

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

From: Susan Renehan <susan@sbhabitat.org>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 4:12 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Lucille Boss
Subject: Letter in support of Prohousing Designation
Attachments: 20250512 Habitat SB letter Prohousing Designation.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached please find a letter regarding tomorrow's agenda item on the Prohousing Designation.

Thank you,

Susan Renehan

--

Susan Renehan | Director, Philanthropy & External Affairs

Habitat for Humanity of Southern Santa Barbara County

Donate today! <https://www.sbhabitat.org/donate/>

Building Homes, Communities & Hope

Mail can be sent to: PO Box 176, Goleta, CA 93116

Cell: (805) 456-9548 • Office: (805) 692-2226

www.sbhabitat.org

Board of Directors

Jan Hubbell
President

Janet Burki
Vice President

Tony Morain
Secretary

Lynda Radke
Treasurer

Ronnie Lin
Executive committee

Lisa Carlos

Gabe Escobedo

Lora Fisher

Stuart Glenn

Stephen Gordon

Elizabeth Keate

Maureen McDermut

Tracy Stouffer

Ian Wildman

Honorary Board

Ed Birch

Janet Garufis

Leslie Meadowcroft-
Schipper

Lynda Nahra

Rob Pearson

David Spainhour

Rob Teel

Craig Zimmerman

Date: May 12, 2025

Subject: Agenda Item # 25-00398 Prohousing Designation Application

Dear Chair Capps and Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Board and staff of Habitat for Humanity of Southern Santa Barbara County (Habitat Santa Barbara), thank you for your partnership in helping us build capacity to better serve our community, particularly in assisting with our home repair program. We are grateful for all the ways that the Board of Supervisors has supported our efforts to produce, protect, and preserve affordable housing for low-income individuals and families.

We would like to take this opportunity to comment on the County's desire to apply for the "State of California's Prohousing Designation." We are supportive of this effort, and are grateful for the work of County staff in researching this opportunity.

As we have previously shared, there is a very limited pool of state funding available to Habitat Santa Barbara for the type of ownership housing that we build, repair, and rehabilitate. The ability to apply for these funding opportunities from within a County that has a Prohousing Designation would give us additional points and a significant competitive advantage in these state funding opportunities. This is only going to be more relevant as we are going into the new fiscal year in which CalHome, the main state funding source for affordable ownership housing, is at risk of being cut. It would also give us the ability to apply for additional state grant programs that could fund various stages of the housing development process.

The Prohousing Designation would have other ancillary benefits as well: It provides additional credibility and key talking points with our private philanthropic and foundation donors, who often ask what we have done to leverage available public support. Knowing that our County is seeking a Prohousing Designation shows that our local government is serious about supporting the efforts of nonprofit housing developers like Habitat Santa Barbara to create additional units of affordable housing.

Seeking the Prohousing Designation is a concrete step toward housing stability and housing justice for our community, and we commend the County for pursuing this opportunity.

Respectfully yours,



Jan Hubbell
President, Board of Directors