

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

From: Dustin Hoiseth <Dustin@SBSCChamber.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 2:16 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Kristen Miller
Subject: Public Comment: Board of Supervisors April 8 - Item 3 (Support)
Attachments: SBSCChamber_SUPPORT_Workforce Housing Study.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.

Hello,

Please see the attached (and below) public comment for tomorrow's Board of Supervisors meeting, regarding Item 3 on the agenda, to be distributed to the Board of Supervisors and entered into the public record.

Thank you.

Chair Capps and Supervisors:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses from Goleta to Carpinteria, would like to express our support regarding the Workforce Housing Study and related action items before the Board of Supervisors. Workforce housing remains one of the most pressing challenges facing our regional economy. Local businesses across all industries continue to experience significant hiring and retention issues due to the lack of local housing supply for their employees. The Chamber applauds the County's continued commitment to addressing this issue through strategic planning and decisive action.

We strongly support the following key elements outlined in the Study and the staff recommendations:

1. Study Observations and Priority Actions:

- Pursuing a Prohousing Designation to enhance the County's competitiveness for state housing resources.
- Updating the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO) to better reflect market realities and improve workforce housing production.
- Pursuing partnerships with private equity firms to bring additional capital and expertise into local affordable housing projects.
- Expediting implementation of the 6th Cycle Housing Element programs to address Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals more rapidly.

- 2. Site-Specific Development Opportunity:** We support repurposing the current site of the Probation building at 123 East Carrillo Street into a workforce housing development. Utilizing County-owned land for this purpose is an important step toward creating housing options where they are most needed.
- 3. Broader Countywide Workforce Housing Efforts:** We support the County's broader efforts to identify and implement housing strategies throughout the region. The Chamber is also actively developing an employer-sponsored housing consortium to help businesses—large and small—collaborate in acquiring or leasing housing to support their employees. We believe this type of public-private

partnership aligns with the County's strategic approach and can serve as a complementary initiative to the actions outlined in the Study.

We recognize the complexity of these efforts and appreciate the County's willingness to examine both policy and implementation tools to move projects forward. Thank you for your continued leadership and action to address the workforce housing crisis in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Dustin Hoiseth
Director of Public Policy
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce

DUSTIN HOISETH | Director of Public Policy
SANTA BARBARA SOUTH COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(805) 729-5525 | Dustin@SBSCChamber.com

4/7/2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Support for Workforce Housing Study and Recommended Implementation Actions

Chair Capps and Supervisors:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses from Goleta to Carpinteria, would like to express our support regarding the Workforce Housing Study and related action items before the Board of Supervisors. Workforce housing remains one of the most pressing challenges facing our regional economy. Local businesses across all industries continue to experience significant hiring and retention issues due to the lack of local housing supply for their employees. The Chamber applauds the County's continued commitment to addressing this issue through strategic planning and decisive action.

We strongly support the following key elements outlined in the Study and the staff recommendations:

1. **Study Observations and Priority Actions:**

- Pursuing a Prohousing Designation to enhance the County's competitiveness for state housing resources.
- Updating the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (IHO) to better reflect market realities and improve workforce housing production.
- Pursuing partnerships with private equity firms to bring additional capital and expertise into local affordable housing projects.
- Expediting implementation of the 6th Cycle Housing Element programs to address Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals more rapidly.

2. **Site-Specific Development Opportunity:** We support repurposing the current site of the Probation building at 123 East Carrillo Street into a workforce housing development. Utilizing County-owned land for this purpose is an important step toward creating housing options where they are most needed.

3. **Broader Countywide Workforce Housing Efforts:** We support the County's broader efforts to identify and implement housing strategies throughout the region. The Chamber is also actively developing an employer-sponsored housing consortium to help businesses—large and small—collaborate in acquiring or leasing housing to support their employees. We believe this type of public-private partnership aligns with the County's strategic approach and can serve as a complementary initiative to the actions outlined in the Study.

We recognize the complexity of these efforts and appreciate the County's willingness to examine both policy and implementation tools to move projects forward. Thank you for your continued leadership and action to address the workforce housing crisis in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Dustin Hoiseth
Director of Public Policy
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce