



City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Trish Kelley
Mayor

Wendy Bucknum
Mayor Pro Tem

Brian Goodell
Council Member

Greg Rath
Council Member

Edward Sachs
Council Member

September 1, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
California State Governor
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: City of Mission Viejo SB 9 (Atkins) – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Mission Viejo write to respectfully request your veto of SB 9 (Atkins), which would require cities and counties to ministerially approve, without condition or discretion, a housing development containing two residential units on an individual parcel in single-family zones. Additionally, this measure would require local governments to ministerially approve an urban lot split, thus creating two independent lots that may be sold separately.

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing California cities. Affordably priced homes are out of reach for many people and housing is not being built fast enough to meet the current or projected needs of people living in the state. Cities lay the groundwork for housing production by planning and zoning new projects in their communities based on extensive public input and engagement, state housing laws, and the needs of the building industry.

While the City of Mission Viejo appreciates President pro Tempore Atkins' desire to pursue a housing production proposal, as currently drafted, SB 9 will not spur much-needed housing construction in a manner that supports local flexibility, decision making, and community input. State-driven ministerial or by-right housing approval processes fail to recognize the necessary public engagement process associated with developing and adopting zoning ordinances and housing elements that are certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.



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The City of Mission Viejo is committed to being part of the solution to the housing shortfall across all income levels and will continue to work collaboratively with the author and other stakeholders on legislative proposals that will spur much-needed housing construction.

It is for these reasons that we must respectfully ask for your veto of SB 9.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trish Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Trish Kelley
Mayor

cc: Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom

