



SIERRA CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO BAY

NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

ALAMEDA ALBANY BERKELEY EMERYVILLE OAKLAND PIEDMONT SAN LEANDRO

March 25, 2021

Mayor Jesse Arreguín
Members of the Berkeley City Council
SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL

**RE: SUPPORT and COMMENTS on March 25, 2021 Berkeley City Council Items 1 and 2:
Initiation of Public Process and Zoning Concepts for 2023-2031 Housing Element Update**

Dear Mayor Arreguín and Members of the Berkeley City Council,

Last month, the Sierra Club expressed its conceptual support for the Resolution to End Exclusionary Zoning in Berkeley that you unanimously approved. **Today we wish to supplement our comments and express our support for the initiation of a public process and zoning concepts for the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update.** In doing so, we do not state a preference between Items 1 and 2 and note the similarities between these items.

The Sierra Club is committed to a public process to discuss zoning concepts for the 2023-2031 housing element update that includes the following elements:

- A fully inclusive community planning process;
- The consideration of housing affordability (including the production of housing affordable to those earning 50% or less of the Oakland Metropolitan Area Median Income (i.e., housing affordable to very low-income, extremely low-income, and no-income households);
- The prevention of displacement of existing Berkeley residents from our community – whether they are tenants or homeowners;
- The inclusion of demolition controls and/or the prevention of incentives to demolish existing, generally more affordable residential housing;
- Increased residential density, particularly along transit corridors and in proximity to public amenities; and
- The avoidance and/or disincentivization of unintended consequence such as land and property speculation and predatory lending practices

We note that most if not all of the elements noted below as our priorities for such a process are included in both Items 1 and 2. For this, we thank the Council and reaffirm our desire to be closely engaged with you during the next phases of this planning process. Thank you for your consideration!

Respectfully,

Igor Tregub, Chair, Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group