

**Albany City Council**  
**October 20, 2014 Meeting Summary**

**Study Session on Draft 2015-2023 Housing Element**

Barry Miller delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Working Draft 2015-2023 Housing Element. Miller explained that two weeks earlier, the Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended that the Council approve submittal of this Draft the State Department of Housing and Community Development for their review. The City is required to adopt a new Housing Element covering 2015-2023 by January 31, 2015.

Councilmember Maas asked if the Element could be modified after it is submitted to HCD. Miller indicated that this was possible, and expected. Maas wondered if the site at the corner of Cleveland and Washington should be added. He also asked why the section on energy conservation did not reference the West Riverside JPA. He asked if the UC Berkeley studio class studying the Mechanics Bank site might be interested in looking at additional sites in the city. He wondered why the City would consider minimum densities on San Pablo Avenue and not Solano Avenue. He also asked how Albany's timelines for building permits compared with other communities. He inquired about the possibility of the City appointing a "housing czar" and wondered how often the Council would receive reports on progress.

The public was provided with an opportunity for comment.

- Nick Pilch encouraged the Council to forward the Draft to HCD
- Alexa Hauser thanked the staff/consultant team for responding to so many of the Diverse Housing Working Group's comments. She felt the document was stronger as a result, but suggested it could be stronger still. She suggested the Safeway site and Cleveland Avenue site be added to the inventory. She also urged the Council to do the community support work on the Element once it had been adopted. She announced a number of upcoming meetings of the DHWG on the document.
- Clay Larsen noted that there as a misleading bit of information about Measure D in the text. The text implies that Measure D requires that conforming parking is provided when residential additions greater than 240 square feet are approved. This is a zoning standard not linked to Measure D.
- Paul O'Curry said he was glad to see a program to establish a homeless drop in center
- Peggy McQuaid said she felt the process was a good example of staff and the community working collaboratively. She said the City should pursue increased staff resources to implement these programs.
- Julie Winklestein suggested that the City get the word out about its upcoming meetings, and felt most people are unaware that this process is happening. She also thanked staff for placing an emphasis on extremely low income households.

There was no further discussion by the Council. A motion to forward the document to HCD was made and seconded.