

January 7, 2022

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Senator Pat Bates – senator.bates@senate.ca.gov

Senator Dave Min – senator.min@senate.ca.gov

Governor Newsom – governor@gov.ca.gov

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Mission Viejo City Clerk – cityclerk@cityofmissionviejo.org

Dear Sacramento Policy Makers,

The 2021 legislative session produced radical zoning reform measures that greatly increased development potential throughout the state, uniformly. Senate Bill 9 and Senate Bill 10 are two of the most offending measures that will eliminate single family neighborhoods and devastate our local community.

These two measures are set to produce unanticipated strains on communities that are already struggling to keep pace with significant housing and land use measures that the Legislature produces each year. Policy makers have routinely pushed new, unproven policies that undermine our local planning processes, change the rules mid-stream, and ultimately conflict with the myriad of new housing laws that have recently passed.

It is the prerogative of local governments to understand the unique needs of their communities and enact local ordinances to protect the health and safety of community residents through local land use visions and values. California is a large and diverse state, and each community has its own characteristics that make it unique. When land use and planning decisions are made at the state level, they cannot take into account the myriad of factors that impact communities in different ways. The land use policy that works for a community in one part of the state, may not work for a community in another part of the state. Similarly, policy that promotes a certain type of zoning that is beneficial for one community may have significant negative impacts for other communities.

Local governments are in the best position to respond to, and plan for, local land use and planning decisions. Locally elected officials are able to interact with the community members, businesses, and other interested parties and translate the community needs into local planning decisions.

Responsible land use and planning should be the responsibility of local governments, not the state, which is a valued partner but is simply not in a position, either practically or as a function of our systemic values, to deliver unilaterally the work needed to make local land-use proposals successful. We ask that you please restore power to the local governments and that you stop passing legislation in Sacramento that eliminates local control.

Sincerely,

Resident, City of Mission Viejo