quality of life issues with special attention to older adults.

We have friends and relatives who are concerned about the community spread of the virus to vulnerable people, including the elderly, even if they are vaccinated. Vaccine mandates have been shown to reduce this risk.

Respectfully,

Richard Solomon, *Chair*

Gail Marshall, *Secretary*

David Landecker, *Treasurer*

Jan Keller, *Membership*

Richard Appelbaum

Jo Black

Marty Blum

Carol Keator

David Lebell, M.D

Susan Rose

Janet Wolf