



City of Whittier

13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602-1772
(562) 567-9999 www.cityofwhittier.org

June 26, 2024

Joe Vinatieri
Mayor

Cathy Warner
Mayor Pro Tem

Octavio Martinez
Council Member

Fernando Dutra
Council Member

Mary Ann Pacheco
Council Member

Brian Saeki
City Manager

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Housing Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3330
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 3093 (WARD) LAND USE: HOUSING ELEMENT:
STREAMLINED MULTIFAMILY
Notice of OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Senator Skinner,

The City of Whittier opposes **AB 3093 (Ward)** unless amended to address cities' concerns. Currently, AB 3093 would require local governments to account for the housing needs of people experiencing homelessness in their housing elements without funding to develop the plan, implement strategies, or support the construction of affordable housing.

Whittier expends \$3.2 million annually for a Homeless Navigation Center with wrap-around services and seven-day-a-week outreach services. This is in addition to roughly \$3.5 million in local sales tax that the Whittier community contributes to Los Angeles County's Measure H sales tax for homeless services. Moreover, Whittier, as a direct recipient of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds, already adopts plans, during public hearings, that address the needs of vulnerable populations including individuals experiencing homelessness.

The 2015 Senate Bill 2 already has required that cities zone for homeless shelters and Whittier complied with the directive and went a step further, funding the construction of a Homeless Navigation Center and committed to funding the ongoing operations. Unfortunately, AB 3093 represents yet another layer of bureaucracy instead of actually addressing the problem. We are concerned that the bill simply duplicates planning efforts since existing housing element law already requires cities to analyze the special housing needs of homeless residents and assist in developing adequate housing to meet the needs of extremely low-income households. Housing element law also currently requires cities to identify sites and encourage the development of a variety of housing, including supportive housing and transitional housing. Through these processes, cities are doing more than ever to plan for the needs of unhoused residents in their communities. As drafted, AB 3093 requires site inventory for ALI and ELI households and lacks critical information about how these sites should differ from the

Page Two
The Honorable Nancy Skinner
June 26, 2024

housing cities are planning for already through the very low-income category. Without amendments to clarify these concerns, cities will be set up to fail, leading to even more housing elements being deemed out of compliance.

Cities across California are planning and approving millions of new homes at all income levels despite new bills introduced every year that have changed the rules mid-stream, significantly altering a city' housing element certification process. These complex, multiyear housing plans are laborious, time-consuming, and costly. With many cities still navigating the State's certification process for the sixth cycle, now is not the time to create new vague requirements that will only further these delays in certification.

For these reasons, the City of Whittier **is opposed to AB 3093 unless amended.**

Sincerely,



Joe Vinatieri
Mayor

c: The Honorable Chris Ward, Assembly Member
Senator Bob Archuleta
Assembly Member Lisa Calderon
Whittier City Council
Kristine Guerrero, Cal Cities
League of California Cities