

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
(916) 263-7400 / FAX (916) 263-7417  
[www.hcd.ca.gov](http://www.hcd.ca.gov)



November 26, 2013

The Honorable Bob Foster  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**RE: City of Long Beach's 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element**

Dear Mayor Foster:

Thank you for your November 4, 2013 correspondence to Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency's Secretary Anna Caballero. Secretary Caballero has directed your correspondence to the Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) for response.

In your letter, you request the Department immediately issue a "presumption of approval" for the City of Long Beach's revised draft housing element that the Department received for review on October 30, 2013. Based on conversations with City staff, the Department understands your correspondence was intended to request an expedited review of the revised draft with the Department's findings.

The Department is in the process of expediting the review of your draft housing element. Pursuant to provisions of Government Code 65585(b) and (c), the Department must allow time for the public to consider the draft revisions and receive and consider written public comments. For this reason, the Department urges local governments to make documents such as the revised draft available for public comment prior to submittal to the Department.

The Department's records show the City's first draft housing element was received June 27, 2013 and written findings were provided to the City on August 26, 2013. The draft housing element was found to need revisions to address a few statutory requirements and the Department is continuing to assist the City in revising the element to meet statutory requirements.

The City made revisions to the draft element received for review on October 30, 2013. Making documents available to the public with an opportunity for comment before submittal to the Department is essential to meeting statutory requirements for public participation. While the Department has 60 days to review the revised draft, we will expedite the review after the City has completed meetings scheduled on December 5 and 10, 2013 to allow for public comment.

In your letter, you questioned the authority for HCD to request particular housing element program actions be revised to identify implementation and completion dates and outcomes. Government Code Section 65583(c) discusses the importance of specific actions with timelines for programs to achieve a beneficial impact over the planning period. This is particularly important since a couple of the City's key programs lacked specific dates or timelines to establish and implement strategies, plans and ordinances.

In administering State housing element law, the Department's goal is to work cooperatively and in partnership with Long Beach and stakeholders. The Department remains committed to effectively move forward in partnership with the City and provide assistance as the City conducts its public process. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Bates, Deputy Director, or Glen Campora, Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Housing Policy Development, at (916) 263-2911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall A. Deems". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Randall A. Deems  
Acting Director

cc: Anna Caballero, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency