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**Newsletter Number 2**

## **ORGANIZING AGAINST OUR FLAWED HOUSING POLICY**

For Affordability, Safety, and Local Accountability

Missed the Zoom? [Register here to join future sessions →](#)

*If the same challenges are showing up across multiple communities,*

**Are we looking at isolated noncompliance...**

**or a system that isn't aligned with the realities  
it's trying to govern?**

### **APRIL 13 ZOOM RECAP**

## **Fifteen Cities on Notice: The Governor's Housing Ultimatum**

Our April 13th Zoom focused on the final warnings issued by the Governor and HCD to fifteen cities and counties that “failed to adhere to housing law requirements to plan for housing that meets the needs of all income levels.”

*“I’m disappointed on behalf of the state and the people of California that after years of effort, we still have communities that aren’t meeting the needs of their residents. There’s no carve-out here. No community gets a pass when it comes to addressing homelessness or creating more housing access.”*

*We'll keep pushing forward by enforcing the law, fighting NIMBY actions, and holding local governments accountable, because every Californian deserves a place to call home."*

— Governor Gavin Newsom

#### GUEST SPEAKER

## Mayor Deborah Ruddock, Half Moon Bay

Our guest was Mayor Deborah Ruddock of Half Moon Bay, who shared her city's frustration with the pressure brought by Governor Newsom and HCD. Half Moon Bay has unusual constraints: falling entirely within the oversight of the Coastal Commission restricts local control over development and zoning decisions, resulting in a longer approval process. The city does have a conditionally certified housing element, and has enabled housing. The press and our Governor have chosen to vilify the city as "NIMBY" instead of recognizing mitigating factors.

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[www.localcontrolca.com](http://www.localcontrolca.com)

All fifteen cities on Newsom's list have issues that make compliance difficult, if not impossible. Thirteen of the fifteen are clustered in the San Joaquin Valley, with mitigating factors like water contamination and insecurity, state water laws that conflict with RHNA timelines, extreme poverty, limited funding and staffing capacity, and other growth limitations.

Making examples of these cities — by threatening lawsuits and fines — illustrates the problems with one-size-fits-all mandates and ignored appeals. Cities should not be punished for inability to comply with impossible demands.

## The Cost of an AG Referral: Hollister

In a recent settlement with Attorney General Bonta, the City of Hollister was required — among other measures — to establish a housing trust fund with an initial deposit of **\$300,000** to support housing across all low-income categories, plus migrant, emergency, supportive, single-room occupancy, and transitional housing.

### READ MORE

- [Governor Newsom's final warning to 15 communities \(March 25, 2026\)](#)
- [Half Moon Bay working to comply with state housing laws — Local News Matters](#)
- [Half Moon Bay housing element response — Mercury News](#)

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### GUEST SPEAKER

## Michael Gates, Former Huntington Beach City Attorney

We were joined by Michael Gates, former city attorney of Huntington Beach and current candidate for Attorney General, who advocated litigation for cities to fight unsupported RHNA determinations — as he did with Huntington Beach. His candidacy platform strongly supports local land use control.

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### FILM SCREENINGS

## “Small is Beautiful” — Coming to Los Angeles

Amy will be presenting two showings of *Small is Beautiful*, followed by a town

hall (90-minute presentation) in the Los Angeles area around May 15. Two more showings can be accommodated on this trip. If your group is interested, contact us immediately.

**[JOIN / CONTACT US →](#)** **[Film info & trailer →](#)**

*“Small is Beautiful highlights a conflict that is neither small nor beautiful. It exposes how developers use California’s affordable housing mandates as a ‘Trojan Horse’ to build luxury units in a critical wildlife corridor in Sonoma County. By ignoring the increasing wildfire risks of climate change, these projects threaten to turn rural landscapes into inescapable death traps for both current and future residents.”*

**— Jonathan Fink, Professor of Geology, Portland State University**

Founder, Cascadia Wildfire and Urban Smoke Working Group

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## LEGISLATION

For information on California State Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee members, SB 79 votes, and re-election status, visit:

**[wakeca.org/legislation](http://wakeca.org/legislation)**

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## UPCOMING ZOOMS

### Remaining April Schedule

**MONDAY, APRIL 20**

On Break

**MONDAY, APRIL 27**

## SAFFR Special Presentation

Sonia Taylor & Marylee Guinon — State Alliance for Firesafe Road Regulations

*“Catch 22: State Housing Policy Undermines Required Safety and Evacuation Planning.”*

[firesaferoadregs.org](https://firesaferoadregs.org) →

*May Zoom schedule — to be released next week.*

**Your donation moves us forward.**

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