

**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



July 22, 2016

Mr. Jean M. Rousseau, County Administrative Officer
County of Fresno
2281 Tulare Street, Suite 304
Fresno, CA, 93721

Dear Mr. Rousseau:

RE: Fresno County's 5th Cycle (2015-2023) Adopted Housing Element

Thank you for submitting Fresno County's housing element adopted March 15, 2016 which was received for review on April 27, 2016. Pursuant to Government Code (GC) Section 65585(h), the Department is reporting the results of its review.

The Department is pleased to find the adopted housing element in full compliance with State housing element law (GC, Article 10.6). The adopted element was found to be substantially the same as the revised draft element the Department's January 19, 2016 review determined met statutory requirements.

The County, in coordination with Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), elected to collectively prepare a multi-jurisdictional housing element (MJHE) for the fifth-cycle housing element update. The Department commends the County for working with other participating jurisdictions during the housing element update process to create a significant document that maintains the necessary flexibility to address each jurisdiction's unique housing needs, while also providing consistency and a higher level of uniformity for the region.

Please note Fresno County now meets specific requirements for State funding programs designed to reward local governments for compliance with State housing element law. For example, the Department's Housing Related Parks Program includes housing element compliance as a threshold requirement. Please see the Department's website for specific information about this and other State funding programs at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrc/plan/he/loan_grant_hcompl011708.pdf.

For your information, on January 6, 2016, HCD released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Mobilehome Park Rehabilitation and Resident Ownership Program (MPRROP). This program replaces the former Mobilehome Park Resident Ownership Program (MPROP) and allows expanded uses of funds. The purposes of this new program are to loan funds to facilitate converting mobilehome park ownership to park residents or a qualified nonprofit corporation, and assist with repairs or accessibility upgrades meeting specified criteria. This program supports housing element goals such as encouraging a variety of housing types, preserving affordable housing, and assisting mobilehome owners,

particularly those with lower-incomes. Applications are accepted over the counter beginning March 2, 2016 through March 1, 2017. Further information is available on the Department's website at: <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/financial-assistance/mobilehome-park-rehabilitation-resident-ownership-program/index.html>.

Please be aware, some other elements of the general plan must be updated on or before the next adoption of the housing element. The safety and conservation elements of the general plan must include analysis and policies regarding fire and flood hazard management (GC Section 65302(g)). Also, the land-use element must address disadvantaged communities (unincorporated island or fringe communities within spheres of influence areas or isolated long established "legacy" communities) based on available data, including, but not limited to, data and analysis applicable to spheres of influence areas pursuant to GC Section 56430. The Department urges the County to consider these 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/SB244_Technical_Advisory.pdf and http://opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf.

The Department encourages the County to continue its engagement process with the community during implementation of the housing element. In particular, ongoing coordination with County Service Areas and Water Works Districts are crucial in addressing infrastructure needs in the County, as detailed in Program 6. In addition, Program 10 will amend the zoning ordinance to remove governmental constraints and facilitate the development of a variety of housing types. The County must monitor and report on the results of these and other programs through the annual progress report, required pursuant to GC Section 65400. In addition, continued collaboration with jurisdictions that participated in the MJHE will help the County in addressing local housing issues that have an impact throughout the region.

The Department appreciates the hard work Mr. Mohammad Khorsand and Ms. Veronica Tam, the County's consultants, provided throughout the course of the housing element review. The Department wishes the County success in implementing its housing element and looks forward to following its progress through the General Plan annual progress reports pursuant to GC Section 65400. If the Department can provide assistance in implementing the housing element, please contact Tom Brinkhuis, of our staff, at (916) 263-6651.

Sincerely,



Glen A. Campora
Assistant Deputy Director