



CITY OF
T O R R A N C E

October 09, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Veto -AB 1061 (Quirk Silva) Housing Developments

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Torrance, I respectfully urge you to veto **Assembly Bill 1061 (Quirk-Silva)** which would require cities and counties to approve ministerially, without condition or discretion, a housing development containing two residential units on an individual parcel in single-family zones unless they are not located on a historical landmark.

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing California cities. Affordably priced homes are out of reach for many people, and housing is not being built fast enough to meet the current or projected needs of the state. Cities lay the groundwork for housing production by planning and zoning new projects in their communities based on extensive public input and engagement, state housing laws, and the needs of the building industry.

While the City of Torrance appreciates the desire to pursue a housing production proposal, unfortunately, AB 1061, as currently presented, will not spur much-needed housing construction in a manner that supports local flexibility, decision-making, and community input. State-driven ministerial or by-right housing approval processes fail to recognize the extensive public engagement associated with developing and adopting zoning ordinances and housing elements certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Housing elements require local jurisdictions to analyze how historic preservation impacts development and requires cities to contend with balancing the jurisdiction's housing demands while maintaining community history and feel.

This measure would overrule local planning departments' diligent work balancing these equally essential issues.

Historic districts in many communities across California are critical for promoting tourism, local history, and economic development. Most historic districts are hubs for social and commercial activity, providing residents and visitors with options for retail, restaurants, mixed-use housing, and walkable communities. Historical districts are vital for downtown revitalization in many situations. By limiting local review and

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planning in these districts, local governments will struggle to promote smart economic growth and development in historic districts.

By narrowing the scope of protection to individual historical landmarks, AB 1061 would leave most contributing structures within historic districts vulnerable to demolition or unsympathetic alteration. This could lead to the gradual erosion of the district's overall historical integrity and character.

Local governments and communities invest significant time and resources in identifying, designating, and preserving historic districts. AB 1061 would undermine these efforts by prioritizing housing development over the carefully considered balance between growth and preservation. Historic districts are irreplaceable assets that provide tangible links to our past. Their preservation is essential for educating future generations, fostering community pride, and promoting cultural tourism. The incremental loss of historic fabric within these districts diminishes our collective heritage.

For these reasons, the City of Torrance strongly urges you not to sign AB 1061 (Quirk-Silva) into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "GK Chen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George K Chen, Mayor
City of Torrance

cc. The Honorable Liz Ortega, Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
Senator Ben Allen & Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi
Jeff Kiernan, League Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org