



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O. St, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1449 (Alvarez) Affordable housing: California Environmental Quality Act: exemption.**
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you to respectfully **request your veto on AB 1449 (Alvarez)**, which seeks to exempt the planning, funding, and development of affordable housing projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) until 2033, provided they meet certain location and labor requirements.

While we understand and sympathize with the intent of this legislation, which aims to expedite the development of much-needed affordable housing across our state, we believe such an extensive exemption from CEQA may lead to severe and unmitigated environmental impacts. The City of Beverly Hills supports a balanced approach to housing and environmental protection. We are concerned AB 1449 bypasses necessary environmental reviews, which would endanger both residents in the state of California and the environment.

Furthermore, the provisions in AB 1449 which state affordable housing projects must meet specific labor standards may not provide sufficient protection for workers, as suggested by the State Building and Construction Trades Council. Affordable housing should not be built on the backs of underpaid or poorly protected workers; therefore, we concur with the Council's concerns that AB 1449 might undermine workers' rights and protections.

Lastly, we find it problematic that AB 1449 does not extend the proposed CEQA exemption to entry-level market-rate housing developments intended for owner occupancy by our state's low- and moderate-income families. Such an exclusion will prevent a significant portion of Californians from benefiting from expedited housing development.

The City of Beverly Hills acknowledges the urgent need for affordable housing in our state; however, we firmly believe this goal should not be pursued at the expense of our

environment or the well-being of construction workers. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully **request your veto on AB 1449 (Alvarez)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Julian A. Gold, M.D
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable David Alvarez, 80th District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange