

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

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August 24, 2020

Trevor Keith, Director  
Planning and Building Department  
San Luis Obispo County  
1055 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Trevor Keith:

**RE: Review of the County of San Luis Obispo 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle (2020-2028) Draft Housing Element**

Thank you for submitting the County of San Luis Obispo's (County) draft housing element update received for review on June 26, 2020 along with revisions received on August 11 and 17, 2020. Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, subdivision (b), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is reporting the results of its review. Our review was facilitated by a telephone conversation on July 30, 2020 with Airlin Singewald, Division Manager, Cory Hanh, Planner, and Amy Sinsheimer, the County's consultant.

The draft element, incorporating the revisions submitted, meets the statutory requirements of State Housing Element Law. This finding was based on, among other reasons, Program BB (Supporting Infrastructure) and Program S (Multifamily Dwelling Development). These programs assist in the development of housing affordable to lower-income families. The housing element will comply with State Housing Element Law (Article 10.6 of the Gov. Code) when it is adopted, submitted to and approved by HCD, in accordance with Government Code section 65585, subdivision (g).

To remain on an eight-year planning cycle, the County must adopt its housing element within 120 calendar days from the statutory due date of December 31, 2020 for San Luis Obispo Council of Governments localities. If adopted after this date, Government Code section 65588, subdivision (e)(4) requires the housing element be revised every four years until adopting at least two consecutive revisions by the statutory deadline. For more information on housing element adoption requirements, please visit our website at: [http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/housing-element-memos/docs/sb375\\_final100413.pdf](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/housing-element/housing-element-memos/docs/sb375_final100413.pdf)

Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning. Throughout the housing element process, the County must continue to engage the community, including organizations that represent lower-income and special needs households, by making information regularly available while considering and incorporating comments where appropriate.

For your information, some general plan element updates are triggered by housing element adoption. HCD reminds the County to consider timing provisions and welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. For information, please see the Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR\\_Appendix\\_C\\_final.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_Appendix_C_final.pdf) and [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/Final\\_6.26.15.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf).

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant; the Strategic Growth Council and HCD's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities programs; SB 2 Planning Grants as well as ongoing SB 2 funding (Permanent Local Housing Allocation) consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the County meets housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

HCD appreciates the hard work and dedication of Amy Sinsheimer in preparation of the County's housing element and looks forward to receiving the County's adopted housing element. If you have any questions or need additional technical assistance, please contact Reid Miller, of our staff, at (916) 263-2707.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannan West". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannan West  
Land Use & Planning Unit Chief