
From: Beth Heard <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Regional Housing
Subject: Appeal of Draft of RHNA Allocation for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita

In the last 90 days there have been 2 major Wildfires (the Bond fire- December 2020 and the Silverado Fire October 2020) which were a straight-line distance of approximately 10 miles from the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. These two wildfires combined were responsible for burning 20,590 acres of land and called for 115,000 people to evacuate their homes. In addition, 2 other Wildfires (the Live Oak fire and the Dove Canyon/ Coto de Caza fire) were in or within 3 miles of Rancho Santa Margarita, California in the past 6 months.

Per the 2010 US Census 47,853 residents already live within Rancho Santa Margarita. Additionally, per the 2010 US Census, there are 17,260 housing units located in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. Subsequently, it is imperative that the issues of evacuation and access to emergency services be a number one priority. Given that the County of Orange Fire Authority (OC Fire Authority) designated Rancho Santa Margarita as being in a "Fire Hazard Severity Zone", Rancho Santa Margarita is unsuitable for any further housing developments. This OC Fire Authority designation indicates that the development of more housing within the City of Rancho Santa Margarita represents a clear danger to the public safety of over 47,000 residents due to the continued high risk of Wildfires within Rancho Santa Margarita.

Furthermore, numerous homeowners within the communities in RSM have had their Homeowner/ Fire insurance canceled because these homes are in a "Fire Hazard Severity Zone". This emphasizes that insurance companies consider communities within Rancho Santa Margarita to be at high risk of being damaged or destroyed by Wildfires. Please do not mandate further development of housing into the City of Rancho Santa Margarita given the serious public safety danger that already exists here.