

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-2911 / FAX (916) 263-7453
www.hcd.ca.gov



October 16, 2023

Lisa Plowman, Director
Planning and Development Department
County of Santa Barbara
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Lisa Plowman:

RE: County of Santa Barbara's 6th Cycle (2023-2031) Revised Draft Housing Element

Thank you for submitting the County of Santa Barbara's (County) revised draft housing element received for review on September 22, 2023. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) also received minor technical edits on October 2, 2023. In addition, HCD considered comments from TK Consulting, Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara, City of Carpinteria, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schrek LLP, Kristine iMac, Linda Honikman and San Marcos Ranch LLC and Presidio Capital Partners pursuant to Government Code section 65585, subdivision (c). Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, HCD is reporting the results of its review.

The revised draft element meets the statutory requirements that were described in HCD's June 30, 2023 review. The housing element will substantially comply with State Housing Element Law (Gov. Code, § 65580 et seq) when it is adopted, submitted to and approved by HCD, in accordance with Government Code section 65585.

For your information, pursuant to Assembly Bill 1398 (Chapter 358, Statutes of 2021), as the County did not adopt a compliant housing element within 120 days of the statutory deadline (February 15, 2023), programs to make prior identified sites available or rezone sites to address a shortfall of capacity to accommodate the regional housing need allocation (RHNA) (Programs 1 and 2) must be completed no later than one year from the statutory deadline. Otherwise, the local government's housing element will no longer comply with State Housing Element Law, and HCD may revoke its finding of substantial compliance pursuant to Government Code section 65585, subdivision (i).

Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning. Throughout the housing element process, the County should continue to engage the community, including organizations

that represent lower-income and special needs households, by making information regularly available and considering and incorporating comments where appropriate. Please be aware, any revisions to the element must be posted on the local government's website and to email a link to all individuals and organizations that have previously requested notices relating to the local government's housing element at least seven days before submitting to HCD.

For your information, pursuant to Government Code section 65583.3, the County must submit an electronic sites inventory with its adopted housing element. The County must utilize standards, forms, and definitions adopted by HCD. Please see HCD's housing element webpage at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/planning-and-community-development/housing-elements> for a copy of the form and instructions. The County can reach out to HCD at sitesinventory@hcd.ca.gov for technical assistance.

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, and HCD's Permanent Local Housing Allocation consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the County will meet housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

For your information, some general plan element updates are triggered by housing element adoption. HCD reminds the County to consider timing provisions and welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. For information, please see the Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: <https://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>.

HCD appreciates your hard work and dedication provided in preparation of the County's housing element. HCD particularly commends the thoughtful and collaborative approach of you and the housing element update team, including Elise Dale, Allen Bell, Alex Tuttle, Jessica Steele and Eva Marrero. HCD looks forward to receiving the County's adopted housing element. If you have any questions or need additional technical assistance, please contact me at paul.mcdougall@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul McDougall
Senior Program Manager