



East Bay Housing Organizations

March 12, 2020

City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704-1122

RE: Urgent Action to Preserve Housing Stability and Protect Tenants and Homeowners Affected by COVID-19

Dear Mayor Arreguin and Berkeley City Councilmembers:

As COVID-19 accelerates around the Country and in the East Bay, so do the impacts for those already affected and for members of vulnerable populations. Those who are sick and those caring for them will already miss work and income in many cases, but so will those whose livelihood depends on hospitality, travel or entertainment. At such a time, it is critical to preserve housing stability in the community.

EBHO calls on you to join the cities of San Francisco, San Jose and today, Oakland, in quickly introducing and then passing an ordinance on an urgency basis to place a moratorium on new eviction and foreclosure filings, to continue cases slated for trial for the next 30 days, and to place money in a special fund to provide up to two months of rental assistance for individuals who need it.

In this unprecedented time, we need bold policy responses at the local level. Thank you for your consideration and partnership.

Sincerely,

Rev. Sophia DeWitt
Program Director