

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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January 28, 2016

Mr. David Elias, City Manager
City of Fowler
128 S. Fifth Street
Fowler, CA 93625

Dear Mr. Elias:

RE: Review of Fowler's 5th Cycle (2015-2023) Revised Draft Housing Element

Thank you for submitting the City of Fowler's revised draft housing element update, as part of the Fresno County Multi-jurisdictional Housing Element. The element was received for review on December 8, 2015 along with revisions received on January 25, 2016. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65585(b), the Department is reporting the results of its review. Our review was facilitated by various communications with Ms. Veronica Tam, the City's consultant. In addition, the Department considered comments from Leadership Council of Justice and Accountability pursuant to Government Code Section 65585(c).

The revised draft element meets the statutory requirements described in the Department's October 9, 2015 review. The revised element will comply with State housing element law (Article 10.6 of the Government Code) when adopted and submitted to the Department, in accordance with Government Code Section 65585(g).

To remain on an eight year planning cycle, pursuant to Senate Bill 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008), the City must adopt its housing element within 120 calendar days from the statutory due date of December 31, 2015 for Fresno COG localities. If adopted after this date, GC Section 65588(e)(4) requires the housing element be revised every four years until adopting at least two consecutive revisions by the statutory deadline. For more information on housing element adoption requirements, please visit the Department's website at: http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrc/plan/he/he_review_adoptionsteps110812.pdf.

Please note, Fowler may meet housing element requirements for the Housing Related Parks Program (HRP). The HRP Program, funded by Proposition 1C, provides grant funds to eligible local governments for every qualifying lower income unit permitted since 2010. The HRP Program 2015 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), released October 26, 2015, announced the availability of approximately \$30 million in grant funds to eligible applicants. Applications are due **February 4, 2016**. Further information about the HRP Program is available on the Department's website at <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/hrpp/>.

Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning. Throughout the housing element process, the City must continue to engage the community, including organizations that represent lower-income and special needs households, by making information regularly available and considering and incorporating comments where appropriate.

For your information, some other elements of the general plan must be updated on or before the next adoption of the housing element. The safety and conservation elements of the general plan must include analysis and policies regarding fire and flood hazard management (GC Section 65302(g)). Also, the land-use element must address disadvantaged communities (unincorporated island or fringe communities within spheres of influence areas or isolated long established "legacy" communities) based on available data, including, but not limited to, data and analysis applicable to spheres of influence areas pursuant to GC Section 56430. Additional information can be obtained from these two Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/SB244_Technical_Advisory.pdf
http://opr.ca.gov/docs/Final_6.26.15.pdf.

Also, on January 6, 2016, HCD released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Mobilehome Park Rehabilitation and Resident Ownership Program (MPRRP). This program replaces the former Mobilehome Park Resident Ownership Program (MPROP) and allows expanded uses of funds. The purposes of this new program are to loan funds to facilitate converting mobilehome park ownership to park residents or a qualified nonprofit corporation, and assist with repairs or accessibility upgrades meeting specified criteria. This program supports housing element goals such as encouraging a variety of housing types, preserving affordable housing, and assisting mobilehome owners, particularly those with lower-incomes. Applications are accepted over the counter beginning March 2, 2016 through March 1, 2017. Further information is available on the Department's website at: <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/financial-assistance/mobilehome-park-rehabilitation-resident-ownership-program/index.html>.

The Department commends the City for participating in the multi-jurisdictional effort. Multi-jurisdictional coordination can result in benefits to the region and Fowler. The Department appreciates the hard work and dedication provided by you and Ms. Tam, the City's consultant, in preparation of the housing element and looks forward to receiving Fowler's adopted housing element. If you have any questions or need additional technical assistance, please contact Tom Brinkhuis, of our staff, at (916) 263-6651.

Sincerely,



Glen A. Campora
Assistant Deputy Director