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Newsletter Number 1

ORGANIZING AGAINST OUR FLAWED HOUSING POLICY

For Affordability, Safety, and Local Accountability

Advocates,

This is our first WAKE UP CALIFORNIA newsletter, designed to give a little more information than the Sunday Zoom notices. We'll share key takeaways from our Monday meetings, along with important links and updates you may have missed in the chat.

SB 79 Music Video

It's not often you can describe an SB 79 video as a passion project, but here's a real one:

[SB 79 It's a Heavy Load to Bear](#)

Want to help build WAKE UP CA's media library?

Send us a short video about what's happening in your community. Honest and direct is more powerful than polished.

info.wakeupca@gmail.com

More New Media

From SF Propel: new video on affordability

<https://www.sfpropel.com/affordable-housing/affordable-housingfor-all>

RECAP OF THE APRIL 6 MEETING

Last Monday's meeting focused on WAKE UP CA's ongoing work around housing,

fire safety, and local control, including concerns related to **SB 677** and **AB 2433**. Members also heard about the new legislation page on the WAKE UP CA website, which is intended to make it easier to track key bills, deadlines, and action steps in one place.

Following Tom's presentation the week before, the group also discussed the in-development **JOSH** tool and its potential value in helping communities better understand how development could affect evacuation times and safety.

A major takeaway from the meeting was the need for more grassroots participation. Whether through hosting screenings, helping with outreach, joining the research updates, or tracking where public officials stand on local control issues, WAKE UP CA is building stronger tools and infrastructure, but growing the movement will depend on more people getting involved.

SIGN UP TO HOST A SCREENING – "SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL"

We are scheduling May and June presentations of the award-winning film "**Small is Beautiful**," followed by town halls. These 90-minute events are strong community-building tools, and we'd love to help you organize one anywhere in California.

Film info: <https://smallisbeautifulmovie.org>

Interested? Contact us at: **info.wakeupca@gmail.com**

GET INVOLVED

WAKE UP CA is powered by volunteers, but growing this movement takes both people and resources. We need help with hosting screenings, outreach, research, legislative tracking, and more.

We are an all-volunteer organization, but we also rely on paid support behind the scenes to help keep key work moving. If you have time to give, or can make a financial contribution, your support matters.

To volunteer **info.wakeupca@gmail.com**

To donate <https://givebutter.com/WAKEUPCA>

LINKS FROM CHAT

- Find your representatives: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>
- Information on legislation: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
- WAKE UP legislation page: <https://wakeca.org/legislation>
- Recent article by “Small is Beautiful” filmmaker Carolyn Scott: <https://sonomasun.com/2026/04/04/the-perfect-storm-multiple-developments-threaten-fire-safety/>

NEW ORGANIZATIONS AND INFO

- Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) in San Diego: <https://www.sohosandiego.org/main/>
- Direct link to SOHO report: <https://www.sohosandiego.org/images/SanDiegoHPVitality.pdf>
- SF Propel affordability page: <https://www.sfpropel.com/affordable-housing/affordable-housing-for-all>

MONDAY 5:00 PM ZOOMS FOR APRIL

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87213812741?pwd=bU1s4OfZmtc9EFwO6jyiYo0CdpoBLF.1>

Monday, April 13

Focus on the 15 cities in the state's crosshairs

Next Monday, we'll take a closer look at Governor Newsom's recent ultimatum to 15 small cities and counties across California that are out of compliance with state housing element requirements.

Many of these communities are small, financially constrained, and already struggling with infrastructure needs, including clean water and basic public services. Rather than helping them meet these goals, the state has chosen to publicly call them out and threaten legal action. We'll discuss what this means for local control, accountability, and the widening gap between state mandates and local reality.

Atwater, Avenal, California City, Corcoran, Escalon, Half Moon Bay, Hanford, Kings County, Lemoore, Merced County, Montclair, Oakdale, Patterson, Ridgecrest, Turlock

On break the week of April 20

Week of April 27 – Special Presentation

Sonia Taylor and Marylee Guinon of SAFFR

Catch-22: State Housing Policy Undermines Required Safety and Evacuation Planning

<https://www.firesaferoadregs.org/>

Thanks for your activism,

Amy

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