
From: Henry Fung <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:08 PM
To: ePublic Comment Group <ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov>
Subject: Comment to be read at February 4, 2021 Regional Council meeting

This should be under three minutes; if it is not, feel free to stop at this point.

Dear members of the Regional Council,
I commented last month regarding discouraging SCAG from pursuing litigation on the Regional Housing Needs Determination, but wish to reiterate these comments again in light of the letter received on February 3 from the Mission Viejo City Attorney.

The City Attorney asks what they feel are four key questions, but I have three other questions that Regional Council members should consider before making their minds on litigation.

The first is how much will this cost SCAG to litigate? How many other SCAG programs will be terminated or curtailed if litigation is pursued? What risk is there to raising SCAG dues, and thus either forcing cities to drop SCAG membership or otherwise cut community-serving programs or use voter approved tax revenue for purposes not originally intended?

The second is what is the likelihood SCAG will win? Will they have to reimburse the State for their legal costs?

The third is what will the legislature, the governor, and the public perceive when SCAG takes legal action? What will the tens of thousands of unhoused people see when cities around the region are using the cloud of legal action to not zone for homes? What will adult children who want to start families of their own, people who need to form new households because of divorce or domestic violence, and those who want to move to Southern California to contribute to our economy perceive when their regional government acts against their interests? What other bills could the legislature, or executive action taken by the governor, could be taken that would render SCAG's actions moot, or put them in a worse position compared to collaboration and discussion?

The Regional Housing Needs Determination reflects existing and projected need, which is why it is so high. Existing need is people in the region who want to move out or move on but can't because of high housing costs.

I continue to urge that the current position of SCAG's leadership to collaborate and discuss with state leaders on ways to resolve our region's housing crisis together, be maintained. Adversarial action has consequences that I don't want our region to face.

Sincerely,
Henry Fung
Covina, CA

