



# Sheila de la Guerra Public Comment

**From:** Dustin Hoiseth <Dustin@SBSCChamber.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 4:19 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Bob Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; Kristen Miller  
**Subject:** 12/5 Public Comment SBSC Chamber - Item 3: HE Update  
**Attachments:** 2023\_12\_4\_PublicComment\_SBSCChamber\_Item3\_HEUpdate.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.**

Please see the attached public comment for item 3 on 12/5 Board of Supervisors agenda.

Dear Chair Williams and Supervisors,

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce has been following the County's 2023-31 Housing Element process since it began. The Housing Element is an important piece of the County's part in solving the regional housing crisis, which continues to be the number one issue faced by local businesses due to the challenge it creates when recruiting and retaining new employees.

While the Chamber supports the County's efforts to meet the State allocated RHNA numbers, we have laid out a similar plan in our Road Home Document, a living document that discusses the current state of our region's housing crisis, and proposed solutions, from a local business community perspective. In the Road Home we highlight the need for 10,000 housing units of all types and income levels by 2030. The Chamber understands that the County has a different set of guidelines laid out by the State, and a slightly different plan for how it plans to accomplish its goals. However, the sites we have laid out as part of the Road Home's 10,000 units is a local goal post that we have set, based on what our feedback shows is supported by the community with projects which are ready to be implemented immediately. You can access the Road Home document at this link:

<https://sbscchamber.com/roadmap-to-recovery-the-road-home/>. The proposed sites can be found on pages 22-23.

Also included in the Road Home is a proposal an Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium, in which multiple employers will enter a partnership to acquire property which they can provide to local employees. Securing housing for the local workforce is an important part of addressing the regional housing supply crisis. The Chamber is glad to see that the County is taking the need for local workforce housing seriously, as evidenced by Program 23: Workforce Housing Study, Program 21: Local Preference, and other policies and programs laid out in the Housing Element. We appreciate the County's efforts, especially in the 2nd and 3rd districts, to take the lead with the Chamber as we develop a local Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium program. The private sector is willing to invest in a solution that will help with the housing supply crisis, but we will continue to need the County and other local jurisdictions to meet us halfway to make these efforts feasible.

We understand that current zoning falls short in providing the sufficient sites needed to meet RHNA requirements. That is why the Chamber supports the rezoning of all the proposed sites. This is the time to be proactive and aggressive in determining sites for housing. Community leaders and the residents now widely acknowledge that we are experiencing a housing supply crisis. In particular, the Chamber supports the rezone of the Glen Annie site. This site is a potential new neighborhood that will add to our community's quality of life. The owners are partnering with the Chamber through our new Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium. Given our great progress in 2023, we expect to develop a working Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium to be ready to go by the end of 2024. However, the success of this program relies on the successful rezoning of the sites of our partner projects.

The Chamber looks forward to continuing to engage with the County on the development of an Employer Sponsored Housing Consortium program. We will also continue to watch the Housing Element process and the accompanying rezoning process to ensure that the need for rezoning of potential Employer Housing Consortium partner sites and the various sites highlighted in our Road Home is heard.

We look forward to working with you to address the regional housing supply crisis.

Sincerely,

Kristen Miller  
President & CEO  
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce

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12/4/2023

Chair Williams and County Supervisors  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

**RE: 2023-2031 Housing Element Update**

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Kristen Miller  
President & CEO  
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce