

PATRICK H. WEST
City Manager

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 5 (Beall) Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write in support of Senate Bill 5 (Beall). This bill proposes to provide sustainable, ongoing funding to cities for affordable housing projects, without compromising their associated county's Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Long Beach has not been immune from California's housing crisis. A sustainable funding source, such as SB 5, will enable the City to provide greater support for quality affordable housing developments and associated public services.

The City embraces its role in the housing development process, which is to work with the community and developers to permit quality housing developments that are consistent with local land use policies. Statistics on housing development from 2014 to 2018 show developers proposed to build a total of 7,384 new housing units in Long Beach. Of those, the City entitled 3,061 new housing units, continues to work with developers on entitlements for 2,155 new housing units, and denied a mere 5 housing units. Funding from the Program proposed by SB 5 would facilitate construction of affordable housing units to efficiently alleviate the housing crisis.

To sustain quality neighborhoods, a myriad of public services such as street maintenance, parks and safety enforcement are also necessary. The City supports legislation that provides tax increment for affordable housing and public infrastructure benefitting affordable housing without compromising other expenditures. Further, the City appreciates legislative recognition of the correlation between affordable housing and public services and looks forward to equipping neighborhoods with both through funding made available by SB 5.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 5 (Beall) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

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

