

Escondido Community Housing Coalition

March 30, 2022

Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Governance & Finance Committee
State Capitol Office
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1105 (Hueso) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero,

We are writing to express **support for SB 1105: San Diego Regional Equitable and Environmentally Friendly Housing Finance Agency**. This bill will strengthen the San Diego region by providing more affordable homes for working and middle-class families and ensure that all residents have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home. I applaud the leadership on this effort to date and urge your support on this important bill.

Escondido has a dire need for affordable housing. The most recent Housing Element report found that, in the 5th Housing cycle, Escondido had In the 5th Cycle, Escondido **exceeded above-moderate market rate** housing by 300 units. All other housing categories were **significantly** under-developed.

According to the report, Escondido has developed only 13.5% of requirements for very-low income, only 17% for low income, and only 15% of the goal for moderate, but **119%** for above moderate market rate housing. These inequities in housing must be addressed.

Our Escondido Community Housing Coalition is pleased to join a diverse group of local stakeholders who recognize the urgent need to build more of the housing we need. We urge you to support SB 1105 for the following reasons:

A Regional Approach for Our Regional Challenges

Through the Regional Housing Needs Assessment process (RHNA), the San Diego region was instructed to plan for nearly 100,000 homes by 2029 affordable to low-and moderate-income households. Despite the strong commitment from cities across the region, we are still only producing enough affordable homes to meet 12% of the need. This housing shortfall is regional in nature and too great to be fully addressed individually by any one of our 18 incorporated cities. However, the current process is anything but regional: instead, each city is each responsible for finding budgetary funds to deliver on our daunting affordability goals. SB 1105 provides for a coordinated regional strategy and opportunities to leverage new funding to increase affordable housing.

Building Housing We Need in the Right Places

The housing crisis is fundamentally connected to the climate crisis. As housing prices increase, San Diegans are forced to move further away, leading to worsening traffic, more carbon pollution, and the acceleration of the climate emergency. SB 1105 will enable our region to build more equitable and inclusive housing near jobs, amenities, and transportation infrastructure in order to protecting our climate and prevent paving over our open spaces and natural ecosystems.

Supporting a Strong Regional Economy

SB 1105 will strengthen our regional economy, kickstarting the production of thousands of new affordable homes and providing good jobs for working families. Further, we desperately need an abundance of low and middle-income housing, and first-time homeownership opportunities, to address the cost of living concerns facing our small businesses and regional economy.

For these reasons, the Escondido Community Housing Coalition urges you to support SB 1105 and make housing security and affordability a reality for all San Diego residents. We appreciate your continued leadership on this issue and remain committed to working with state and local stakeholders to find solutions to our housing challenges. Please contact us at escohousingcoalition@gmail.com with any questions.

Sincerely,
Rob Jenkins, Member
Escondido Community Housing Coalition

CC:

The Honorable Jim Nielsen, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Robert M. Hertzberg, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Scott D. Wiener, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Ben Hueso, Member of the State Senate