

RECEIVED ON: January 11, 2022

From: [David Barboza](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Whittier City Council Agenda Item 3.B
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Dear Whittier City Council,

I am writing regarding Item 3.B on the Whittier Council agenda for 1/11/2022 (OCCOG v. Gustavo Velasquez). **We urge the City not to appeal the court's decision.**

We are aware of the fact that the City of Whittier joined this lawsuit against the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), regarding the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and that the court found the suit to be without merit. SCAG's RHNA allocation for the current "6th cycle" of Housing Element updates was approximately 1.3 million homes. This figure is higher than in past cycles due to new state laws that recognize we have a housing shortage that is pushing home prices up to unsustainable levels that harm the most vulnerable people in our society. At this point, we are already beyond the statutory deadline for housing elements to be submitted to HCD for review. Changing the RHNA now would create an impossible situation where there would be no time to complete a revision to the Housing Element. It's impractical, and bad housing policy.

We note the irony that Whittier taxpayer money is being used on litigation that must be defended against with California taxpayer money, instead of all of this public money being spent on what we really need: more affordable housing.

Sincerely,
David J. Barboza, AICP
[Homes For Whittier](#)