



OFFICE of the MAYOR

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November 10, 2020

The Honorable Rex Richardson, President
Southern California Association of Governments
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Request to Agendize a Closed Session Discussion of the SCAG President's RHNA Litigation Study Team's Recommendation Regarding HCD's RHNA Allocation of 1.34 Million Housing Units to the SCAG Region

Dear President Richardson:

The City of Gardena has become aware of the fact that several Regional Councilmembers have requested that SCAG agendize a closed session discussion of the RHNA Litigation Study Team's recommendations regarding a challenge to the State Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) assignment of 1.34 million RHNA housing units to the SCAG region. The City of Gardena wholeheartedly supports this request.

Gardena is a small city of approximately 5.8 square miles that is approximately 99% built-out. Nevertheless, the City's received a RHNA allocation of 5,721 units, which is more than fourteen times the City's previous allocation of 397 units. Providing sites for these units will lead to a diminishing of the City's economic tax base as it will be forced to place a high-density overlay zone over most of the commercial and industrial areas within the City, as well as create intensification of minority and below-poverty areas. The City has already filed an appeal with SCAG, based in part on a failure to affirmatively further fair housing.

Gardena further notes that the allocation of units will place the City in the untenable situation of not being able to deny a housing development project under the Housing Accountability Act, while at the same time not having any area left to rezone when a housing project does not provide the identified affordable housing on the site. The result will be that the City will be out of compliance with State law through no fault of its own.

No city in the SCAG region should be burdened with having to identify sites for what new evidence shows is not a realistic need or face being out of compliance with State law because there is no additional land that can be rezoned. Please agendize the closed session and force HCD to comply with State law.

Very Truly Yours,

Tasha Cerda
Mayor, City of Gardena

TASHA CERDA, Mayor / MARK E. HENDERSON, Mayor Pro Tem

PAULETTE C. FRANCIS, Councilmember / ART KASKANIAN, Councilmember / RODNEY G. TANAKA, Councilmember
MINA SEMENZA, City Clerk / J. INGRID TSUKIYAMA, City Treasurer / CLINT OSORIO, City Manager / CARMEN VASQUEZ, City Attorney