



June 26, 2023

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
1020 N Street, Rm 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 423 (Wiener) By-right Housing Approvals. SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) Expansion. (As amended 6/19/2023)

Notice of Opposition

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

The City of Mill Valley opposes SB 423, which would greatly expand SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) provisions and extend the Jan. 1, 2026 sunset date to Jan. 1, 2036.

In Mill Valley, we are working to find creative solutions so homes of all income levels can be built. We're taking on these difficult and complex tasks, and successfully planning for more homes. For example, the City of Mill Valley is partnering with EAH Housing to build 40-50 affordable homes on a City-owned parcel. We are doing this while navigating the state's annual barrage of overreaching housing bills that have thus far demonstrated limited success.

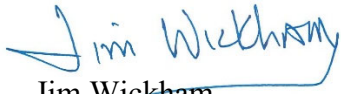
SB 423 is the latest overreaching bill. This measure would double-down on the recent trend of the state overriding its own mandated local housing plans by forcing cities to approve certain housing projects without regard to the needs of the community, opportunities for environmental review, or public input.

Instead of continuing to pursue top-down, one-size-fits-all legislation, lawmakers should partner with local officials. That's why we continue to call on the Governor and lawmakers to include a \$3 billion annual investment in the state budget to help cities prevent and reduce homelessness and spur housing development. Targeted, ongoing funding is the only way cities can find community-based solutions that get our residents off the streets and keep them in their homes.

California will never produce the number of homes needed with an increasingly state driven, by-right housing approval process. What is really needed is a sustainable state investment that matches the scale of this decades-in-the-making crisis.

For these reasons, we OPPOSE SB 423.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Wickham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Wickham
Mayor
City of Mill Valley

Cc: Senator Scott Wiener
Members, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
California Assemblymember Damon Connolly
California Senator Mike McGuire
Nancy Hall Bennett, Public Affairs Manager, Cal Cities
League of California Cities