



ERIC ALEGRIA, MAYOR
DAVID D. BRADLEY, MAYOR PRO TEM
JOHN CRUIKSHANK, COUNCILMEMBER
KEN DYDA, COUNCILMEMBER
BARBARA FERRARO, COUNCILMEMBER

September 1, 2021

Via Email

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 10 (Wiener) Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes opposes SB 10, which would limit local land use authority and community input for residential developments in high quality transit corridors.

We oppose SB 10 due to the provisions that would allow a local government to pass an ordinance to rezone a parcel, even if a local voter initiative has been passed that would directly prohibit such an ordinance. The ability for voters to approve local measures is fundamental to our political process and should not be allowed to be ignored by a city council. If a local government wishes to pass an ordinance that goes against a locally approved voter initiative, then that ordinance should be submitted to the voters.

Additionally, the bill has the potential to negatively impact cities that do not elect to use the zoning tool it creates. If a neighboring city were to rezone a parcel for a project of up to 10 units along the City border, our residents would be impacted, but would be unable to voice their concerns via the entitlement and CEQA review processes. The City of Rancho Palos Verdes primarily resides in a Cal Fire-designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Due to topography and large amount of dedicated open space, egress is limited. In the event of a wildfire, quickly and safely evacuating the existing population would pose a significant challenge. Increased density as contemplated under SB 10 would create an unintended consequence in exacerbating this problem, endangering lives.

Ministerial approvals inherently fail to consider the needs of individual communities and their general plans. The current legislative preference for by-right approvals in favor of increasing density fails to consider the nuances in individual communities, potentially

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risking public safety, and does nothing to inherently promote affordable housing, which is vital to recover from the housing crisis and is the purported aim of this approach.

While we appreciate efforts to ensure that all Californians have access to affordable housing, instead, this bill could allow local governments to ignore the will of their local voters, potentially threatens public safety, and does nothing to establish provisions for affordability. For these reasons, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes opposes SB 10 and strongly encourages you to listen to your constituents and veto the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric D. Alegria". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "A".

Eric Alegria

Mayor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes

cc: Ben Allen, Senator, 26th State Senate District
Al Muratsuchi, Assembly Member, 66th Assembly District
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities
Rancho Palos Verdes City Council and City Manager