



Office of the City Manager

April 6, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Christine Daniel, City Manager   
Subject: Housing Element 2015-2023 and Related Draft Negative Declaration

This memo transmits the final draft of the City of Berkeley Housing Element 2015-2023, and the related draft Negative Declaration that Council will be asked to consider on April 28, 2015. (Please see <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=23512>. This links to the Planning Department's Housing Element web page. The items marked "New" in yellow are the draft documents.) The Housing Element (HE) is adopted as an element of the General Plan and the updated HE *Objectives* and *Policies and Actions* are inserted in the General Plan. The Housing Element is a policy document, does not propose the rezoning of any lands, and does not of itself result in development. Further, any development that might occur in the future would be obligated to follow the City's discretionary processes and environmental review.

The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has developed a streamlined review process based on prior performance and compliance with established criteria. Berkeley is eligible for this streamlined review and HCD has provided a letter dated February 17, 2015 stating that the draft Housing Element meets the statutory requirements of the State Housing Element law. As a result, with the adoption of the draft Housing Element, Berkeley's review cycle will be reset to eight years. To remain on the eight year cycle, the City must adopt this 5<sup>th</sup> cycle Housing Element no later than May 31, 2015.

After a two meeting Public Hearing process ending on February 18, 2015, the Planning Commission unanimously (9-0) recommended that the City Council adopt the draft Housing Element 2015-2023 and related Negative Declaration.

On April 28, the Council will be asked to take the following actions:

- Hold a Public Hearing on the Housing Element 2015-2023
- Adopt the Negative Declaration finding of no negative impacts resulting from the Housing Element
- Adopt the Housing Element 2015-2023 as part of the General Plan

cc: Dee Williams-Ridley, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Eric Angstadt, Planning Director  
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor  
Matthai Chakko, Public Information Officer