

Ma'Ayn Johnson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Regional Housing
Subject: Attn: Ma'Ayn Johnson - Public Comment on RHNA

Hi Ma'Ayn, Thank you for handling all these public comments! Mine is below. - RC

As an Orange County resident, I am writing in support of the new housing requirements.

As we all know, Southern California is in the midst of a housing crisis, with many of our neighbors unable to find stable housing and even more at risk of losing their housing due to the aftershocks of the pandemic. Moreover, due to the history of housing segregation and other aspects of systemic racism, this housing crisis weighs most heavily on people of color.

New housing, affordable housing, and denser housing should not be bogeymen of our county.

Increased housing could benefit everyone in our county. An influx of residents will patronize our small and local businesses — something they could use more than ever in the aftermath of the pandemic. Additionally, more housing makes it more economical and efficient to run public transit, which our county could sorely use more of.

When envisioning the future of the county and constructing these homes, it's important we think outside the box of single-family zoning. Some of the most vibrant areas of our county share a mix of single-family homes and “missing middle housing” — that is, duplexes, small apartment buildings, townhomes and live-work buildings. This mix of housing can also support thriving, walkable downtowns. Like transit, this sort of development will be critical to a California that can be resilient in the face of climate change. Of course, such development must also be done in a thoughtful way that respects the natural environment as much as possible and avoids critical fire zones.

Orange County cannot hide from the need for more housing. If we put it off, the crisis will only continue to grow. So let's embrace this as an opportunity to develop more housing in smart ways, and add onto our neighborhoods in ways that make them more equitable, desirable, enjoyable, and neighborly for years to come.

R. Cali

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