



July 8, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 477 (Wiener): General plan: Annual report
As amended June 24, 2021 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California have taken an oppose unless amended position on Senate Bill 477, which would significantly increase reporting burdens under the Annual Progress Report (APR) cities and counties are required to submit to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) each year.

As you are aware, HCD is currently conducting a stakeholder process to develop a housing data strategy. While we appreciate that bill's reporting changes will now be delayed until 2024, we encourage the Legislature to refrain from making additional statutory changes to the APR requirements until that process is complete. Additionally, we propose the following amendments to streamline the additional reporting required by SB 477 and strike a better balance between the burden of additional reporting and the value of new information collected.

Given the significant work involved to track and report the additional data envisioned in SB 477 and the often-limited resources within smaller jurisdictions, we request an exemption from additional reporting requirements for counties and cities located outside of a metropolitan county as defined by the United States Census Bureau.¹ We also suggest removing the CEQA-related reporting requirements until after the Legislature takes action on current legislation that would expand requirements for online posting and submission to the Office of Planning and Research's Statewide Clearinghouse of certain CEQA documents.² Finally, we suggest language to remove duplicative requirements in the current version of the bill (e.g. do not require reporting on both a sample of density bonus projects as well as every individual density bonus project).

For these reasons, we are respectfully opposed, unless amended, to SB 477. Should you have any questions about our position on this measure, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Lee (CSAC) at clee@counties.org, Jean Hurst (UCC) at jkh@hbeadvocacy.com, or Tracy Rhine (RCRC) at trhine@rcrcnet.org.

¹ https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/metroarea/stcbsa_pg/Feb2013/cbsa2013_CA.pdf

² AB 819 (Levine)

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Christopher Lee in black ink.

Christopher Lee
CSAC

Handwritten signature of Jean Hurst in black ink.

Jean Hurst
UCC

Handwritten signature of Tracy Rhine in blue ink.

Tracy Rhine
RCRC

cc: The Honorable Scott Wiener, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus