

Lisa Driscoll

From: Valerie Jameson <valerie@richmondland.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X Public Comment and Attached Letter to the MXCAB
Attachments: Housing Advocacy Letter to MXCAB.pdf

Hi Lisa,

I would like for you to include the following public comment and letter into the public record for the measure X committee meeting tomorrow. Please confirm that it was able to be included.

Thank you!

Hi, my name is Valerie Jameson,

I am a Richmond resident and Executive Director of Richmond LAND. I would like to speak in support of an attached letter signed on by 7 housing justice organizations (ACCE, EBASE, the California Community Land Trust Network, Monument Impact, Richmond LAND, Richmond Rapid Response Fund, and SOS Richmond) that expresses a collective housing priority recommendation that we hope the MXCAB will consider. Below are key takeaways from the letter I would like to highlight:

- We fully support the 8/20 polling decision to prioritize investment in allocating County funds to address gaps in tenant legal services. Families must have immediate access to legal aid as a buffer to displacement.
- We believe that an effective way to ensure that the CLT model can thrive in Contra Costa County is to offer public subsidies for preservation and alternative housing projects. By creating new funding opportunities in the County's existing housing finance delivery systems that benefit local residents and practitioners, the County is creating the conditions for innovative housing solutions to flourish.
- We] strongly urge that the MXCAB funding priorities to the Board of Supervisors reflect a recommendation for a County Housing Trust Fund that invests in a spectrum of affordable housing preservation and production priorities.
- Require that half of the funds allocated for a Housing Trust Fund be used on preservation and anti-displacement as a preventive measure to marginal housing and homelessness. The portion of the Housing Trust Fund restricted for preservation use should focus on stabilizing unsubsidized single-family homes and small apartment complexes that have little to no protection and oversight. We strongly urge the creation of dedicated Housing Trust Fund programs for the following areas:
 - a. Creation of a County Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that specifies a portion of Housing Trust Fund dollars go toward acquisition rehabilitation of properties
 - b. Ensure a portion of the Fund is used to acquire and preserve 1-4 unit buildings
 - c. Ensure a portion of the Fund is used to acquire and preserve apartment buildings with 5 units or more
 - d. Develop a 0% loan program for stabilizing properties at risk of foreclosure, creating a program that will complement the contemplated Foreclosure Intervention Housing Prevention Program being developed by the state
 - e. Allocate a portion of the Fund for an interdepartmental matching grant program between the Department of Conservation and Development, the Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) Department, and the Contra Costa Housing Authority that will offer pre-development funding and capacity-building mini-grants for interim housing strategies, state-compliant transitional villages, and permanent supportive housing solutions for unsheltered residents.

We are also recommending that the MXCAB housing recommendation includes preferential scoring or requirements for the release of funds that prioritizes collaboration between existing tenants and local community-based organizations, and commits to permanent affordability to access Housing Trust Funds

The highest and best use of funds is addressing barriers to safe, secure, and stable affordable housing through immediate housing interventions, housing preservation, and pathways for equitable housing production. We hope that you accommodate our full recommendations and language in your report.

Thank you for your time!

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Valerie Jameson

Founding Executive Director
she/her/ella

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