



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities



March 15, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1945 (Aguiar-Curry): Affordable Disaster Housing Revolving Development and Acquisition Program
As introduced on February 10, 2022 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing in Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee –
March 23, 2022

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) support Assembly Bill 1945, which would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establish the Affordable Disaster Housing Revolving Development and Acquisition Program. This program would expedite relief funding for the development or preservation of affordable housing in the state's declared disaster areas that have experienced damage or loss of homes that were occupied by lower-income households.

Major wildfire disasters in California in recent years have had devastating impacts to life and property. For survivors who already had tenuous housing situations before a disaster, the loss of affordable homes and the impact to the broader housing market from the sudden destruction of homes can quickly lead to displacement. While significant federal aid for housing has been authorized for several largescale disasters, the process can take years before funding is authorized and construction of new affordable homes can begin.

AB 1945 would fill this gap by creating a revolving fund and allowing Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) to provide short-term loans—including loans to local agencies—with favorable terms and conditions for specified housing purposes until federal assistance arrives. Federal funds would then be used to repay the short-term assistance, providing a revolving source of state funds to quickly respond

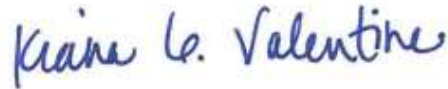
to needs in disaster areas. CDFIs are well-positioned to fill this intermediary role and quickly deploy emergency funding for affordable homes in the aftermath of major disasters.

Our organizations support this creative approach to improving the resiliency for California's much-needed affordable housing stock. For these reasons, we support AB 1945. If you need additional information about our position, please contact Chris Lee (CSAC) at clee@counties.org, Tracy Rhine (RCRC) at trhine@rcrcnet.org, Kiana Valentine (UCC) at kiana@politicogroup.com, Jason Rhine (Cal Cities) at jrhine@calcities.org, or Lauren de Valencia y Sanchez (APA) at lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,



Christopher Lee
CSAC



Kiana Valentine
UCC



Jason Rhine
Cal Cities



Eric Phillips
APA California



Tracy Rhine
RCRC

cc: The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
Lisa Engel, Chief Consultant, Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee
William Weber, Assembly Republican Caucus