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September 17, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 477 (Wiener): General Plan: Annual report
Enrolled and Presented to the Governor – September 9, 2021 – Request for
Veto**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) respectfully requests your veto on SB 477, which would significantly increase reporting burdens for counties and cities submitting Housing Element Annual Progress Reports (APRs).

CSAC proposed amendments to exclude the smallest, most rural counties from the added reporting requirements in SB 477, but the author was unfortunately not amenable to those changes. The significant work involved in tracking and reporting this additional data represents a significant burden for smaller, resource-constrained jurisdictions that are already struggling to comply with recent additions to the APR.

CSAC also remains concerned with the precedent of reporting on CEQA-related issues to the Department of Housing and Community Development, as these issues have traditionally been under the purview of the Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency. Moreover, AB 819 (Ch. 97, Stats. 2021) will already expand requirements for online posting and submission to the Office of Planning and Research's Statewide Clearinghouse for higher-level CEQA documents, limiting the informational value of additional reporting on exemptions required by SB 477.

For these reasons, CSAC respectfully requests your veto on SB 477. If you need additional information about our position, please contact me at clee@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lee
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Scott Wiener, Member, California State Senate

Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Mark Tollefson, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom