



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: March 10, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s):
Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department (CSD)
Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development (P&D)
Contact Info:
Joe Dzvonik, Assistant Director, Housing and Community Development (HCD)
Lucille Boss, HCD Housing Programs Manager
SUBJECT: Prohousing Incentive Program (PIP) Resolution

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a resolution authorizing the application and participation in the State of California Prohousing Incentive Program (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of an organizational or administrative activity of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The California Department of Housing & Community Development (CA HCD) has notified staff that the County's Prohousing Designation application will be approved, making the County eligible to apply for and receive priority processing or funding points when applying for several available funding programs. The first funding opportunity is the Prohousing Incentive Program (PIP), which is due on March 31, 2026. Eligible applicants must submit a resolution authorizing submittal of the application that aligns with the PIP's program requirements. This board letter includes a resolution (Attachment A) that requests the Board authorize application to, and participation in, the PIP.

Background:

From October 2024 to March 2025, the County collaborated with the CA HCD to achieve Prohousing Designation. On May 13, 2025, the Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing to provide an opportunity for residents and other interested parties to comment on the draft Prohousing Designation Application and subsequently authorized submittal of the application to CA HCD.

The application from the County received a score of 71, the highest to date for any county in the State, which may yield up to \$1,000,000 for the County to address housing-related issues in 2026. It should be noted that as of January 2026, only 52 cities and 11 counties had been awarded a Prohousing Designation.

Receipt of the Designation and allocation of such a high score is a testament to and affirmation of the exceptional work by the staff and the Board in developing the County housing element.

The following are eligible planning or implementation activities under PIP guidelines:

1. The predevelopment, development, acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of multifamily, residential live-work, rental housing that is affordable to extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-income households, including necessary operating subsidies.
2. Affordable rental and ownership housing that meets the needs of a growing workforce earning up to 120 percent of area median income, or 150 percent of area median income in high-cost areas.
3. Assisting persons who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including providing rapid rehousing, rental assistance, navigation centers, emergency shelters, and the new construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of permanent and transitional housing.
4. Homeownership opportunities, including, but not limited to, down payment assistance.
5. Fiscal incentives or matching funds to local agencies that approve new housing for extremely low-, very low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

Fiscal Impact:

If the application is approved and funds are awarded, staff will return to the Board with a Budget adjustment to account for the increased program costs. This grant award is 100% funded by the State of California and does not require a match from the County.

Performance Measure:

The resolution accompanying this Board Letter acknowledges and confirms that it will continue to comply with applicable housing laws and to refrain from enacting laws, developing policies, or taking other local governmental actions that may or do inhibit or constrain housing production, to be affirmed by an Annual Progress Report.

Special Instructions:

Please return a signed Resolution and a copy of the Minute Order to Lucille Boss.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Authorizing Resolution

Attachment B – PIP Application

Attachment C – Standard Agreement Template

Contact Information

Lucille Boss, Housing Programs Manager LBoss@countyofsb.org