## NAACP: Racial Justice and Equity in State Housing Law

**Kiana Simmons,** HLC Lead Organizer

**Jordan Grimes**, HLC Policy Committee Co-Chair (and many other hats)

July 8, 2024



#### Intro: Who am I?

Policy Manager w/ HLC

"Work with communities and their leaders to produce and preserve quality affordable homes"

Changing policies at the root cause of the housing crisis

Kiana Simmons!

Jordan Grimes!



Lead Organizer

Policy Committee Co-Chair

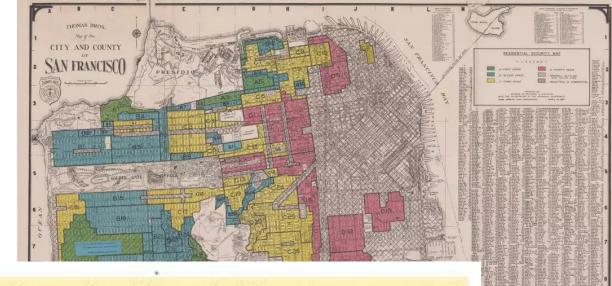
### Agenda

An hour of bliss

- 1. Background (5 minutes)
- 2. Legislation (20 minutes)
- 3. Advocacy (5 minutes)
- 4. Q&A (20 minutes)

#### Background: Explicitly Racist Housing Policy

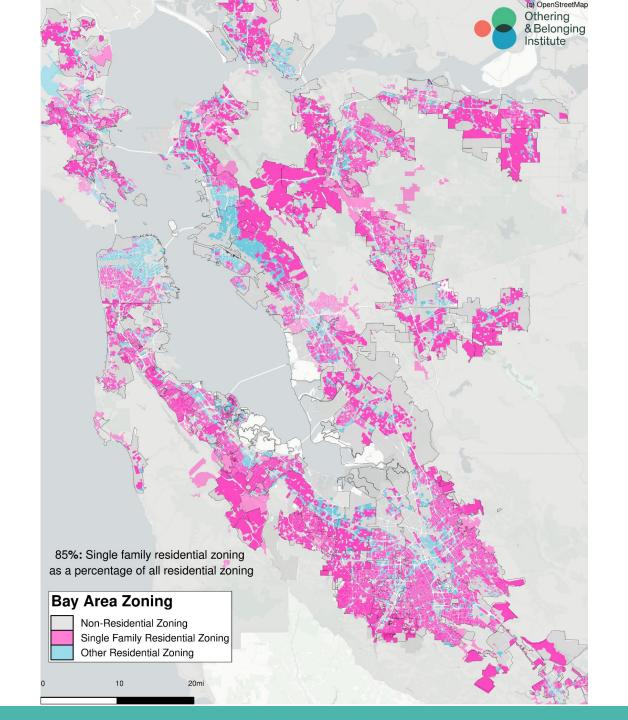
- Redlining
- Block busting
- Racial covenants



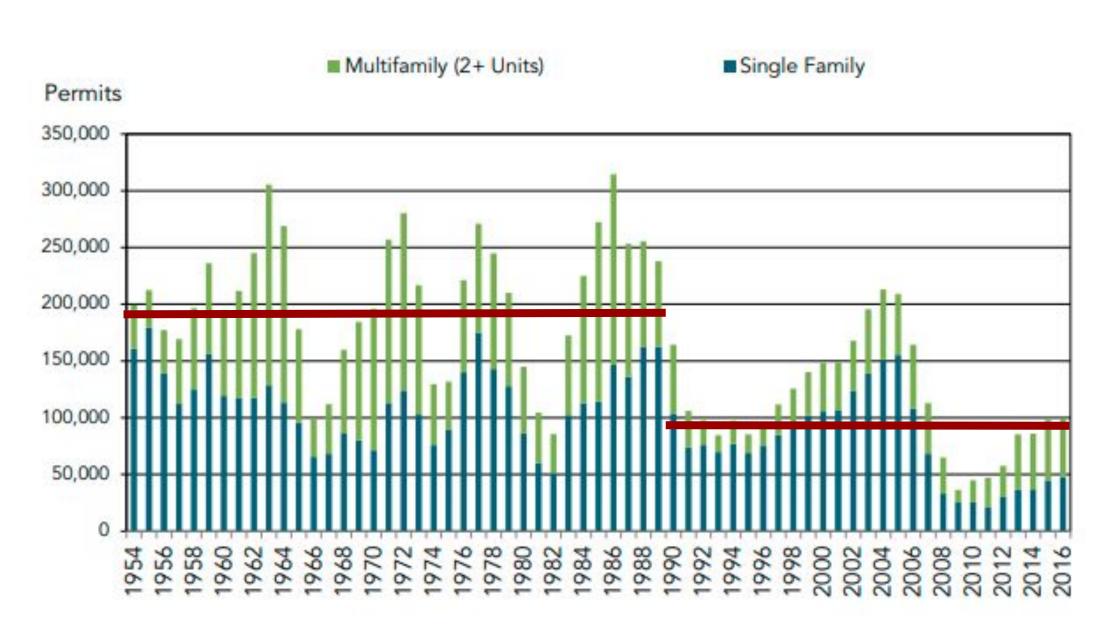
- (h) No person of any race other than the Caucasian Race shall use or occupy any building or any lot, except that this Covenant shall not prevent occupancy by domestic servants of a different race domiciled with an owner or tenant.
- (i) These Covenants are to rum with the land and shall be binding on all parties and all persons claiming under them until January 1, 1966, at which time said Covenants shall be automatically extended for successive periods of 10 years unless by vote of a majority of the then owners of the lots it is agreed to change said covenants in whole or in part.

# Background: **Implicit**Racial Disparities of Status Quo

- Defunding of public housing
- Defunding of Section 8, mobility programs
- Exclusionary zoning



#### **CA Housing Permits per Year, Statewide**



## New direction from the legislature

Undoing discriminatory policies piece by piece

- **Streamlining** housing in high-opportunity areas (SB 35, SB 423, AB 2011)
- **Rezoning** throughout communities (ADU law, SB 9)
- Promoting fair housing in local planning (AB 686, SB 828, AB 1397)

# The 2024 Legislative Session

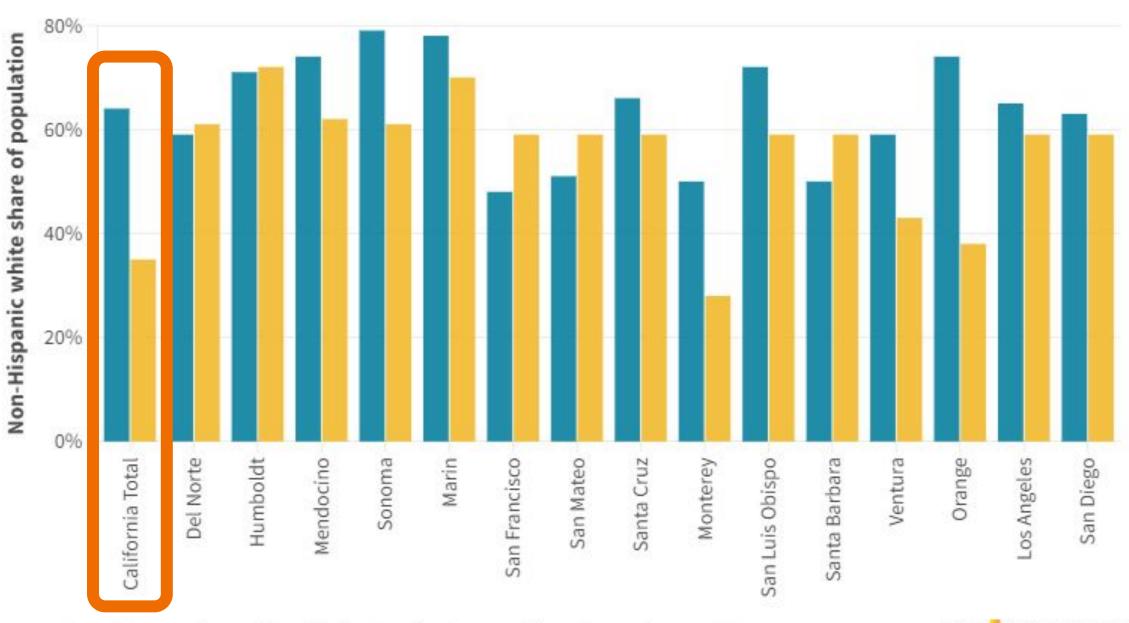
### AB 2560 (Alvarez): **Density Bonus in the Coastal Zone**

## What is Density Bonus?

Overcoming recalcitrant state agencies

- Trades density for affordability
- Builds within existing multi-family zones
- Streamlines processing timeline







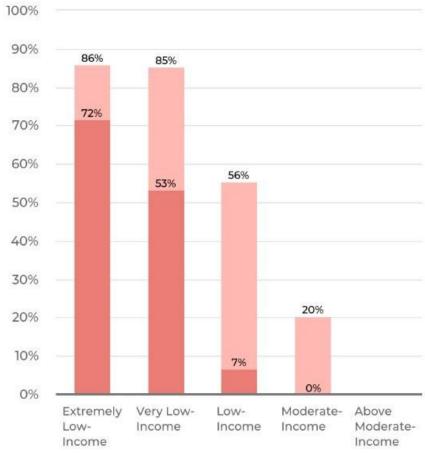
CAL MATTERS

### The Coastal Housing Crisis: California

- Some of CA's highest-cost cities
- Equivalent homes 20%+ more expensive
- Infrastructure challenges



### The Coastal Housing Crisis: San Mateo County



72% of ELI households in San Mateo County are paying more than half of their income on housing costs compared to 0% of moderate-income households (2019).

Severely Cost Burdened

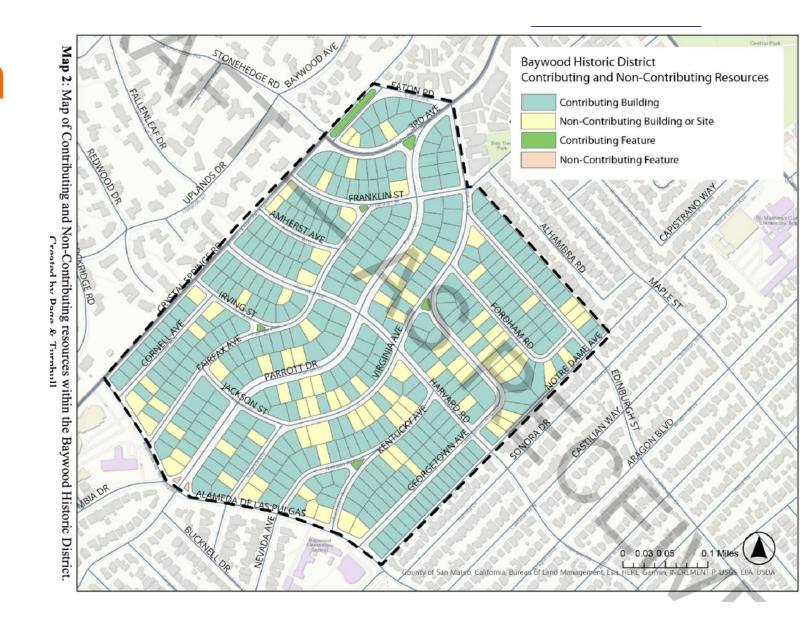
Households

- No deed-restricted affordable homes in the Midcoast
- Median home price **\$1.5 million**
- **1,474 jobs** in the area
  - 51% of jobs pay less than \$40k a year.
  - Most jobs are due to tourism
- **1,116 (75.7%) employees** live outside the area

### AB 2580 (Wicks): Reporting Historic Designations

### Historic Districts in SMC

- New playbook in Baywood neighborhood
- Five other neighborhoods threatened



## Impact of historic districts

Preserving exclusionary zoning indefinitely

- Blocks state housing laws
- Typically involves local design review board
- Delegitimizes genuine historic preservation

### SB 1395 (Becker): **Streamlining Supportive Housing**

### **Streamlining Low Barrier Navigation Centers**

- Exempts supportive housing from CEQA
- Non-congregant shelters in all multi-family zones



### **Getting Around NIMBYism**

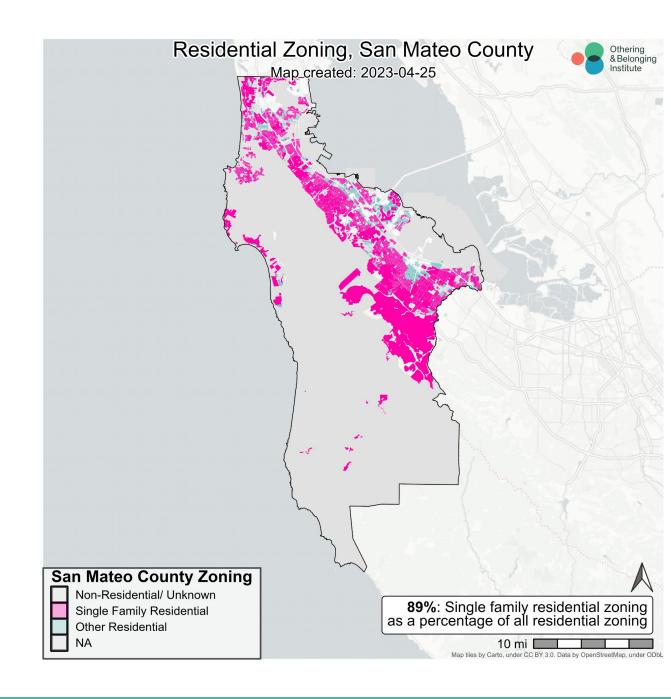


#### SB 1123 (Caballero):

#### Multi-Family Homes in Single-Family Neighborhoods

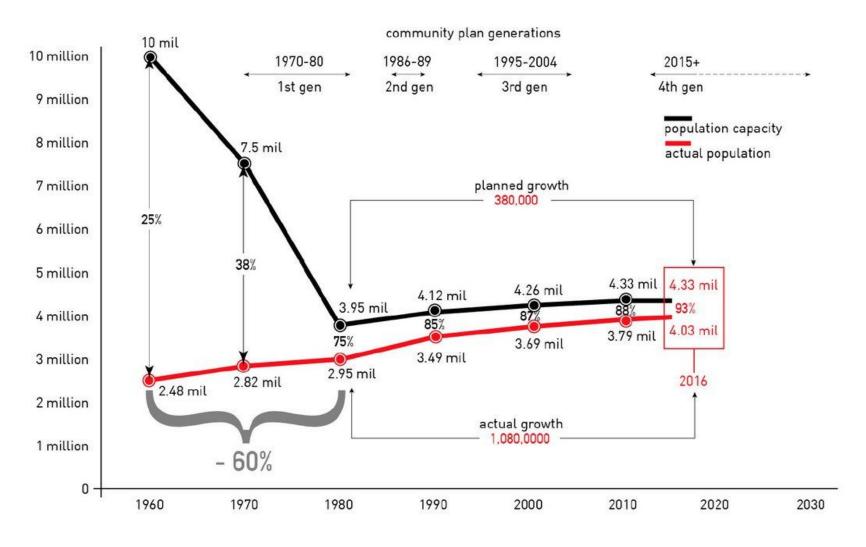
### Most of SMC bans multi-family homes

- 89% residential land single-family only
- Even multi-family areas have restrictions
- Creating opportunity requires increasing options



#### LA zoning capacity vs population, 1960-2030

# Reversing the Course of History



sources: 35 community plans, census, historical reports

## SB 1123 Expands Housing Options

Breaking the single-family wall

- Streamlines housing on vacant lots
- Ties development capacity to lot size, city population
  - 30 du/ac in cities pop >25k
  - 20 du/ac in cities pop <25k
- Maximum unit size 1,750 sq ft
- Cities can charge fees for infrastructure

# Oppose: "Justice for Renters" Aids Healthcare Foundation Ballot Initiative

## **Anti-Equity Rent Control**

You can't speak for tenants without consulting tenants

- No exemption for new construction
- Tenant groups not consulted in crafting ballot measure

Huntington Beach city council member: "It gives local governments ironclad protections from the state's housing policy."

### AB 3093 (Ward): Homeless Accountability In RHNA

#### Predicting the future with housing elements



#### URL for those on computer:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MbI2tZvZFbQjF A isiEe IrvSxtyhzt9sV h21NXHdg/edit?usp=sharing

### The End! Q&A

