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May 19, 2017

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Ben Metcalf
Director
California Department of Housing and Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

**Re: AB 73 (Chiu): Planning and zoning: housing sustainability districts
(Support)**

Dear Mr. Metcalf:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Conference Business Meeting on May 3, 2017 to take a Support recommendation on AB 73 (Chiu), a bill that would authorize a city or county to create "housing sustainability districts" (HSD) to complete the upfront zoning and environmental review in order to receive incentive payments for residential and mixed-use development projects with an affordable housing component.

CCLHO supports AB 73, as this bill would facilitate the creation of housing on infill sites around public transportation through the HSD overlay districts. These districts would be zoned at higher densities, near public transit, and with a requirement that at least 20 percent of the housing constructed within a district is affordable to very low, low-, and moderate-income households for at least 55 years. These districts would help address the housing needs of low-income renter households in California that report spending more than half of their income on housing.

Facilitating the development of affordable housing through housing sustainability districts would benefit some of California's most vulnerable populations by addressing the lack of affordable, safe housing and increase the ability of families to afford and make healthy choices in other areas as well. Housing is an important social determinant of health, defined as the economic and social conditions that affect health outcomes.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

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This position of support for the creation of housing sustainability districts, as outlined in AB 73, is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of promoting and protecting health and well-being through a focus on targeted outcomes for all people.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us or at 530-265-7154.

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

cc: Glen Campora, California Department of Housing and Community Development