



CITY of YORBA LINDA

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

April 7, 2023

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing
1021 O Street, Suite 3330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 423 (Wiener) Streamlined housing approvals: multifamily housing developments: SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) Expansion. Notice of Opposition

Dear Senator Wiener:

The City of Yorba Linda writes to express our opposition to your measure, SB 423, which would greatly expand SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) provisions and eliminate the January 1, 2026 sunset date.

Local leaders are working to find solutions so homes of all income levels can be built. They're taking on these difficult and complex tasks, all while navigating the state's annual barrage of overreaching housing bills that have thus far demonstrated limited success. SB 423 is the latest overreaching bill. This measure would double-down on the recent trend of the state overriding its own mandated local housing plans by forcing cities to approve certain housing projects without regard to the needs of the community, opportunities for environmental review, or public input. Furthermore, this bill will strip local communities of nearly all important land use decisions. The City of Yorba Linda supports local control and the rights for community input regarding traffic, parking, and other potential development impacts. Public engagement also often leads to better projects. Not having such outlets will increase public distrust in government.

Instead of continuing to pursue top-down, one-size-fits-all legislation, lawmakers should partner with local officials. California will never produce the number of homes needed with an increasingly state driven, by-right housing approval process. What is really needed is a sustainable state investment that matches the scale of this long-term crisis.

For these reasons, the City of Yorba Linda strongly opposes your measure.

Sincerely,

Gene Hernandez, Mayor

Tara Campbell, Mayor Pro Tem

Beth Haney, Councilwoman

Janice Lim, Councilwoman

Carlos Rodriguez, Councilman



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cc: Scott Wiener, Senator, 11th Senate District
Kelly Seyarto, Senator, 32nd Senate District
Josh Newman, 29th Senate District
Phillip Chen, Assembly Member, 59th Assembly District
Young Kim, U.S. Representative, 40th District
Erin Sasse, League of Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager
Wendy Strack, Association of California Cities – Orange County
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Yorba Linda City Council