



July 21, 2020

Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 281 – Temporary Extension of Deadlines for Housing due to COVID-19

Dear Chair Aguiar-Curry:

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 281, which would extend the expiration date of building permits or other entitlements necessary for, or pertaining to, a housing development project. This proposed legislation recognizes the extreme health and financial hardship due to the COVID-19-induced recession and offers a measured and time-limited response.

SB 281 maintains the status quo of local development processes and simply extends approvals already made by 24 months, if they are subject to a time limitation. Ensuring these approved housing projects stay in the pipeline is critical to ensuring that the state addresses its extreme housing shortage, as well as makes housing available as this current recession ends.

This temporary extension is badly needed. According to the League of California Cities, over 90 percent of cities report that they are considering cutting or furloughing city staff or decreasing public services, and 72 percent of cities report they may take both actions. As a result, SB 281 will allow cities to spend their limited and diminishing resources where they are most needed and not waste dollars and time reapproving previously approved projects.

A uniform statewide permit and entitlement extension measure is necessary to avoid the significant statewide cost and allocation of local government staff resources. The Council of Infill Builders thanks you for your attention and consideration of SB 281.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meea Kang". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Meea Kang
Board Member, Council of Infill Builders