



City Council

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

---

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
Assembly Member, 50<sup>th</sup> District  
State Capitol, Room 2003  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1279 (Bloom) – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Bloom,

On behalf of the City of Lafayette, I am writing to respectfully express our opposition for AB 1279, your measure that would require certain development sites in high resource areas to allow for more density and height and makes these sites subject to “use by-right” approval.

AB 1279 requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to designate areas in this state as “high-opportunity areas” no later than January 1, 2022. HCD shall consider any area designated as “highest resource” or “high resource” on the most recent Opportunity Maps adopted by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) as a potential high-opportunity area. HCD will not be able to designate a location as a high-opportunity areas if the area is at risk for displacement of lower income households or if low wage workers in the potential areas do not have significantly longer commutes than other low wage workers in within the region.

AB 1279 also requires that a housing development project must be a use by-right in any high-opportunity area if the development satisfies criteria put forth in the bill.

This measure ignores general plans, and other locally driven planning processes, in favor of a one size fits all approach to local planning. This measure does not allow for adequate community input on projects, nor does it recognize the characteristics that are unique to all communities within the State. However, one of the more problematic provisions of this bill is that it puts policy into place before the mapping process, and identification of high-resource areas, can be carried out. While AB 1279 does direct HCD to consider the most recent High Opportunity Maps adopted by TCAC, it does not provide cities a mechanism by which they can determine the potential impact of the bill on their community, since it is unclear which communities will be impacted by the legislation.

We feel that a better approach would be to clearly define high-resource areas within the legislation or let HCD carry out the mapping process before pursuing policies that can be carried out in those areas.

It is for these reasons that the City of Lafayette must respectfully oppose AB 1279. If you have any questions, or need more information, about the City's position, please contact our City Manager, Niroop Srivatsa, at (925) 299-3206.

Sincerely,

  


Mike Anderson  
Mayor  
City of Lafayette

cc: Senator Steve Glazer  
Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan