



January 11, 2022

Association of Monterey Bay Governments, Board of Directors
24580 Silver Cloud Court
Monterey, California 93940

Subject: Item 9B, 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Methodology

Dear Chair McShane and Members of the Board:

We are grateful of the impactful work AMBAG staff has invested in collaborating with cities and the public with the proposed 6th Cycle RHNA methodology. The City of Soledad supports Option Z of the proposed 6th Cycle RHNA methodology found in the January 12, 2022 board packet.

The State of California's aggressive plan for housing in our region by 2031 tops roughly 33,274 (including 13,014 affordable to lower income households) critically needed homes. To achieve this herculean goal, the City of Soledad supports Option Z as a critical path in achieving these numbers set by the State of California. In addition to meeting the much-needed housing for our region, Option Z creates the ability for increasing the number of available homes, equity, economic development and furthering fair housing.

The City of Soledad, like many communities throughout California are losing the ability to create and foster deep roots for many of our families. Countless young individuals are leaving California for other states that offer the ability for first time homebuyers. We are experiencing a vacuum in which future familial legacies are disrupted because of the lack of homes for this new generation of home buyers. Supporting Option Z assists Soledad and many other communities by offering more units which can entice first time home buyers to stay in California.

According to Attachment 5 of the packet, 724 units are designated for the City Soledad. The City has the ability to meet this number and is an appropriate allocation in relation to our neighboring communities.

We are grateful for your leadership in assisting Soledad and our neighboring communities meet our project housing needs. The City of Soledad is looking forward to working with AMBAG and other member municipalities in furthering the production of affordable housing and believe that Option Z will also assist the City in achieving this goal as we prepare to update our Housing Element.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Swanson

Bryan T. Swanson
Community and Economic Development Director