



City Council

Mike Anderson, Mayor  
Susan Candell, Vice Mayor  
Steven Bliss, Council Member  
Cameron Burks, Council Member  
Teresa Gerringer, Council Member

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June 22, 2020

The Honorable Toni Atkins Senate  
President Pro Tempore State  
Capitol, Room 205 Sacramento,  
CA 95814

**RE: SB 995 (Atkins) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senate Pro Tem Atkins,

On behalf of the City of Lafayette, I am writing to express our support for SB 995, your measure that would extend the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011 (the Act) for four years, until 2025. Additionally, the measure makes housing projects that meet certain requirements, including affordable housing requirements, eligible for certification under the Act.

SB 995 adds affordable housing to the list of projects that could qualify for AB 900 certification and be eligible for expedited judicial review of CEQA challenges. It will still require projects to perform an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposed project, as well as undertake the mitigation efforts identified within the EIR. To qualify, the project must, among other things, be located on an infill site, be consistent with a sustainable communities strategy or alternative planning strategy, have at least 15% of the project be dedicated to affordable housing, and must result in a minimum investment of \$15 million in California. In comparison, under current law residential projects currently are subject to LEED Gold, do not have a minimum affordable housing requirement, and are required to result in \$100 million investment in California.

By lowering the investment requirement, removing the LEED component, and imposing a minimum affordable housing requirement, SB 995 provides an incentive for the development of affordable housing projects. Additionally, a streamlined judicial review of CEQA challenges may reduce the overall time spent in litigation and potentially reduce the overall costs for a project.

It is for these reasons that we are glad to support SB 995. If you have any questions, or need more information, about the City's position or our suggested amendments, please contact our City Manager, Niroop Srivatsa, at (925) 284-1968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Anderson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Anderson  
Mayor, City of Lafayette

cc: Senator Steve Glazer  
Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan