

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment

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From: Maria Navarro <maria@causenow.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 5:24 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: RE: Board of Supervisors Hearing on Housing Element Rezone Sites
Attachments: 05.02.24_CAUSE SB County_ HE Letter.pdf

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Hi,

I apologize for the slightly delayed submission of this public comment letter. But, here is CAUSE's opinion letter ahead of the Hearing tomorrow.

Best,

Maria Navarro

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Maria Navarro

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pronouns: she/ her/ella





Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

CAUSE

regional power in action

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May 2, 2024

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

123 E. Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Board of Supervisors Hearing on Housing Element Rezone Sites

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Board of Supervisors,

The Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), would like to express our support for the principles outlined by the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara in their recent comment letter regarding the rezoning decision as part of the County's Housing Element adoption process for the sixth cycle. At CAUSE, we are committed to advocating for policies and initiatives that promote social, economic, and environmental justice in our community.

Through our work, we strive to empower low-income and immigrant communities to create positive, lasting change. We believe that equitable access to affordable housing is a fundamental right and a key component of building a more just and inclusive society. We believe that the recommendations made by the League align with our goals of advocating for affordable housing, equitable community development, and a sustainable economy.

In addition to supporting the League's recommendations, we are concerned that rezoning decisions may result in an overemphasis on above-moderate-income housing, neglecting the crucial need for affordable housing in the low-income, very low-income, and moderate categories. This imbalance could perpetuate existing disparities and further marginalize communities already struggling with access to affordable housing. By prioritizing above-moderate-income housing, there is a risk of reinforcing patterns of segregation and unequal access to housing, which is contrary to the principles of fair housing and social justice. It is essential that the County's rezoning decisions prioritize equity and consider the broader social impact on all residents, especially those in marginalized and vulnerable communities.

We also echo the League of Women Voters' recommendation to prioritize the use of publicly-owned land for the development of 100% deed-restricted affordable housing. Publicly-owned sites represent a valuable resource that should be leveraged to address the critical shortage of affordable housing in our community. By dedicating these sites exclusively to affordable housing, we can ensure that they serve the public good and meet the needs of our most vulnerable

community members. This approach aligns with our commitment to promoting equitable access to housing and creating inclusive communities for all residents.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to consider these equity implications in their decision-making process and to prioritize the development of affordable housing in areas that have historically lacked access to such opportunities. By doing so, the County can take meaningful steps towards addressing housing inequities and creating more inclusive communities for all residents.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to continuing to work with the Board to address the affordable housing needs of Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucas Zucker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucas" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Zucker".

Lucas Zucker
Co-Executive Director
CAUSE
<https://www.causenow.org>