
From: Jennifer Ward <jward@ocbc.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Regional Housing <Housing@scag.ca.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Ward <jward@ocbc.org>; Connor Medina <cmedina@ocbc.org>
Subject: OCBC Comments on RHNA Appeals Board Public Hearing Agenda 1/15/21

Good Afternoon,

OCBC would like to submit the following public comments:

Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, is a passionate proponent of workforce housing solutions throughout the region. Since 2006, collectively California has failed to issue enough new housing permits to meet demand. Orange County is sorely in need of more workforce housing—high rents and home prices push workers to live in neighboring counties, while homelessness persists countywide.

At the State policy level, climate change goals must be better aligned with policies that spur the development of workforce housing and address the housing supply backlog. At the local level, cities claiming a lack of "availability of land suitable for urban development" should instead focus on creative planning solutions, whether that means increasing density, adaptive reuse and redevelopment of retail sites, and updating zoning codes to allow housing in more areas. OCBC looks forward to collaborating with Orange County cities in finding creative solutions to address the regional housing crisis as they develop plans to accommodate their RHNA numbers.

Thank you,

Jennifer Ward

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