



DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

November 1, 2019

Re: Southern California Association of Governments, Regional Housing Needs Assessment Methodology

Dear SCAG Colleagues,

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is scheduled to take a vote on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) methodology next Thursday, November 7th, at 12:15pm. The methodology will guide how SCAG allocates the 1,341,827 housing units assigned to the Southern California region by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Unfortunately, the proposed SCAG methodology pushes nearly all of those units into cities with low average incomes and into far-flung locales. This flies in the face of our efforts to limit sprawl, reduce mega-commuting (traveling 90 or more minutes and 50 or more miles to work), and locate housing near jobs. In short, if approved, it will harm the region's urban centers, harm the environment, increase traffic congestion, and continue to disadvantage low-income communities.

The crisis of housing that our region faces must be answered by a unified effort to build housing and connect them to jobs through thoughtful transit options.

In response to a [motion](#) approved by the Los Angeles City Council, our Chief Legislative Analyst, Department of City Planning and Housing and Community Investment Department evaluated SCAG's proposed methodology and provided recommendations for amending the draft RHNA Allocation Methodology. These amendments include:

- Removing the household growth factor from the existing need component.
- Revising the jobs accessibility metric to explicitly promote housing in jurisdictions with a severe jobs/housing imbalance and incorporate a measure of low-wage jobs and affordable housing.
- Defining transit access according to the total acreage or land area that is located within half a mile of a high quality transit stop.
- Revising the social equity adjustment to redistribute RHNA allocations across different jurisdictions rather than within them.

I support the [recommendations](#) and [Resolution](#) approved by the City of Los Angeles' Planning and Land Use Management Committee on October 29th. This report is expected to be considered by the full City Council on November 5th, and if passed, it will represent the official position of the City of Los Angeles and proposed to SCAG on November 7th.

In years past, RHNA was primarily a planning tool with minimal carrots or sticks attached to it. Now, the State is increasingly tying financial incentives and penalties to RHNA. If we want our region's goals for transit access and affordable housing to be met, we will need to ensure our entire region is a part of the solution.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request your support for this amendment and the implementation of a plan that provides for both smart and equitable growth in the Southern California Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. Ryu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "R".

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, District Four
City of Los Angeles