



1615 Capitol Ave., Suite 73.771
P.O. Box 997377, MS 7003
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

PHONE: 916.440.7594
FAX: 916.440.7595
<http://www.cclho.org>

Leah Northrop, MPA, MAIS
Executive Administrator
Leah.Northrop@cdph.ca.gov

May 23, 2017

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

Re: AB 663 (Bloom): Coastal resources: low- and moderate-income housing (Support)

Dear Mr. Metcalf:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Conference Business Meeting on May 3, 2017 to take a Support recommendation on AB 663 (Bloom), a bill that requires, under the Coastal Act of 1976 (Act), housing opportunities for persons of low- and moderate-income to be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided.

CCLHO supports AB 663, as this bill would facilitate the development of low and moderate-income housing within the coastal zone. While this bill would increase Coastal Commission costs by expanding their jurisdiction, this expanded authority would include requiring developers to either create a certain portion of housing units for lower-income individuals or pay in-lieu fees to fund the creation of low- and middle-income housing. This requirement to include affordable housing or an in-lieu payment dedicated to affordable housing projects would help address the current lack of affordable housing in California, particularly in coastal communities.

Facilitating the development of affordable housing by reinstating the Commission's authority to protect and provide affordable housing in the coastal zone would benefit some of California's most vulnerable populations by addressing the lack of affordable, safe housing and increase the ability of families to afford and make healthy choices in other areas as well. Housing is an important social determinant of health, defined as the economic and social conditions that affect health outcomes.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

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This position of support for AB 663 and the restoration of the Coastal Commission's ability to provide affordable housing is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of promoting and protecting health and well-being through a focus on targeted outcomes for all people.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us or at 530-265-7154.

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

cc: Glen Campora, California Department of Housing and Community Development
