





Electronically Submitted on June 16 at 4:07 PM

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1657 (Wicks) Affordable Housing Bond of 2024 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

On behalf of a united coalition of California's leading affordable housing, homelessness, and housing justice organizations we write in support of Assembly Bill 1657, your bill to authorize critically needed funds through a statewide housing bond to support existing critical and successful affordable housing programs in California.

Currently, California has a gap of 1.2 million homes affordable to lower-income households and on any given night, roughly 160,000 people in California experience homelessness. Historically, the state has used voter-approved General Obligation bonds to fund the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing and support homeownership. The Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 authorized \$3 billion funding for various affordable housing programs. These funds will be fully allocated by the end of 2024. While the state has taken significant steps in recent years to address the housing and homelessness crises, we must invest at a higher scale in deeply affordable housing development, preservation, and homelessness.

AB 1657 comes at a crucial time for California. The state has received more than \$3.5 billion in funding requests from affordable housing developers – an oversubscription rate of more than 4:1. With additional investments in successful housing programs such as the Multi-Family Housing Program (MHP) and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC), the state could get over 15,000 permitted, shovel-ready affordable housing projects to construction and assist in the development of thousands of affordable homes currently in the development pipeline.

We support the proposed programs included in the bond through AB 1657, which, together we believe will invest in our essential strategies for the production and preservation of affordable housing:

- Multifamily Housing Program (MHP), including funding for capitalized operating subsidy reserves for supportive housing units;
- Portfolio Reinvestment Program;
- Energy Efficiency Low-Income Weatherization Program;
- A program to fund the acquisition and rehabilitation of unrestricted housing units and attach long-term affordability restrictions on the housing units, while safeguarding against the displacement of current residents;

- CalHome and home purchase assistance programs;
- Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program; and
- A program to finance housing and housing-related activities that will enable tribes to rebuild and reconstitute their communities.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue to address homelessness and our affordable housing shortage by providing a statewide housing fund.

Sincerely,

1. Abode Services
2. ACLU California Action
3. AIA Los Angeles
4. Alta Housing
5. A. ROBBINS GROUP
6. Ascencia
7. Bay Area Community Services
8. Bay Area LISC
9. Brighter Future Initiative
10. California Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies (CAL-ALHFA)
11. California Housing Consortium
12. California Housing Partnership
13. Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
14. CDR
15. CHISPA
16. Change And New Beginnings
17. Colesworthy Real Estate Services
18. Community HousingWorks
19. Community Land Trust Association of West Marin (CLAM)
20. Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE)
21. Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
22. Council of Community Housing Organizations
23. County of Merced Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
24. CRP Affordable Housing and Community Development
25. CTY Housing, INC.
26. Curtis Development
27. Devine & Gong, Inc.
28. East Bay Housing Organizations
29. East Palo Alto Community Alliance Neighborhood Development Organization
30. Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
31. Enterprise Community Partners
32. Evolve California
33. Excelerate Housing Group
34. Friends Committee on Legislation of California
35. FSY Architects, Inc.
36. Gunkel Architecture
37. Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco

38. Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco
39. Hollywood Community Housing Corporation
40. Housing Authority of the City of Alameda
41. Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo
42. Housing California
43. Housing Claremont
44. Housing El Dorado
45. Housing is a Human Right Orange County
46. Housing Land Trust of the North Bay
47. Housing Trust Silicon Valley
48. Imagine LA
49. Individual: Deanna Rios
50. Individual: Eileen Bradford
51. Individual: Fredricka Robinson, Residents United Network
52. Individual: Jo Barrett, Residents United Network
53. Individual: Karen Clark
54. Individual: Jexsi Grey, Lived Experience Advisors, Residents United Network
55. Individual: Laurence Faulks, formerly homeless Californian
56. Individual: Lester Llewelyn Gardiner
57. Individual: Linda Civitello, development consultant
58. Individual: Marcus Owens
59. Individual: Nho Nguyen
60. Individual: Paul Schwartz
61. Individual: Richard Cray
62. Individual: Shelly Clements, volunteer
63. Individual: Tasha Virtue, evicted tenant in San Diego
64. Inland SoCal Housing Collective
65. Jonathan Rose Companies
66. King and I Outreach Ministry
67. Legal Aid of Sonoma County
68. Lift to Rise
69. Lived Experience Advisors
70. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
71. Many Mansions
72. Mercy Housing California
73. Myall Consulting
74. National Alliance to End Homelessness
75. Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
76. Non-Profit Housing of Northern California
77. North Valley Housing Trust
78. Orange County Housing Finance Trust
79. People's Budget Orange County
80. Resources for Community Development
81. San Francisco Housing Development Corporation
82. Santa Clara Methodist Retirement Foundation
83. Self-Help Enterprises
84. Strive Real Estate LLC
85. Supportive Housing Alliance

86. Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation
87. The Armony Companies
88. The Greenlining Institute
89. The Kelsey
90. The Kennedy Commission
91. The San Francisco Housing Accelerator Fund
92. Turning Point Community Point
93. Valley Restart Shelter
94. Ventura Social Services Task Force
95. Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation
96. Western Center on Law and Poverty
97. Zen Development Consultants LLC