

LATE  
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Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment

**From:** fredlsweeney@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Deb Trauntvein; Elizabeth Foxen (McAdams); Eric Torbet; gard24@aol.com; Michael O'Connell; Mike Pfau; Pat Saley; Rod Hersberger; Ryan Newell  
**Subject:** Santa Barbara Upper East Association letter concerning State SB 609 and AB 79  
**Attachments:** UEA Ltr. County SB AB 609 SB 79.docx

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Dear Clerk, please distribute this letter to members of the board of supervisors and other appropriate individuals.

Thank you

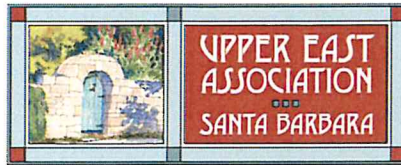
Fred L. Sweeney  
UEA secretary



**FRED L. SWEENEY**  
ARCHITECT/CONSULTANT  
WATERCOLOR PAINTER

10 EAST QUINTO STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105  
(C) 805-448-4392

fredlsweeney@gmail.com



May 26, 2025

Santa Barbara County of Supervisors  
105 E Anapamu Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

RE: State laws that don't adequately address the need for affordable housing and could adversely impact cities and counties (including AB 609, Wicks, and SB 79, Weiner)

Dear Supervisors,

Once again, members of the State Legislature are considering removing another local control mechanism (e.g., CEQA) in order to provide high density, market-rate housing instead of much-needed affordable housing.

We encourage you to advocate for your constituents and take a strong stand against the proliferation of laws that encourage high density market-rate housing, with little or no environmental review, often displacing low-income residents, and without providing the type of housing we truly need.

The Upper Eastside Association is dedicated to the preservation of our area including our quality of life. We have principally served as an educator of our members, including sponsoring talks and events. In recent years, as the State legislature has continually passed housing laws with a blunt "one-size-fits-all" approach, we find ourselves paying more attention to housing developments proposed in and near the Upper Eastside, including those proposed behind the Mission and on the Lower Riviera that we are following closely. We now realize that virtually all guardrails to promote sound community planning are being removed and for-profit developers are building dense, tall buildings that serve higher income people, often displacing lower income people who have nowhere to go.

A recent LA Times article stated that those living in Santa Barbara County earning under \$100,000 are now considered low income. Combine that with 71% of workers in our community considered low income, and you can only conclude the amount and type of housing that's being proposed and built is not addressing our needs. The "stacking" of various bills' provisions allows extremely dense projects that may impact local infrastructure, public school districts, local parking availability and emergency evacuation routes, all while providing housing for high income earners, not the people that serve them including teachers, firefighters, service workers and health care staff.

We fully recognize that there is a dire housing shortage in Santa Barbara City and County. We support reasonable, well thought out development that serves the residents and workers in this community. The legislature's "one-size-fits-all" approach ignores the insatiable demand for housing along the California coast and in some high employment areas, areas that are almost built out with little developable land. The income and housing gap is continuing to grow, and recent laws only make it worse. Please grab a seat at the table and get involved on your constituents' behalf.

Sincerely,

Steve Forsell, Board President