

Written Public
Comment(s) for **Item No. 5**

From: [rginca2014](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Cc: [rvillagomez@housingca.org](#); [jposas@housingca.org](#)
Subject: Public Comment Item 5: Urgent Call to Address the County Housing Element
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 7:59:35 PM
Attachments: [What is the Residents United Network.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear honorable Supervisors of San Mateo County,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Richard Gallo, and I am a concerned non-resident with a deep commitment to ensuring affordable and secure housing for all. I am writing to share my story as a non-resident of the County and support for recommendations to improve the County's Housing Element draft.

First and foremost, I want to express my appreciation for your dedication to public service and for taking the time to consider the importance of this matter. San Mateo County has shown dedication in addressing homelessness and housing, but more work must be done.

San Mateo County does not have enough affordable housing to meet the need and many families with special housing needs are priced out of the area or struggle with a high rent burden and inadequate tenant protections. Residents are seniors, farm workers, people with disabilities, unhoused community, veterans, domestic violence survivors, workforce working in retail, grocery, coffee shops, fast food workers, caregivers, childcare workers, support staff in our schools, low-income individuals and families.

The issue is displacement, housing insecurity or affordability, experience of the housing crisis with residents of San Mateo County. For the County to address the housing crisis, I believe we must prioritize the following recommendations:

Implement strong, research-based programs that address the needs of those with special housing needs. This includes those with disabilities, farmworkers, large families, workforce housing, supportive housing for the unhoused community and extremely low incomes individuals and families.

Rezone high resource areas outside of North Fair Oaks to higher densities to promote fair housing throughout the County and meet capacity for legally mandated affordable housing requirements. Affordable housing options should be spread throughout our county, including the wealthiest neighborhoods. Those communities cannot be discriminatory to affordable housing.

Include a commitment to update the County's Tenant Protections Ordinance, particularly with the addition of just cause for eviction protections stronger than state law.

We are in housing crisis caused by Cities and Counties throughout California failing to build adequate affordable housing in our communities.

I volunteer with Residents United Network (RUN) as a member/Ally in supporting affordable housing in our communities throughout California. Attached is our flyer for residents who lives in affordable housing to help us build our movement out of the crisis in affordable housing.

Once again, I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to serving our community. I would be grateful for a response with any feedback, updates, or actions taken on this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mental Wellness is possible

With regards,

Richard Gallo
Mental Health Advocacy
Consulting and Training

Richard Gallo (Pronouns: He/His/Him)
State Ambassador/Bay Area Region Ambassador
ACCESS California, a program of CAL VOICES
[ACCESS California | Mental Health Advocacy | Home](#)

Secretary of the California Association of Peer Professionals (CAPP):
[Peer Support | California Association of Peer Professionals | California](#)

Board member
Cal Voices
[Cal Voices | Peer Support | California](#)

RUN member/Ally (Volunteer)
Residents United Network (RUN)
Housing California
[Residents United Network - Housing California](#)

Miracle Friend (Volunteer)
Miracle Messages
<https://www.miraclemessages.org/>

From: [Emily Morris](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Public Comment Item 5: Urgent Call to Address the County Housing Element
Date: Saturday, July 29, 2023 12:24:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear honorable Supervisors of San Mateo County,

My name is Emily Morris, and I am a concerned resident of District 2 with a deep commitment to ensuring affordable and secure housing for all. I am writing to echo others in expressing my support for recommendations to improve the County's Housing Element draft.

First and foremost, I want to thank you for taking the time to consider this item. San Mateo County has shown dedication in addressing homelessness and housing, but more work must be done.

San Mateo County does not have enough affordable housing to meet the need and many families with special housing needs are priced out of the area or struggle with a high rent burden and inadequate tenant protections.

Even as someone with a great deal of privilege, I have had a really difficult time finding a rent I can afford in San Mateo County. This makes me worry greatly for my neighbors who make less money than me and who are less privileged than me. For the County to address the housing crisis, I believe we must prioritize the following recommendations:

- Implement strong, research-based programs that address the needs of those with special housing needs. This includes those with disabilities, farmworkers, large families, and extremely low incomes.
- Rezone high resource areas outside of North Fair Oaks to higher densities to promote fair housing throughout the County and meet capacity for legally mandated affordable housing requirements. Affordable housing options should be spread throughout our county, including the wealthiest neighborhoods.
- Include a commitment to update the County's Tenant Protections Ordinance, particularly with the addition of just cause for eviction protections stronger than state law.

Once again, I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to serving our community. I would be grateful for a response with any feedback, updates, or actions taken on this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Emily