



VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Vice Mayor

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

PEGGY LEMONS
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS
Councilmember

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing
1021 O Street, Suite 3330
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 423 (WIENER) STREAMLINED HOUSING APPROVALS: MULTIFAMILY
HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS: SB 35 (CHAPTER 366, STATUTES OF 2017)
EXPANSION - OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the City of Paramount, I write to express our opposition to your measure, SB 423, which would greatly expand SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) provisions and eliminate the Jan. 1, 2026, sunset date.

We can all agree that California is experiencing a severe housing supply and affordability crisis. Seven in ten Californians view housing affordability as one of the top problems in their community, and there is growing concern from residents that housing prices are so expensive, younger generations will be priced out of ever being able to buy a home. Paramount, like many other communities, are working to find creative solutions so homes of all income levels can be built. We are all taking on these difficult and complex tasks, contributing to plans for more than 2.5 million new homes statewide, all while navigating the state's annual barrage of overreaching housing bills that have thus far demonstrated limited success.

SB 423 is the latest overreaching bill. This measure would double-down on the recent trend of the state overriding its own mandated local housing plans by forcing cities to approve certain housing projects without regard to the needs of the community, opportunities for environmental review, or public input. While it may be frustrating for some developers to address neighborhood concerns about traffic, parking, and other development impacts, those directly affected by such projects have a right to be heard. Public engagement also often leads to better projects. Not having such outlets will increase public distrust in government and result in additional ballot measures limiting housing development.

Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.

Paramount is located in the middle of the densest region in the nation. To give you perspective, many of our neighborhoods consist of 1,200 sqft. lots that house three and even four families. I am deeply concerned that these bills will nullify local land and zoning protections, many of which were approved by local voters. Furthermore, by eliminating the requirement of a CEQA review process, residents would have fewer opportunities to share concerns relating to the developments of this kind proposed in their neighborhoods.

Instead of continuing to pursue top-down, one-size-fits-all legislation, lawmakers should partner with local officials. That's why the League of California Cities is calling on the Governor and lawmakers to include a \$3 billion annual investment in the state budget to help cities prevent and reduce homelessness and spur housing development. Targeted, ongoing funding is the only way cities can find community-based solutions that get our residents off the streets and keep them in their homes. California will never produce the number of homes needed with an increasingly state driven, by-right housing approval process. What is really needed is a sustainable state investment that matches the scale of this long-term crisis.

The City of Paramount is committed to being part of the solution to the housing shortfall across all income levels and will continue to work collaboratively with your office to spur much needed housing construction. For these reasons, the City of Paramount requests your consideration in vetoing SB 35. Thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Vilma Cuellar Stallings
Mayor

Cc. Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, 63rd District
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 43rd District
Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, California Contract Cities Association