



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

April 20, 2021

Senator Ben Allen
State Capitol, Room 4026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Scott Wiener
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SCA 2 (Allen & Wiener) Repeal of Article 34 Voter Approval of Public Housing Projects

Dear Senators' Allen and Wiener:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your Senate Constitutional Amendment, SCA 2, which proposes to place an initiative on the ballot in 2022 to repeal Article 34 of the California Constitution. Passed by voters in 1950, Article 34 requires a majority approval by the voters of a city or county for the development, construction, or acquisition of a publicly funded "low-rent housing project."

APA California supports efforts to streamline and encourage housing development, including affordable housing and publicly funded housing, particularly in a time when California continues to face an unprecedented housing crisis, compounded by the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, no other state Constitution requires voter approval for public housing, and it can often serve as a roadblock to impede important publicly funded housing projects throughout California. As California's housing crisis continues to mount, more must be done to ensure low-income housing can more easily be developed. Absent this change, cities and counties will continue to face obstacles in public housing approvals. APA California appreciates your efforts on this important issue, and we urge an aye vote. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, lauren@stefangeorge.com, APA California's lobbyist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric Phillips' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California
cc:

Senate Housing Committee
Senate Republican Caucus
The Governor
The Office of Planning and Research
The Department of Housing and Community Development