



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
1021 O. St, Suite 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 20 (Rubio) Joint powers agreements: regional housing trusts
City of Beverly Hills – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wicks:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in SUPPORT of SB 20 (Rubio), which enables local agencies to form regional housing trusts through joint powers agreements (JPAs). This bill would be a significant tool in our collective effort to address California's affordable housing crisis, which is particularly acute in our region.

California is currently facing an urgent need to increase its supply of affordable housing. SB 20 proposes a practical solution to this issue by authorizing local agencies to form regional housing trusts that pool resources and streamline housing production for the homeless and low-income households. The potential for federally recognized tribal governments to participate in these JPAs is a laudable step towards a more inclusive approach to tackling this cross-jurisdictional issue.

In addition to our overall support for this legislation, we would like to emphasize the importance of ensuring local jurisdictions receive appropriate credit under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) for housing produced because of the JPA. RHNA allocations play a crucial role in housing planning processes, and acknowledging the contributions made through these regional housing trusts would provide a strong incentive for cities to actively participate in such collaborative initiatives.

We appreciate the bill's measures to ensure transparency and accountability. The requirements for annual financial reporting and auditing will promote public trust, ensuring funds are utilized effectively for the intended purpose. Evidence from the successful implementation of regional housing trusts in San Gabriel Valley, Orange County, and Western Riverside County shows the potential impact of these entities in fast-tracking the delivery of crucial housing for vulnerable populations. SB 20 presents a much-needed opportunity to replicate these successes throughout California.

We also value the flexibility offered by the bill, including provisions for issuing bonds, receiving public and private funding, and the possibility of special statutes for unique local circumstances. This balanced approach respects local autonomy while promoting a concerted, collective response to housing affordability. It is for these reasons that the City of Beverly Hills is proud to support SB 20 (Rubio).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Susan Rubio, Senator, 22nd District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange