

11 January 2024

Melinda Coy, Proactive Housing Accountability Chief  
California Department of Housing and Community Development  
2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95833

*sent via email*RE: 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Update Rezone Requirements

Dear Melinda Coy,

This letter is in response to the Letter of Inquiry from HCD dated 21 December 2023 regarding the status of the County's implementation of its 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Program 4 (Actions to Meet Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), as required by Government Code Section 65585, subdivision (i)). Please accept this letter confirming that all rezoning actions have been completed to implement Program 4 as of 5 December 2023.

On 22 August 2023 the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors adopted the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element update by Resolution Number 23-0429. The adopted Housing Element was transmitted to HCD on 29 August 2023. Authorized technical modifications were sent to HCD on 25 October 2023. On 26 October 2023 HCD certified that the Housing Element was in substantial compliance with State Housing Element Law (Government Code Section 65580 et seq). The majority of sites identified for rezoning by Program 4 to meet the County's Regional Housing Needs Allocation were rezoned at the time of adoption of the Housing Element (sites listed in enclosed Housing Element Appendix D, Table 15).

On 5 December 2023 the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 23-0579 and Ordinance No. 6457 (enclosed) which included amendments to General Plan Land Use Map designations necessary to complete the rezoning of housing sites included in Housing Element Program 4, specifically subprograms 4a and 4b (sites listed in enclosed Housing Element Appendix D, Table 16). Included in this item were amendments to Sonoma County Chapter 26 (Zoning) to implement Program 15b, ensuring compliance with State law reducing constraints on housing development. Revisions include updates to definitions, allowed uses and development standards for consistency with current State laws, and changes to standards to allow for a maximum of two ADUs on eligible lots.

The County is committed to maintaining compliance with State Housing Element Law and implementing its Housing Action Plan during the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle. Please let us know if HCD requires any further information to confirm the County's compliance with rezoning requirements.

Sincerely,



Tennis Wick, AICP  
Director

Enclosed: Resolution Number 23-0429  
Ordinance 6457  
Resolution No. 23-0579  
Certified Housing Element Appendix D  
RE: 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Update Rezone Requirements – Letter of Inquiry

ec: Reid Miller (Reid.Miller@hcd.ca.gov)