



City of Encinitas
City Council's Office

June 7, 2016

Kristin Gaspar
Mayor

Budget Conference Committee
Senator Mark Leno, Chair
Assembly Member Philip Y. Ting, Vice Chair
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, CA 95814

Lisa Shaffer
Deputy Mayor

RE: **Governor's By Right Housing Proposal**
Notice of Opposition

Dear Honorable Chair Leno and Vice Chair Ting:

Catherine S. Blakespear
Council Member

The City of Encinitas opposes the recently released proposal by the Governor to pre-empt local discretionary land use approvals of specified housing developments by having all such approvals be considered "ministerial" actions, meaning eliminating opportunities for public review, project-level environmental review and restricting design review.

We believe that such fundamental policy changes should not be rushed through as a budget proposal, but merit extensive review by the appropriate policy committees in a deliberative fashion.

Tony Kranz
Council Member

Eliminating opportunities for public review of these major development projects goes against the principles of local democracy and public engagement. While it may be frustrating for some developers to hear concerns about traffic, parking and other development impacts, those affected by such projects have a right to be heard. Not having such outlets will increase public distrust in government. Our city has mandated a citizen participation plan for each new development project, whereby residents in the vicinity of a new development voice their concerns. Making land development a ministerial process will not be viewed favorably in Encinitas. We have a coastal location and all new development is in-fill. Matching and/or enhancing community character are necessary and desired qualities in new development, and this should be decided at the local level, not in Sacramento.

Mark Muir
Council Member

Avoiding or restricting design review is also short-sighted. Community acceptance can be improved through good design that enables a new structure to match a community character. Our City has five unique communities, and preserving the community character of each is extremely important to our residents. Trust in government is not likely to improve if the Governor's proposal is successful.

Karen P. Brust
City Manager

This proposal is disappointing from our Governor. He has taken our state backwards on affordable housing by stripping local governments and the state of the few resources available to build these units, and is now seeking to avoid a discussion of how to replace these lost funds by undermining public input, environmental and design review.

On behalf of the residents we represent who deserve a voice in the future shape of their communities. The City of Encinitas respectfully states our opposition to this measure.

Sincerely,



Kristin Gaspar
Mayor

cc: Senator Patricia Bates
Assembly Member Rocky Chavez
Dan Carrigg, League of California Cities, CarriggD@cacities.org
Catherine Hill, League of California Cities, chill@cacities.org
JGC Intergovernmental Relations
City Council
Planning and Building Department