

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

From: Whitney B. Rubison <whitneyrubison@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Laura Capps; Roy Lee; Joan Hartmann; Steve Lavagnino; nelson@countyofsb.org; sbcob; Lucille Boss
Cc: Claire Van Blaricum; Laura Haston; Cc: Vicki Allen; Pamela Flynt Tambo; Lisa C; Ali Brieske; Dianne Black; Megan Turley
Subject: Agenda Item # 25-00398 Prohousing Designation Application
Attachments: 2025 May SB County - Prohousing Designation Application (1).pdf

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Dear Chair Capps and Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters Santa Barbara, please find attached our letter regarding the Prohousing Designation Application.

Warmly,

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Whitney B. Rubison
859.537.5166
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May 12, 2025

Subject: Agenda Item # 25-00398 Prohousing Designation Application

Dear Chair Capps and Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters, we would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on the County's desire to apply for the "State of California's Prohousing Designation." We thank the staff for their exhaustive efforts in drafting this comprehensive application.

We support any efforts by the County to maximize its potential to receive more funding for constructing new, deed-restricted affordable housing. Given the acute need for and shortage of housing in the South Coast targeted at the 120% Area Median Income (very low to moderate income level), we support any efforts to accelerate the production rate for affordable housing targeted to the workforce at this income level. As the County's Workforce Housing Study found, 71% of all workforce members fall into the low-income category, and 50% are very low income (p. 4, Appendix A - Affordability Gap, County of Santa Barbara Workforce Housing Study, 2025).

If we received a "Prohousing designation," the County would be eligible for priority status on several state grant programs that would help us subsidize the construction and preservation of deed-restricted affordable housing at these income levels. For example, the Prohousing Incentive Program (PIP) and Infill Housing Program provide millions of dollars to local jurisdictions for building deed-restricted affordable ownership and rental housing and funds to preserve our limited supply of affordable, deed-restricted housing.

For these reasons, we encourage the Board of Supervisors to support submitting this application for "Prohousing Designation."

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne M. Black".

Dianne Black
Vice President and Leadership Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Whitney B. Rubison".

Whitney B. Rubison
Co-Chair Housing Committee