

Regional Housing

From: John Mirisch <jmirisch@beverlyhills.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 9:01 AM
To: Regional Housing
Cc: Cindy Owens; Tess Rey-Chaput; Finlay, Margaret E.; Wapner, Alan D.
Subject: RHNA

Dear Kome,

Would you please share the following article with the RHNA subcommittee (as well as the members of the Regional Council and CEHD Committee):

<http://www.newgeography.com/content/006196-the-high-residential-densities-california-and-wild-wild-texas>

Written by Wendell Cox, who is a demographer with a raft of distinguished credentials, this is an important article which shows that Los Angeles is currently the densest urban area in the US. As Cox writes after presenting extensive data: "All of this is a yet another reminder that the data does not always support pre-conceived perceptions."

Furthermore – and highly relevant to the work we are attempting to do, which includes protecting local communities from Sacramento-dictated one-size-fits-all mandates – writes Cox:

"For three quarters of a century, much of the international urban planning community has been obsessed with stopping 'urban sprawl.' Urban sprawl has become, in effect, the equivalent of a deadly sin in the Medieval church. Yet, urban sprawl has never been well defined. High density does not inoculate a city against criticisms of urban sprawl, such as the world's densest large urban area ([Dhaka, Bangladesh](#)) shows. Perhaps the most significant attempt to classify American cities by their extent of sprawl (by [Smart Growth America](#)), found Springfield, Illinois to be less sprawling than Los Angeles. [Yet, if Los Angeles had the same urban density as Springfield, it would cover four times as much land area.](#) With such a lack of clarity, the charge of 'urban sprawl' is often nothing more than 'name calling.'"

Mr. Cox has served on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission and is familiar with our situation. My suggestion would be for us to invite him to speak not only to the RHNA subcommittee in person, but also to discuss these issues with the Regional Council and CEHD Committee.

All the best,
John Mirisch
Vice Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

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