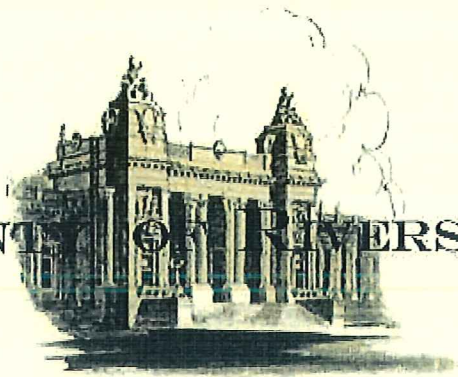


COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2 Chairman	John F. Tavaglione 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Marion Ashley 951-955-1050

August 2, 2017

The Honorable Richard Roth
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4034
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 540 (Roth): Workforce Housing Opportunity Zone**
As amended July 14, 2017
County of Riverside: SUPPORT – Per Legislative Platform

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for your SB 540, which would authorize a local agency to establish a Workforce Housing Opportunity Zone, an area in which housing development projects would be subject to a streamlined approval process after an initial environmental impact report (EIR) and preparation of a specific plan.

As you know, SB 540 would authorize a local agency to prepare an EIR and adopt a specific plan to establish a Workforce Housing Opportunity Zone. For five years, proposed housing developments within that zone that are consistent with the specific plan must be approved within 60 days and would not be subject to preparation of an additional EIR or negative declaration under CEQA. At least 50 percent of the total housing units must be made available to those at or below moderate income; at least 10 percent of total housing units must be made available to those at low income. SB 540 also authorizes a no-interest loan for local agencies to assist with the preparation of the EIR and specific plan.

The state's lack of affordable housing and continued uptick in rental costs have created challenges for Californians. In the Inland Empire, specifically, our reputation as an affordable option for homeownership in Southern California may be changing, as rents increase and homeownership declines. By providing an opportunity to plan for housing development up-front, SB 540 has the potential to assist local agencies expedite approval of much-needed housing for our residents.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 540. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy County Executive Officer Brian Nestande at (951) 955-1110 or bnestande@rceo.org.

Sincerely,

John F. Tavaglione
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher, Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
County of Riverside Delegation