



September 8, 2017

Dear Housing You Matter Coalition Members:

As you may know, there are three major bills regarding affordable housing now in print and up for consideration in the Assembly. Two revolve around housing finance and one around streamlining development to meet housing goals. [This LA Times article](#) offers a good overview of these three pieces of legislation.

Senate Bill 2 (Atkins, San Diego) is a documentary transfer fee that will provide a permanent source for affordable housing. 70% will be directly allocated to local governments.

Senate Bill 3 (Beall, San Jose) is a four billion dollar housing bond that will allocate funds to a wide variety of housing programs, including \$300 million to local housing trust funds. The majority of the funds will be disbursed by California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Senate Bill 35 (Weiner, San Francisco) would force cities that have fallen behind on state goals for home building in their communities to ease development regulations. Wiener bill also would require developers who want speedier local reviews for their projects to pay construction workers higher wages and accept union-level hiring standards.

The **Housing You Matters Executive Committee and Policy Committee** have met in the last week to discuss and vote on our position for these three bills. The majority of the Housing You Matters leadership support this position:

*Housing You Matters supports SB 2 and SB 3. We also support SB 35 with the amendment of removing the requirement that construction workers receive prevailing wages as part of the bill. We support streamlining as it is necessary to allow for new units, but are concerned about the confusion and additional cost to building that would occur should the portion of the bill that requires prevailing wage be included in the bill. Adding another increase to the cost of building homes by requiring prevailing wage defeats the purpose of lowering costs to increase supply, which is Housing You Matter's mission.*

SB 2 and SB 3 need to be approved by the State Assembly and both require 2/3 votes. At this point SB 2 needs one more vote to pass. Final **vote takes place on September 15** so please use [this directory](#) and send a brief email to your Assemblymember, especially [Assemblymember Brian Maienschein](#) from San Diego. Urge a YES Vote on SB 2, SB 3 and SB 35 with amendments removing requirements for higher wages. It doesn't have to be long - one sentence will do.

This is best housing news we have had in at least six years -- maybe more. Do your part to guarantee passage of these bills. Please contact your representatives TODAY and ask them to support these bills.

If you need further information:

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