



August 20, 2020

Hon. Gavin Newsom, Governor
Hon. Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
Hon. Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore of the Senate
Hon. Members of the California Legislature
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Declaration of a California Crisis of Governance

Dear Governor and Members of the Legislature:

We the undersigned declare a Crisis of Governance in California. Currently, proposed bills that would have a profound impact on all Californians are being considered by the Legislature with little public awareness of their existence or public evaluation and input.

Land use legislation and other bills are being heard by our legislators in limited Committees during an international pandemic and social unrest. The People of California are mostly unaware of these bills due to the extraordinary circumstances we are all experiencing. These bills use vague and unclear language in their description. They include terms and phrases that will not be defined until years after their passage, so their implications are not completely known – even at the time of the bills being heard. These land-use bills will lead to speculation, displacement, gentrification and further racial discrimination in Housing. These bills will provide little, if any, additional affordable housing over and above any Inclusionary policies a city might have.

We, the undersigned, ask the legislature and Governor to suspend all activity on land-use bills until the full after-effects of the pandemic are known. The existing bills cannot respond to the post-Covid world, which will include increased remote work, increased commercial and office space vacancies, increased housing stock due to potential demographic and preference changes, decreased urban housing demand, and other as-yet unknown new realities.

We support more affordable housing in our cities, retaining local land-use control, and strengthening our inclusive communities. We believe the unique characteristics of our diverse cities – from Crescent City to Calexico – are what make California strong. We must avoid

one-size-fits-all measures as we work together to find solutions to the new jobs and housing reality that will follow the pandemic.

We call for the Legislature to acknowledge that the post-Covid world will not mirror the pre-Covid world and keep these bills in suspense for at least a year, and the Governor to veto those that come to his desk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Huang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peggy Huang, Legislative Director
www.californiaallianceoflocalelecteds.org/