

June 25, 2024

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 598 (Wicks): Clarification to the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority Ability to Condition Funding

Dear Chair Durazo,

We, the undersigned Bay Area organizations as part of the Bay Area Housing for All Coalition, would like to express our support for the clarifications made to the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority's (BAHFA) ability to condition funding put forward in AB 598. We stand in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in support of this bill to solidify BAHFA's commitment to delivering for the needs of all Bay Area residents facing rising housing costs, instability, and homelessness.

In preparation for BAHFA's future regional affordable housing bond, the BAHFA team convened a variety of stakeholders to develop its Business Plan and Expenditure Plan. Members of the business community expressed concern about regional bond funds being conditioned on localities adopting certain land use or housing policies. While BAHFA does not believe it has authority to condition funding in this manner, the concerns remain. Thus, to eliminate any ambiguity, BAHFA has identified two provisions that clarify that BAHFA will not condition funding from a regional revenue measure on localities adopting certain land use or housing policies.

Our organizations were involved in the passage of AB 1487, including as co-sponsors, in partnership with MTC, ABAG, and the bill author, former Assemblymember David Chiu. Working closely with both our local elected officials in the Bay Area and our partners in the Senate and Assembly, we witnessed first-hand the considerable negotiation and consensus-building that went into passing this ground-breaking bill. We believe that AB 598 puts forward clarifications that align with BAHFA's goal of providing homes affordable to lower income households in all communities across the Bay Area, thus staying true to our shared vision for BAHFA crafted in 2019.

For these reasons, we support this bill and respectfully request your support for AB 598.

Sincerely,

All Home
Community Action Marin
Enterprise Community Partners
Generation Housing
LISC Bay Area
Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
Resources for Community Development