

June 17, 2020

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

RE: SB 902 (WIENER) HOUSING DEVELOPMENT -DENSITY- OPPOSE

Dear Chair Portantino,

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, I respectfully oppose SB 902. This bill would allow cities to adopt an ordinance to zone any parcel for up to 10 units of residential density at a height specified by the local government if the parcel is located in a transit-rich area, a jobs-rich area, or an urban infill site. These sites would be determined and published in a map every five years by the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with the Office of Planning and Research.

Although the City recognizes the need for greater affordable housing and appreciates the ability to adopt an ordinance that meets transit-rich and jobs-rich provisions, this bill is not the right approach. SB 902 does not condition for affordable housing. With the increased density, developers are not required to build affordable units, especially if they are located in transit-jobs rich areas.

SB 902 precludes public scrutiny by exempting such parcels from the California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA. CEQA informs the public of environmental impacts, provides mitigation measures or feasible alternatives. The City of Thousand Oaks believes in public transparency. Public input is essential especially with local land use decisions such as increased density. The bill's streamline approach eliminates opportunity for a proper environmental evaluation, and public input and appeals.

For these reasons, we oppose SB 902.

Sincerely,



Al Adam
Mayor

cc: Senator Scott Weiner
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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