



CITY OF COSTA MESA

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

March 5, 2020

Kome Ajise, Executive Director
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

RE: Request to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to Amend the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Methodology for the 6th Cycle

Dear Mr. Ajise:

The City of Costa Mesa requests that SCAG amend the RHNA methodology to reinstate local input as a factor in the existing need. The City of Cerritos recently submitted a proposal dated February 4, 2020, which recommends that household growth forecasts be reintroduced back into the calculations for the existing need as follows: household growth (33.3%), job accessibility (33.3%), and population within high quality transit areas (33.3%). These household growth projections are an important factor in that it takes into consideration the unique characteristics of each jurisdiction. Moreover, these growth projections more closely align the RHNA with the development pattern established within Connect SoCal as required by state statute. Finally, as stated in the staff-recommended RHNA methodology staff report for the November 7, 2019, Regional Council meeting, the reintroduction of household growth into the existing need would further the five objectives of state housing law.

Furthermore, we are also requesting that SCAG object again to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in that they did not follow state law with the regional determination [see Government Code Section 65584.01(a)]. Even the Department of Finance recently updated its population projections and show a significant decrease since their previous forecast. Governor Newsom has also stated that his commitment to building 3.5 million homes by 2025 was a "stretch goal" and that the state would soon be releasing a more pragmatic estimate of the housing needs by region. The regional determination of 1.34 million housing units combined with an inequitable RHNA methodology are setting up local jurisdictions for failure to comply with state housing law.

We request that the RHNA Subcommittee, CEHD Policy Committee, and Regional Council consider these two recommendations prior to the adoption of the RHNA methodology. We recognize that there are time constraints established by state law; however, the 6th Cycle RHNA will have significant impacts on jurisdictions over the next decade and longer. Therefore, it is imperative that the RHNA be finalized in a way that is equitable and attainable in responding to the state's housing shortfall.

Sincerely,

Barry Curtis, AICP
Director of Economic and Development Services