



City of Whittier

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Joe Vinatieri
Mayor

Cathy Warner
Mayor Pro Tem

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Council Member

Fernando Dutra
Council Member

Mary Ann Pacheco
Council Member

Brian Saeki
City Manager

August 28, 2024

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 450 (Atkins) Housing development: approvals
Notice of OPPOSE (As of 8/22/24)**

Dear Senator Atkins:

The City of Whittier must regretfully oppose your measure, SB 450, which would limit the ability of local governments to apply objective standards on a proposed SB 9 (2021) project and require cities to approve or deny a proposed project within 60 days from when a local agency receives a completed application, or the project is deemed approved.

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing California cities, including in Whittier. Affordably priced homes are out of reach for many residents, and housing is not being built fast enough to meet the current or projected needs of our community. Cities like ours lay the groundwork for housing production by planning and zoning new projects based on extensive public input and engagement, state housing laws, and the needs of the building industry.

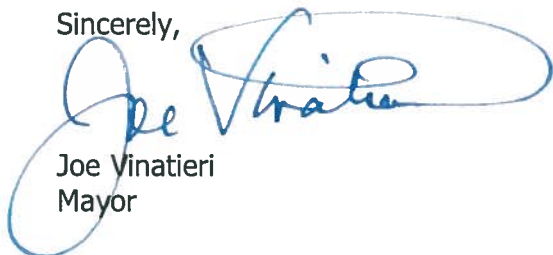
SB 450 requires local agencies to review a proposed development project within 60 days of receiving a completed application, or the project is deemed approved. By further restricting the review time for permits, the measure would limit the ability of local governments to account for local community needs and to promote public health and safety by deeming the project approved, even if city staff does not have enough time to review the permit application.

Additionally, the measure prohibits local governments from accounting for specific adverse impacts on the physical environment of a proposed lot split, which may lead to unintended consequences for local communities. Cities like Whittier plan and zone for the intensity of land uses in their general

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plans to ensure safe and smart residential development. By removing the ability of local governments to account for these factors, SB 450 could lead to negative impacts on the environment, agriculture, noise levels, and wildlife, which are critical to promoting smart and safe housing development in California.

Sincerely,



Joe Vinatieri
Mayor

c: The Honorable Senator Bob Archuleta
The Honorable Assembly Member Lisa Calderon
Whittier City Council
Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities (via email)
League of California Cities, cityletters@calcities.org