

Katherine Douglas

Public comment - MOVE SB County

3



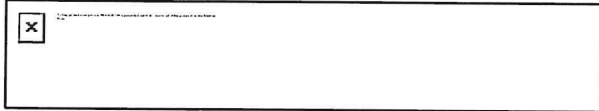
From: Mark Wilkinson <mwilkinson@sbtrails.org>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 8:26 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Heather Deutsch
Subject: Comment Letter | Santa Barbara County Housing Element
Attachments: 2023_SB Co Housing Element_MOVE.pdf

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, Clerk of the Board,

We are sending the attached comment letter on behalf of MOVE Santa Barbara County. Please share it with the Supervisors prior to the board meeting scheduled for December 5th.

Regards,



Mark Wilkinson
Executive Director

Santa Barbara County Trails Council
805.708.6173 [website](#) [facebook](#) [twitter](#) [instagram](#)



November 27, 2023

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

Dear Chair Williams and Honorable Members of the Board:

MOVE Santa Barbara County (MOVE) is writing to respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors prioritize and encourage the inclusion of, and access to via sidewalks, bikeways, and transit, new public parks, recreation areas and trails in major new housing developments under consideration as part of the Housing Element. We understand that this approach is consistent with historic County planning practice and can be important in providing complete, equitable and sustainable communities.

MOVE promotes walking, bicycling, and public transit county-wide to create healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities. We envision Santa Barbara County as a vibrant, connected network of communities where sustainable transportation is safe, accessible, and efficient for all. We dream of a future where people can choose from multiple modes of transportation to arrive at their destination with enjoyment and ease.

We consider the integration of new parks, recreation areas and trails into new development planned under the Housing Element as essential to achieving our mobility and equity goals by allowing residents of new development, as well as those living near existing neighborhoods that lack such essential services, to walk or bike to such public recreational facilities easily. As your Board is aware, this is particularly important for low-income households that may not own a car, families with children, and elderly or mobility-impaired individuals.

Therefore, while we applaud the Board for considering new infill development proximate to jobs, transit and shopping, particularly for affordable housing, we believe that including accessible parks, recreational areas and trails in such new neighborhoods is a key equity and environmental justice issue. We urge the Board to ensure that Housing Element Programs prioritize and encourage developments that include new public parks, recreation areas and trails.

Sincerely,

Heather Deutsch
Executive Director
MOVE Santa Barbara County