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June 20, 2000

To: Members, Sacramento City Council

Re: Draft Housing Element/Affordable Housing Program Priorities

Dear Council Members:

As a City of Sacramento resident since 1983, I would like to express my specific concern for three items that are included in the draft housing element.

First, I believe it is fundamentally important for the City to use its housing resources to preserve housing affordability for a broad spectrum of family incomes, ranging from very low to moderate, and family groupings, ranging from single individuals like myself to multi-generational and extended families such as grandparents raising grandchildren who are not only siblings but also cousins or adult children providing care for their aged and disabled family members in their own homes. Historically such family structures, and economic mixes were what defined American cities, particularly city centers and immediately outlying neighborhoods.

Second, I would urge you to reconsider any proposals to direct housing assistance funds away from very low and low income households to moderate income families with earnings of more than \$50,000 per year. I would like to take this opportunity to dispel the lore that describes low income families as people on welfare who by their very presence reduce property values. Despite our presently booming economy, many low income households consists of two working parents, two or fewer children under the age of five with at least one of those parents trying to improve his or her economic standing as one of my students at CSUS.

Finally, I ask that you consider very seriously the risks that many families face with the possible loss of affordable housing as a result of changes in the federally-assisted housing programs. I believe that the media and political elites have been encouraged to focus on the few unsuccessful experiments in federally-assisted housing. Much of the growth of this City and the region are directly traceable to federal housing assistance that took the form of loans to veterans such as my father, a young schoolteacher and postal worker. The units at risk of being lost to very low and low income families are reaching the end of their useful lives without substantial rehabilitation. Without public reinvestment these resources will, like much other very low affordability level housing, be lost. The priorities should include neighborhood reinvestment targeted at established neighborhoods, such as the Franklin Boulevard and Stockton Boulevard corridors.

I urge you to consider the adoption of a housing element that is consistent with existing legal standards, but which critically promotes diversity on many levels and inclusion as a community goal.

