



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Diane Papan
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 650 (Papan) - Planning and zoning: housing element: regional housing needs allocation.

Dear Assemblymember Papan,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City supports AB 650, which proposes practical reforms to the housing element planning process and strengthens the state's commitment to build new and affordable housing. The City is working tirelessly to meet the goals outlined in the most recent Housing Element and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), which required 26,502 total housing units, nearly 60 percent of which must be affordable units.

The City supports legislation that strengthens housing planning, increases transparency in state-local coordination, and advances equity—all of which are central to AB 650. The bill's provisions directly support several of the City's goals including:

- Supporting equitable and timely regional housing needs planning by extending key deadlines for RHNA methodology and draft allocations.
- Requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide clear, specific feedback on noncompliant housing elements, improving transparency and fairness in the review process.
- Advancing the state's and City's shared goals to affirmatively further fair housing, by creating a standardized reporting format and improving accountability.
- Preserving local control by providing cities with the tools and information necessary to comply with state housing law without sacrificing community-driven planning processes.

AB 650 enhances the City's ability to plan for housing that serves all residents while ensuring that local jurisdictions are not penalized without due process and constructive guidance. For these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly supports AB 650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long, sweeping underline.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District

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