State Certifies Costa Mesa's Housing Element

The California Department of Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) has officially certified the City of Costa Mesa's Housing Element, signifying that the City's collective housing-focused efforts, including Measure K, Housing Element sites and programs, and rezoning have resulted in compliance with State Housing Element law.

In certifying the Housing Element, HCD indicates that the City has identified sufficient capacity to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 11,760 units across all income levels, and that the Housing Element programs facilitate residential development, preserve existing affordable housing, and address fair housing practices.

"The certification of our Housing Element is the result of years of hard work by our staff and City Council as we worked with our community and state leaders on this project," Mayor John Stephens said. "Costa Mesa has demonstrated a willingness to expand affordable housing opportunities through Measure K, our affordable housing ordinance and trust fund, three permanent supportive housing projects, the Fairview Developmental Center Specific Plan and zoning ordinances that consider the housing needs of the next generation. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this milestone."

The certification of the Housing Element marks a key achievement after the city was directed in 2019 to develop a plan to meet its RHNA capacity. Having a certified Housing Element ensures that the City of Costa Mesa:

· Retains local control of land use, including protection from Builders Remedy Projects

· Avoids monetary penalties

· Is eligible for state funding for city and supported housing projects, which in the past have included the City Bridge Shelter, Jamboree Senior Housing, Mesa Vista, and Avon River Apartments

· Remains focused on implementation of the various housing programs that will deliver housing and assistance to residents.

Community Development Director Carrie Tai states, “Our city planners have been dedicated and focused on obtaining a compliant Housing Element, so we can continue the hard work to further the strategic initiatives of the City Council to provide housing opportunities for all. We thank the entire community, the City Council, Planning Commission, city staff, and HCD representatives for their contributions.”

The ongoing implementation of the City’s Housing Element reflects the City’s ongoing commitment to ensure that there are housing opportunities to meet the needs of current and future residents. For more information, please visit the City’s Housing Element website.