



January 24, 2023

Paul McDougall
Senior Program Manager
Department Of Housing and Community Development
Division of Housing Policy Development
2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833

Subject: Adopted 6th Cycle Housing Element Update

Dear Mr. McDougall:

The City of Walnut Creek provides the attached Housing Element, which the Walnut Creek City Council has adopted and we believe is in substantial compliance with state housing law. Please note that the redlined pages incorporate changes made in response to both the December 5, 2022 findings letter and comments from the community and City Council and includes edits to enhance clarity and readability.

As we look toward the next eight years, we build on a decades-long legacy of creating a breadth of housing opportunities in our community. Over the last 80 years, Walnut Creek has evolved from a small farming town to a post-WWII suburb and, more recently, to a modern urbanizing city. In that time, we have consistently focused on offering a multitude of housing choices to meet the needs of families of diverse income levels and sizes. In fact, unlike most communities of our size, Walnut Creek's housing stock is primarily multifamily. Traditional single-family detached homes comprise less than 40 percent of our housing stock, while more than 60 percent of our housing encompasses large apartment/condominium developments, duplexes, townhomes and garden apartments that offer a wide range of affordability.

Building on our legacy of supporting housing, Walnut Creek, in recent years, has undertaken a series of strategic initiatives that have created the potential to substantially increase our housing supply. The City has focused its vision for new housing primarily in the downtown Core Area as a way to increase housing affordability and housing mobility, decrease the need for a vehicle, and increase access to jobs, good schools, and a plethora of amenities. Further, since establishing our inclusionary housing and commercial linkage fee programs, the City has invested over \$32 million to support the development of affordable units. We are also in the process of finalizing plans for permit-ready accessory dwelling units (ADUs), which will help to reduce the barriers to and the costs of building ADUs and help to address the availability of housing for the "missing middle."

Walnut Creek also understands the challenges faced by our community members who are unhoused, under-housed, or are the working poor. Our partnerships with non-profit organizations like Trinity Center and ECHO Housing, and our collaboration with Contra Costa County's CORE program, demonstrate our commitment to increase economic mobility by ensuring that all members of our community have access to housing along with supportive services.

In short, the City of Walnut Creek has consistently demonstrated our commitment to ensuring a full range of housing opportunities for our economically diverse community and we are resolved to continue this commitment. We will work with housing developers, non-profit partners, community members, and other stakeholders to achieve the goals of our 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

We appreciate the opportunity to work in partnership with HCD and the community to develop, adopt, and implement Walnut Creek's 2023-2031 Housing Element.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Silva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Silva
Mayor