



Northern Alameda County Group

(Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and San Leandro)

September 19, 2017

Mayor Spencer and Members of the City Council
City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, 3rd Floor
Alameda, California 94501

RE: Item 6E – Affordable Housing

Dear Mayor Spencer and Members of the City Council:

The Sierra Club welcomes the effort of the Alameda City Council to examine opportunities to increase the amount of affordable housing in Alameda. We have a history of supporting robust and meaningful inclusionary housing requirements, and we are open to evaluating any proposals to the existing ordinance to determine whether we can support them.

For the time being, we agree with and support City staff's recommendation to examine options for increasing the City's resources for affordable housing, and we further recommend that the City Council direct City staff to bring back proposals that include a local affordable housing bond that could help underwrite affordable housing projects. With the newly-available funding source of the Alameda County affordable housing bond, which the Sierra Club proudly endorsed, and the potential funding source of the 2018 statewide affordable housing bond, Alameda would be well-positioned to expand its affordable housing stock if the City had a local fund to serve as matching funds.

Taking local initiative to fund new affordable housing, rather than waiting for the housing marketplace to satisfy affordable housing needs, would be stepping outside the status quo that has failed to curtail the rampant displacement and hardship we are currently faced with.

We appreciate the opportunity comment on this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with you in increasing affordable housing in Alameda.

Sincerely yours,

Luis Amezcua
Chair, Executive Committee
Northern Alameda County Group