



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Sydney Kamlager
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4062
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 679 (Kamlager)—Los Angeles County: Affordable Housing

Dear Senator Kamlager,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of SB 679. This bill proposes to create a new countywide agency with the authority to raise funds for renter support programs, affordable housing preservation, and affordable housing production. Long Beach would have a seat on the governing board of the agency created through SB 679 and would receive direct allocations to achieve greater levels of affordable housing production and tenant assistance. On August 17, 2021, the Long Beach City Council voted 8-0 to support this bill.

The City supports policies that promote the development of affordable and accessible housing, such as those proposed in SB 679. Between 2014 and 2019, the City facilitated the construction of almost 1,700 new affordable units, preserved nearly 2,000 units, rehabilitated 367 units, and passed the voter-supported Measure A to fund infrastructure improvements. In addition, the City has developed inclusionary zoning and tenant assistance policies and has nearly 1,300 affordable units in the development pipeline. The agency created by SB 679 would help Long Beach and other cities across Los Angeles County meet their affordable housing goals.

Long Beach is a majority-renter City, and SB 679 would bolster the City's strategies to advance renter support. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has established the Long Beach Emergency Rental Assistance Program leveraging nearly \$64 million in federal and State funding to pay 100% of unpaid rent and utilities for households financially impacted by the pandemic. SB 679 aligns with the City's goal to continue providing additional tenant assistance resources.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 679.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

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