



# CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



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March 2, 2023

Senator Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Housing Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: Senators Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Catherine Blakespear, Anna M. Caballero, Dave Cortese, Mike McGuire, Steve Padilla, Kelly Seyarto, Nancy Skinner, Thomas J. Umberg, and Aisha Wahab, and Chief Consultant Alison Hughes

RE: Senate Bill 4 - Notice of Opposition, As Amended 2/22/23

Dear Senator Wiener,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our opposition to Senate Bill 4, which would require that a housing development project be a use by right upon the request of an applicant who submits an application for streamlined approval on any land owned by an independent institution of higher education or religious institution.

CCCA's position on SB 4 derives from our understanding that the bill would directly limit cities' local policing powers over housing development processes in their own jurisdictions. As an organization we believe cities have the ability - and should have the authority - to fashion policies that best fit the needs of their communities. Every city is different, and these unique attributes should be a key consideration when developing broad policies that will impact local communities. CCCA routinely supports legislation that incorporates collaborative solutions to policy issues that involve land-use and housing. Unfortunately, we feel SB 4 is not such a solution, as the by-right legislation limits cities' discretionary review processes for local development projects, inherently restricting local representatives' ability to directly respond to the needs and interests of their constituents.

CCCA represents over 85 cities throughout California. For more than 65 years, CCCA's mission has been to advance the benefits of the contracting model and strengthen local control. With collaborative governance as a focal point, CCCA has advanced its mission through education, advocacy, networking, and legislative access to protect and enhance the quality of life for more than 7.5 million residents. As a matter of policy, our organization supports and defends the rights of cities on policy issues pertinent to them. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our opposition to SB 4.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director