



Claudia Bill-de la Peña
Mayor

May 20, 2021

The Honorable David Chiu
Chair, Assembly Housing Committee
State Capitol Building, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 672 (GARCIA) HOUSING ELEMENT. REGIONAL HOUSING NEED
PLAN. JUDICIAL REVIEW- NOTICE OF OPPOSITION**

Dear Chair Chiu:

The City of Thousand Oaks must respectfully oppose AB 672. This bill would require a city, by the 6th regional housing needs assessment cycle, to identify certain sites used as a public golf course so that they may also be used for residential and open-space use in accordance with specified requirements. The bill would exempt any ordinance, resolution, general or specific plan amendment to rezone. These newly rezoned areas must provide 25% of the units for low income housing.

While we recognize the State has a severe housing shortage, requiring cities to rezone recreation areas such as golf courses is not the best solution. Rezoning these areas would impact the quality of life for residents, especially in urban communities. While golf courses are not specifically parks, their rolling terrain, tree lined fairways, and other landscape features are beneficial to the environment by providing shade, reducing temperature and urban heat islands, decreasing air pollution and noise reduction.

AB 672 removes protections of the Public Park Preservation Act (Public Resources Code Section 5400-5409). The Public Park Preservation Act forbids the acquisition of real property being used as a public park for any non-park purpose, unless there is sufficient compensation or land, as well as replacement of the park land.

This bill also disregards local land use initiatives. The City of Thousand Oaks, along with seven other cities in Ventura County are part of Save Open and Agricultural Resources or SOAR. SOAR is a series of voter initiatives that require a vote of the people before agricultural land or open space areas can be rezoned for development.

Furthermore, AB 672 removes certain exemptions to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Public hearings are critical especially when requiring the rezoning of public golf courses for residential uses. Such land-use changes should allow for public input.

For these reasons, the City of Thousand Oaks opposes AB 672.

Sincerely,



Claudia Bill-de la Peña
Mayor

cc: Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin
Senator Henry Stern
David Mullinax- Regional Public Affairs Manager, dmullinax@cacities.org
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Joe A. Gonsalves and Son

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