



April 19, 2021

Honorable Kathleen Ward, Mayor
Honorable Gene James, Mayor Pro Tem
Honorable Chris Duncan, Council Member
Honorable Laura Ferguson, Council Member
Honorable Steve Knoblock, Council Member
City of San Clemente
910 Calle Negocio
San Clemente, CA 92673

RE: ZONING AMENDMENT PLN19-032 INCLUSIONARY HOUSING PROGRAM AND IN-LIEU FEE UPDATE

Dear Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the South Orange County Economic Coalition (SOCEC), I am writing to you to express our thoughts regarding the Inclusionary Housing Program In-Lieu Fee.

Since 1969 SOCEC has been the leading voice in South Orange County advocating for a strong and vibrant economic climate both locally and regionally. We promote advocacy, education and representation, and speak on behalf of businesses throughout our region on issues relating to public policy and legislation. SOCEC recognizes that more housing is needed to ensure that South Orange County continues to grow in a strategic and beneficial manner with a healthy jobs-to-housing relationship.

We understand that the item listed above will be on your April 20, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda. We hope you will strongly consider a policy that does not restrain housing production, increase ownership costs and further complicate attainability. With that, we support the reconfiguration of the current formula that could ultimately and significantly reduce the “in-lieu” fee for housing projects. The logic and reasoning behind this proposed reduction of the “in-lieu” fee is exactly what the development community needs during these rare and uncertain times.

Thank you for your consideration of SOCEC’s request.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Thomas
Executive Director