



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

August 30, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 6 (Caballero) Signature Request

Dear Governor Newsom:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) respectfully requests that you sign SB 6, which creates the Middle-Class Housing Act of 2022 (Act). SB 6 establishes housing as an allowable use on parcels zoned for office or retail uses, allows projects to be eligible for SB 35's streamlined ministerial approval process, if specified requirements are met, and provides well-paid construction jobs to support a strong workforce.

APA California is a non-profit organization made up of practicing planners, citizens and public officials committed to advancing the practice of local, regional, and statewide planning throughout urban, suburban, and rural California. Our adopted 2022 Policy Platform includes action to "allow developers to build at higher densities and on commercial properties with a range of housing types while maintaining vibrant and sustainable communities" as one of our priorities related to encouraging housing production. Accordingly, our organization supports opportunities, like those in SB 6, to revitalize underutilized commercial properties into desperately needed housing while still supporting viable commercial spaces to ensure walkable and vibrant communities.

Our organization also appreciates the ability to exempt the adoption of an ordinance to implement the provisions of the Act from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). With the exemption from CEQA, jurisdictions will be able to implement these legislatively approved changes quickly to encourage these types of developments that are consistent with state policy.

APA California believes the Act creates another important tool to help California provide more solutions to address the housing crisis. We appreciate your dedication to this issue and respectfully request your signature on SB 6. If you have any questions please contact Lauren De Valencia, APA California's lobbyist, at lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Phillips".

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California