June 17, 2020

Hon. Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 795 (BEALL) BUILDING AFFORDABLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES- SUPPORT (AS AMENDED 5/6/2020)

Dear Chair Portantino,

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, I am pleased to support SB 795. This bill would establish a source of state funding of $10 billion over five years to support a variety of interests, including several existing housing, homelessness, and pre-apprenticeship programs, as well as create two new infrastructure financing programs at the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz). More specifically this bill would allocate the following:

- Multifamily Housing Program - $500 million  
- Infill Incentive Grant Program - $300 million  
- Local Housing Trust Fund Matching Grant Program - $200 million  
- Cal Home Program - $75 million  
- Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Fund - $75 million  
- Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program - $665 million  
- Climate, Sea Level, and Natural Disaster Program - $100 million  
- Community Economic Development Program - $95 million

As cities continue to manage the COVID19 pandemic, they also face record breaking unemployment, and significant economic downturn. During this period, Californians are at risk of losing their housing, finding employment and are in danger of becoming homeless. The need to develop and sustain affordable housing, build more transitional housing for homeless, and offer programs to support economic development are vital. With the loss of redevelopment agencies, cities have lost leverage funding towards the development of affordable housing projects. SB 795 fills the financial need of cities to borrow funding to construct or rehab multifamily housing, support public works infrastructure (such as sewer lines) for in-fill development, and supports rental assistance and housing for the homeless. This bill also creates two new infrastructure programs at GoBiz: Climate, Sea Level, and Natural Disaster Program, which provides financial support for infrastructure hardening and repair against climate change; and the Community Economic Development Program, which also supports rehabilitation of infrastructure, parks, housing and other public facilities.

For these reasons, we support SB 795.

Sincerely,

Al Adam  
Mayor

cc: Senator Jim Beall  
Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin  
Senator Henry Stern  
David Mullinax - Regional Public Affairs Manager, dmullinax@cacities.org  
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org  
Joe A. Gonsalves and Son  

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