

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-2911 / FAX (916) 263-7453
www.hcd.ca.gov



February 9, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: Planning Directors and Interested Parties

FROM: Paul McDougall, Housing Policy Manager
Division of Housing Policy Development

**SUBJECT: Housing Element Updates and the 2014 San Joaquin Valley
Fair Housing and Equity Assessment**

The Department is writing to inform local governments and interested parties of an important tool available to assist them in the housing element update. The 2014 San Joaquin Valley Regional Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA) can be a great resource and guide in developing effective strategies to address existing and projected housing needs. The Department encourages jurisdictions to utilize this important resource.

The San Joaquin Valley Regional FHEA reflects new state and federal priorities to affirmatively further fair housing by deconcentrating poverty and increasing access to opportunity through deliberate housing and land use planning. The document outlines patterns in racial and economic segregation, discusses inequity in access to opportunity, and provides strategies for creating more equitable and integrated neighborhoods.

The housing element update provides a tremendous opportunity to integrate these important demographic patterns and land use strategies. For example, the housing element can be a key vehicle for engaging communities and identifying resources, including sites and zoning capacity for a variety of housing types and incomes. Through these requirements, communities can prioritize policies, programs and strategies to create more equitable and integrated neighborhoods.

To view the San Joaquin Valley Regional FHEA, visit <http://www.calruralhousing.org/>. Also, for assistance with utilizing the FHEA or other planning and implementation assistance, contact Maya Abood of California Coalition of Rural Housing at maya@calruralhousing.org. For additional housing element update materials, see <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/index.shtml>. Finally, the Department may be considering additional resources and approaches to assist jurisdictions with housing element updates and land use strategies related to sustainable, equitable and healthy communities. For more information, please contact Paul McDougall of the Department at paul.mcdougall@hcd.ca.gov or 916-263-7420.