



May 27, 2020

The Honorable Ben Allen
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 995 Support – Fast-Tracked California Environmental Quality Act Review for Infill Housing

Dear Senator Allen and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Council of Infill Builders, a statewide organization of real estate professionals committed to improving California through infill development, I write to support Senate Bill 995, to extend fast-tracked review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to infill housing.

Our members strongly support efforts to streamline permitting for infill projects, which can otherwise create a significant barrier for badly needed housing near our job centers and major transit. Local government decisions to allow discretionary review on these types of projects can trigger lengthy and expensive CEQA review and occasionally litigation.

Current law allows certain large projects, upon receiving certification of meeting environmental standards from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, to qualify for fast-tracked CEQA review. SB 995 would make this alternate CEQA review path more equitable by allowing smaller infill housing projects, with at least 15% affordable units, to qualify for the same fast-tracking process.

The Council of Infill Builders thanks you in advance for considering SB 995 and these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Meea Kang
Council of Infill Builders