

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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March 16, 2022

Miguel Figueroa, County Executive Officer
County of Imperial
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA, 92243

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2022

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Dear Miguel Figueroa:

RE: County of Imperial's 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Adopted Housing Element

Thank you for submitting the County of Imperial's (County) housing element adopted February 8, 2022 and received for review on February 17, 2022. Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, subdivision (h), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is reporting the results of its review.

HCD is pleased to find the adopted housing element in full compliance with State Housing Element Law (Article 10.6 of the Gov. Code). The adopted element was found to be substantially the same as the revised draft element that HCD's January 18, 2022 review determined met statutory requirements.

The County must continue timely and effective implementation of all programs including but not limited to the following:

- *Program 3 (Specific Plan Development)*: This program commits to promoting access to opportunity for lower-income households and facilitating housing mobility in higher resource areas.
- *Program 4 (Colonia Master Plan)*: This program, among other things, commits to surveying two colonias annually, with the intent of developing and implementing targeted infrastructure investments in these areas.
- *Program 9 (ADU Incentives)*: This program commits to increase access to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in the County with a monitoring program within two years of adoption.
- *Program 13 (Support Affordable Housing Development)*: This program commits the County to regulatory incentives, financial assistance, and information for the development of housing affordable to lower-income individuals. Additionally, this program commits to a schedule of actions, including pursuing funding.

The County must monitor and report on the results of this and other programs through the annual progress report, required pursuant to Government Code section 65400. Please be aware, Government Code section 65585, subdivision (i) grants HCD authority to review any action or failure to act by a local government that it determines is inconsistent with an adopted housing element or housing element law. This includes failure to implement program actions included in the housing element. HCD may revoke housing element compliance if the local government's actions do not comply with state law.

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant; the Strategic Growth Council and HCD's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities programs; and HCD's Permanent Local Housing Allocation consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the County meets housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

For your information, some general plan element updates are triggered by housing element adoption. HCD reminds the County to consider timing provisions and welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. For information, please see the Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/OPR_Appendix_C_final.pdf and http://opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf.

HCD appreciates the attentiveness, responsiveness, dedication, and effort that Jim Minnick, Director; Esperanza Colio, Deputy County Executive Officer; Michael Abraham, Assistant Director; David Black, Planner IV; Diana Robinson, Planner III; and the County's consultants Cynthia Walsh and Lucy Rollins provided throughout the housing element review. Their combined efforts were a tremendous help to HCD's review of the housing element, and it was a pleasure to work with them. HCD wishes the County success in implementing its housing element and looks forward to following its progress through the General Plan annual progress reports pursuant to Government Code section 65400. If HCD can provide assistance in implementing the housing element, please contact Jose Ayala, of our staff, at Jose.Ayala@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul McDougall
Senior Program Manager