

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment



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From: Jon Standring <Jon@beachsidepartners.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 7:16 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Craig Minus
Subject: Housing Element Letter
Attachments: CHC - BOS - Housing Element.pdf

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Please see the attached letter.



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Coastal Housing Coalition

December 5th, 2023

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Mr. Das Williams, Chair & Members of the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Housing Element 2023-2031

Dear Chair and Supervisors:

The Coastal Housing Coalition (CHC) is a non-profit organization and the voice of local employers and employees in support of workforce housing. The CHC advocates for housing available to households earning 120-200% of the community Area Median Income (AMI). We believe that the lack of available, affordable housing near jobs is adversely affecting our region's economy, environment, and civic life, all of which will worsen if we don't address this crucial problem.

Our organization believes the 2023-2031 Housing Element (HE) serves as a critical document to help address housing supply and affordability. We also recognize that this (HE) cycle's allocation is far greater than in the past. While such an important Planning/Housing document demands proper evaluation and review, this document presents tangible opportunities to help finally address a problem which has been exacerbating for years.

For decades our organization has heard employer challenges of attracting and retaining employees, known of families being unable to live and work in the same town and experienced friends/co-workers leaving the area all due to housing availability/affordability constraints.

The 2023-2031 HE now provides stronger tools to help housing availability/affordability for our County's families and businesses. Unfortunately, experience tells that that previous Housing Elements fell short in providing the needed tools for adequate housing availability/affordability, particularly in South County. However, you – as today's decision makers can deliver the needed tools towards improved housing availability/affordability. We strongly encourage you to approve the 2023-2031 HE findings and recommend it forward to the Board.

Thank you for your time, our organization is always available to your Board for any questions.

Sincerely,



Craig Minus
Executive Director

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