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September 14, 2023

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

**RE: SB 240 (Ochoa Bogh) - Surplus state real property: affordable housing and housing for formerly incarcerated individuals
As Enrolled – September 13, 2023 – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 240 by Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh. This measure would add affordable housing projects intended for formerly incarcerated individuals as a priority in the disposal of state surplus land and provides that these projects are a use by-right.

Specifically, SB 240 would ensure the timely development of affordable housing on surplus property sold by the state by exempting the property from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reviews as "by-right" developments. Additionally, SB 240 would be a positive step aimed at preventing homelessness by ensuring that affordable housing is developed for criminal justice-involved individuals who need assistance transitioning back into our communities.

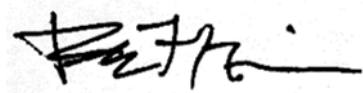
To make meaningful progress in helping those who are unhoused, CSAC developed the ['AT HOME'](#) Plan. The six-pillar plan (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, and Economic Opportunity) is designed to effectively address homelessness at every level – state, local, and federal. Through the AT HOME Plan, CSAC is working to identify the policy changes necessary to build a comprehensive homelessness system that is effective and accountable, including specific recommendations related to prevention, housing, the unsheltered response system, and sustainable funding. SB 240 aligns with our AT HOME efforts, specifically as it relates to the Housing pillar. Roughly 70% of California's unsheltered homeless population are criminal justice involved. Given this high

percentage, it is imperative that the justice-involved population receives the necessary services and resources that are essential for successful reentry. Access to affordable housing is the most critical and fundamental need to prevent homelessness. Research illustrates that offering employment services, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, as well as affordable supportive housing to chronically unhoused and criminal-justice involved individuals decreases recidivism rates, which can drastically reduce associated costs to local governments.

SB 240 would further the efforts of CSAC and numerous stakeholders by increasing access to affordable housing options, which is a dire need across our state. Ultimately, additional housing support improves reentry outcomes and also plays a significant role in the prevention of crime and homelessness.

It is for these reasons that CSAC respectfully requests your signature on SB 240. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 650-8129 or rmorimune@counties.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Morimune', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Morimune
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, California State Senate
Jessica Devencenzi, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary