



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

June 3, 2025

The Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Member of the State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support - Senate Bill 79 (Wiener)

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of my client, the City of San Diego, I am writing in support of your measure, SB 79, which advances California's efforts to promote transit-oriented development (TOD) and better align housing and land use policy with sustainable transportation goals.

SB 79 is an important step toward building a more equitable, connected, and environmentally sustainable California. By incentivizing and removing barriers to development near high-quality transit, this legislation supports the creation of vibrant, walkable communities with improved access to jobs, housing, education, and services—particularly for low- and moderate-income residents.

The City of San Diego has long recognized the importance of transit-oriented development in achieving our broader climate action, housing, and mobility objectives. Under Mayor Todd Gloria's leadership, the City has implemented several initiatives to accelerate housing production near transit, including:

- **Housing Action Package 2.0:** Approved in December 2023, this package implements state law to allow the construction of more new homes near transit, provides protections to existing residents, and increases the supply of land available for new home development.
- **Complete Communities Now:** Launched in January 2024, this program requires City departments to review qualifying housing projects within 30 days, accelerating housing near transit and building on the success of 2023's Affordable Housing Permit Now program.
- **Bridge to Home Initiative:** Since its inception in 2021, this initiative has provided gap-financing assistance to affordable housing projects, helping to get shovels in the ground more quickly. As of December 2024, six affordable housing projects have been recommended to receive a total of \$24 million in City funding under this program.

These efforts have contributed to a significant increase in housing production. In 2023, the City issued permits for 9,691 new homes—a roughly 82% increase over the prior year and the highest total in the last two decades.

SB 79 aligns closely with these local goals and reinforces the urgent need to coordinate state and local planning around a shared vision for sustainable growth. By promoting housing in transit-rich areas, the bill supports a critical shift toward development patterns that are climate-resilient, economically inclusive, and transportation-efficient.

The City of San Diego applauds Senator Wiener's leadership in advancing this forward-thinking legislation and urges the Legislature to support SB 79. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 206-4459 or moira@toppstrategies.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Moira C. Topp
Topp Strategies

cc: Senate Housing Committee
Senate Local Government Committee