



March 16, 2021

Gustavo Velasquez, Director  
California Department of Housing and Community Development  
2020 West El Camino Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95833

**Subject: County of Ventura 2021-2029 Draft Housing Element**

Dear Mr. Velasquez:

We are pleased to submit the County of Ventura Draft 2021-2029 Housing Element (Draft Housing Element) to your agency for the State mandated 60-day review. On February 9, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the Draft Housing Element to receive public comments and directed staff to submit the Draft Housing Element. A total of 13 public comment letters were received as part of this hearing item. These letters can be found in Appendix C of the Draft Housing Element.

In response to the comments received, Planning Division staff made revisions to Program D – Infrastructure Constraints, and to Program E – Farmworker Housing Study. Additionally, significant edits to the Special Needs Population analysis for farmworkers in Chapter 2 were made. Finally, more detail was added to the infrastructure constraint analysis in Chapter 3.

Staff noticed that many of these public comments followed one or more of the following themes: (1) some concerns expressed go far beyond the scope of housing production, such as requesting the County to conduct a comprehensive 3rd party review of the entire discretionary permitting process and report on it annually to the Board of Supervisors; (2) some suggested programs and policies are already addressed through other existing planning regulatory documents and reports, such as identifying County surplus land and review of previously approved/denied residential projects, both of which are covered annually in the General Plan Annual Progress Report; and, (3) some requested action items are addressed outside the Housing Element Update through other County agencies, such as advocating for changes to the criteria used for distributing federal funds for farmworker housing, which is more appropriately addressed through the County's legislative platform. Comments that fell into one of these three broad categories did not result in changes to the Draft Housing Element.

Planning Division staff will continue to review the comment letters and suggest appropriate revisions to the Draft Housing Element during the HCD review process and in preparation for the Planning Commission review of the Housing Element in the adoption hearing process anticipated in summer 2021.

My Housing planning team is readily available to discuss our Draft Housing Element with our assigned analyst and we will reach out in a couple of weeks to offer an online meeting to provide an overview and answer questions.

If you have any questions or the submitted document, please contact Jennifer Butler, Housing Element Update Project Manager at (805) 654-2495 or via email at [jennifer.butler@ventura.org](mailto:jennifer.butler@ventura.org). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Ward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Dave Ward, AICP, Director  
Ventura County Planning Division