

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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July 16, 2010

Mr. Larry Spikes
County Administrator
Kings County
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

Dear Mr. Spikes:

RE: Review of the County of Kings' Adopted Housing Element

Thank you for submitting Kings County's housing element adopted May 18, 2010 and received for review on June 9, 2010. The Department is required to review adopted housing elements and report the findings to the locality pursuant to Government Code Section 65585(h).

As you know, the Department's March, 29, 2010 review found Kings' revised draft housing element addressed the statutory requirements of housing element law. As the adopted element is substantially the same as the revised draft, the Department is pleased to find the element in full compliance with State housing element law (Article 10.6 of the Government Code). The Department also acknowledges the County's innovative effort to collaborate on housing planning countywide through the coordinated joint housing element update process.

The Department commends Kings County's commitment to assist in the development of housing affordable to lower-income households (Program 5.14), assist in the development of housing for farmworkers (5.11), and provide homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers (Program 5.6). These strategies promote the feasibility of developing housing for lower-income families and workers while strengthening the local economy.

The Department is pleased to report Kings County now meets specific requirements for several State funding programs designed to reward local governments for compliance with State housing element law. For example, the Housing Related Parks (HRP) Program, Local Housing Trust Fund and the Building Equity and Growth in Neighborhoods (BEGIN) programs include housing element compliance either as a threshold or competitive factor in rating and ranking applications. Additional information about these and other programs is available on the Department's website at http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrc/plan/he/loan_grant_hcompl011708.pdf.

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In particular, the HRP Program, authorized by Proposition 1C, is an innovative new program rewarding local governments for the approval of housing for lower-income households and provides grant funds to eligible local governments for every qualifying housing start, beginning calendar year 2010. More specific information about the HRP Program is available on the Department's website at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrpp>.

The Department appreciates the cooperation and assistance of Mr. Marcum Caldwell of the City's Community Development Department throughout the course of the review. We wish Kings County success in implementing its housing element and look forward to following its progress through the General Plan annual progress reports pursuant to Government Code Section 65400. If the Department can provide assistance in implementing the housing element, please contact Melinda Benson, of our staff, at (916) 445-5307.

Sincerely,



Cathy E. Creswell
Deputy Director

cc: Gregory Gatzka, Community Development Director, Kings County
Terri King, Executive Director, Kings County Association of Governments
John Douglas, Conexus