



For Immediate Release

Contact: Grover Wehman-Brown
East Bay Housing Organizations
Phone: 510-663-3830 x314
Email: grover@ebho.org

Public Land for Public Good bill expands affordable housing opportunities across California.

October 10, 2019. Oakland, California.

- **On October 9th, Gov. Gavin Newsom** signed AB1486 (Ting) - Surplus Land
- This bill strengthens the existing surplus land act to ensure that affordable housing sponsors get first priority when local agencies dispose of publicly owned land they no longer need.
- At a time when more than half of California renters are cost burdened and the number of people experiencing homelessness skyrockets, it is vital that public land be used for public good by providing affordable housing.

On September 9th, Gov. Newsom signed AB1486 (Ting), which will increase the amount of land available for building new affordable housing units. The bill clarifies and strengthens the existing surplus land act to ensure that affordable housing sponsors get first priority when local agencies dispose of publicly owned land they no longer need. Under the updated act, local agencies (cities, counties, school districts, transit agencies, etc.) have to give first priority to sponsors of affordable housing when disposing of the land.

Agencies must first negotiate with sponsors that will set-aside at least 25% of housing units for lower income households. If no agreement is reached and the land goes to a developer of market-rate housing, a minimum of 15% of those units must be affordable. In the Bay Area alone, it is conservatively estimated that surplus land in the Bay Area could accommodate 35,000 new units of housing. (Metropolitan Transportation Commission estimate) For example, BART plans to develop 20,000 units of housing on its land, including 7,000 affordable housing units.

First proposed in 2018, this bill was co-sponsored by East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), NonProfit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH), and then San Diego Housing Federation. More than half of California renters are cost-burdened, paying landlords more than 30% of their income to pay for housing. In our fiercely competitive housing market, public land is a vital resource, which is why this bill is a critical step to ensure that publicly owned land is used for the public good.

East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) is a leading advocate for affordable housing in the East Bay. EBHO is a member-driven organization working to preserve, protect, and create affordable housing opportunities for low-income communities in the East Bay through education, advocacy, organizing, and coalition building.

For more information about AB1486 please contact Policy Director Jeff Levin, jeff@ebho.org.