

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Speaker Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly
California State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Pro Tem Toni Atkins
California State Senate
California State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 899 - Unlocking Faith-Based Land for Affordable Housing

Dear Speaker Rendon and President Pro Tem Atkins,

We, the undersigned faith communities, strongly support SB 899, which allows us to re-imagine the land owned by our houses of worship as a solution, a home, and a sanctuary for those in need. Affordable housing is a resource to our communities that provides stability, community, and economic opportunity to our neighbors. We only have this resource if we build it. With so many families rent-burdened, struggling to make ends meet because of rising rents across the state, SB 899 would give us the tools to help our community and provide stability, and protection.

We represent diverse communities of faith across California including Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and other faiths, in counties across our entire state.

We believe that every child, woman, man, and human deserves dignity and justice, and we come to the table understanding how fundamental a safe, stable, affordable home is to achieving these rights. One way we live out our faith is by providing food and shelter to those in need. SB 899 will undo harmful and exclusionary policies that keep us from building affordable housing on the lands we own and desire to offer to the communities we serve.

SB 899 will make building 100% affordable housing easier, faster, and cheaper on land owned by faith-based institutions and non-profit colleges by removing zoning restrictions and speeding up approval processes.

As faith-based organizations, we serve as long-standing community anchors and we are very excited to utilize SB 899 to build the affordable housing opportunities our residents, congregation members, and community members so desperately need. We are inspired by the power of SB 899 to transform our neighborhoods into welcoming, inclusive communities open to people of all races and creeds. SB 899 is an opportunity to undo some of our state's ugly history of segregated neighborhoods by creating more opportunities to build 100% affordable housing in places that have made such development infeasible.

With this bill we will build in neighborhoods of opportunity which are neighborhoods whose residents have been shown in study after study, to enjoy longer life expectancy with better overall health outcomes and higher lifetime earnings. According to Mapping the Potential and Identifying the Barriers to Faith-Based Housing Development, a study by the UC Berkeley Turner Center, 45% of land owned by faith-based institutions (around 18,000 acres) is located in high opportunity areas based on maps created by the Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

To put it simply: We have the desire to create more affordable and inclusive communities, we have the means, and our communities have the needs. We need SB 899 to give us the way.

We look forward to working with you to pass this critical bill that will make building affordable housing easier, faster, and cheaper for faith-based institutions and non-profit colleges that want to build affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Alameda

CEO Rev. Ambrose F. Carroll Green The Church Berkeley, Alameda County	Ms. Maureen Prochaska First Church Berkeley Berkeley, Alameda County	President Rev. Ken Chambers Interfaith Council of Alameda County (ICAC) Oakland, Alameda County
Trustee Dharma Galang The Berkeley Friends Church Oakland, Alameda County	Moderator Julia Greer First Congregational Church of Berkeley Oakland, Alameda County	Pastor Jim Hopkins Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church Oakland, Alameda County
Founder/Leader Rabi'a Keeble Qalbu Maryam Women's Mosque Berkeley, Alameda County	The Reverend Joellynn Monahan The Spiral Way - Spiritual Direction Oakland, Alameda County	Chairperson Sheila Sims LABC Hunger Task Force Alameda, Alameda County
The Rev. Phil Brochard All Souls Episcopal Parish Berkeley, Alameda County	Laurie Manning Skyline Church UCC Berkeley, Alameda County	Dr. Joan Farnsworth First Congregational Church of Alameda Oakland, Alameda County
Rabbi Chai Levy Congregation Netivot Shalom Oakland, Alameda County	Reverend Nancy McKay First Congregational Church Berkeley Oakland, Alameda County	Pastor Anthony Jenkins Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church Oakland, Alameda County
Senior Pastor & CEO Dr. Kenneth Anderson Williams Chapel Baptist Church Berkeley, Alameda County	Pastor Rev. Ken Chambers West Side Missionary Baptist Church Oakland, Alameda County	Ms. Jennifer Brooks Episcopal Impact Fund and Christ Church Alameda Oakland, Alameda County

Amador County

Presiding Elder Cedric Alexander
San Francisco-Sacramento District of the AME Church
Jackson, Amador County

Contra Costa County

Clerk, Judith Bunting
Delta Monthly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends
Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County

Senior Pastor Colin Kerr-Carpenter
Walnut Creek United Methodist Church
Pleasant Hill, Contra Costa County

Executive Director Rev. Will McGarvey
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
Clayton, Contra Costa County

Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
El Cerrito, Contra Costa County

Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain
The Good Table United Church of Christ
Danville, Contra Costa County

Associate Pastor Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley
Danville Congregational Church
Concord, Contra Costa County

Gloria Sewell-Murphy,
Member/EDC Commissioner
BMCR/ EHUMC
Richmond, Contra Costa County

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible
Northern California Nevada Conference UCC
Pittsburg, Contra Costa County

Pastor Rev. Will McGarvey
Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, CA
Lafayette, Contra Costa County

Rabbi Jay LeVine
Temple Isaiah
Richmond, Contra Costa County

Los Angeles County

Rev. Dr. Dale M. Weatherspoon
Easter Hill UMC
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Ministry Associate Rev. Bert Newton
Pasadena Mennonite Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Jill Shook
Making Housing and Community Happen
Santa Monica, Los Angeles County

Senior Pastor Eric C. Shafer
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
Santa Monica, Los Angeles County

Minister Rev. Jim Conn
United Methodist Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Rev. Jason Gamble
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Reverend Cedrick Bridgeforth
Grace United Methodist Church
Los Angeles/Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County

Pastor Nicolette Wilson
St James AME Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Michelle Seyler, Executive Director
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Canoga Park, Los Angeles County

Pastor Rev. Bill Freeman
Bill Freeman Ministries and Interfaith Solidarity Network
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

The Rev. John Cager
Ward AME Church
Culver City, Los Angeles County

Rev. Heidi Worthen-Gamble
Presbytery of the Pacific
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Elder Nancy Wambaa
St. John's Presbyterian
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Nirinjan Singh Khalsa,
Executive Director
California Sikh Council
Culver City, Los Angeles County

Rev. Dr. Frances W. Rosenau
Culver City Presbyterian Church
Redondo Beach, Los Angeles County

Reverend Peter Dunn
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Senior Pastor Robert L Taylor
Beulah Baptist Church
Inglewood, Los Angeles County
Rev. Dr. Harold E. Kidd
First Presbyterian Church of
Inglewood
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Rev. Dr. Bethany Fox
Beloved Everybody Church
San Pedro, Los Angeles County

Pastor Lisa Williams
San Pedro United Methodist
Church
Culver City, Los Angeles County

Disa Lindgren, Church Council
Chairperson
Culver-Palms United Methodist
Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Rev. Dr. Pat Langlois
MCC United Church of Christ in
the Valley
Vsn Nuys, Los Angeles County

Rector Robin L. Kassabian
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Scott Tanner, Director of
Church Communication
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints, Los Angeles
Region
Encino, Los Angeles County

Marsha L. Novak, Vice
President/CFO
Interfaith Solidarity Network
San Pedro, Los Angeles County

The Rev. Jeanette Repp
San Pedro Faith Consortium
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Rev. Dr. Steven Craig
St. John's Presbyterian Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Rev. Dr. Janet Bregar
Village Church of Brentwood
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley
Neighborhood Unitarian
Universalist Church
Van Nuys, Los Angeles County

Rabbi Jim Kaufman
Temple Beth Hillel and the
Interfaith Solidarity Network,
San Fernando Valley
Malibu, Los Angeles County

The Rev. Paul Elder
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Lomita, Los Angeles County

Elder Marilyn Miles
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Jennifer Perkins
Oasis Church LA
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

John Oh
LA Voice
Agoura Hills, Los Angeles
County

The Rev. Paul Elder
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Juliana Serrano, Community
Relations Director
All Saints Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Pastor Brita Pinkston
Pasadena Foursquare Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County
Marvin Andrade
LA Voice
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

M. Fareed Farukhi, Executive
Director
Risala USA Foundation
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Mayra Maxedo-Nolan
Clergy Community Coalition
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rector Mark Bradshaw
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Mariann H.M. Reardon, Minister
of Congregational Care
Pasadena Mennonite Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rev. Connie Millsap
The United Methodist Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Rev. Wendy S. Tajima
Presbytery of San Gabriel,
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Los Angeles County, Los
Angeles County

Mr. and Mrs. Roger and
Marilynne Wilander
Pasadena First United Methodist
Church/Pasadena FUMC
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Reverend Sandra Olewine

First United Methodist Church
Pasadena
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

John Bowlin, Community
Outreach Care Coordinator
Lake Avenue Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater
Friends In Deed
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Pastor Chuck Ryor
Prism Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Mr. Aleksan Giragosian, Deacon
St. Gregory Armenian Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Lead Pastor Robert Webster
Foothills Community Church in
Pasadena
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble
Presbytery of the Pacific
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Senior Pastor Drew Sams
Bel Air Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Dr Anthony Manousos
Quaker
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Associate Pastor Jasmine Boyle
Pasadena Foursquare Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Pastor Camille Wooden
Abundant Life Covenant Bible
Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Tina Wilks, Sunday School
Superintendent
New Life Holiness Church

Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Wendy Gist, Mission Advocate
for Hunger, Poverty, and
Peacemaking Issues
Presbytery of San Fernando
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Joyce Hill, Committee Member
The Bethel Baptist Church
Los Angeles, Los Angeles
County

Associate Pastor Rev. Michael
Morgan
Bel Air Church
Long Beach, Los Angeles
County

Rabbi Noah Farkas
Valley Beth Shalom
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Dr. David Sacks
Temple Israel,
Long Beach, California

Pamela Bingham, Trustee
Lincoln Ave Christian Church
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Marin County

Pamela Bingham, Trustee
Lincoln Ave Christian Church
Mill Valley, Marin County

Ginger Strickland, Associate
Priest
St. John's Episcopal Church
San Geronimo, Marin County

Pastor Katharine (Kate) Clayton
San Geronimo Community
Presbyterian Church
Novato, Marin County

Co-Pastor Kristina Karen
Ardito
Novato Community of Christ

Marin, Marin County

Reverend Stephanie Ryder
Redwoods Presbyterian Church
Marin, Marin County

Ms. Leslie R Lee
Mt Tamalpais United Methodist
Church and the Marin
Organizing Committee
Marin, Marin County

Ms. Jan O'Brien
Mt. Tam United Methodist
Church and MOC
Woodacre, Marin County
Suzanne Sadowsky, Chair,
Board of Directors
Gan HaLev
Tiburon and Marin, Marin
County

Senior Rabbi Susan Leider
Congregation Kol Shofar
Woodacre, Marin County

Rev. Scott Quinn
Marin Interfaith Council
Bollinas, Marin County

Priest Carol Luther
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Novato, Marin County

Orange County

Pastor Youngmi Jung
Novato United Methodist
Church
Santa Ana, Orange County

Senior Leader Dave Gibbons
NEWSONG
Anaheim, Orange County

Rev James Ford
Unitarian Universalist Church in
Anaheim
Anaheim, Orange County

Geraldine McNenny, President,
Board of Trustees
Unitarian Universalist Church in
Anaheim
Huntington Beach, Orange
County
Don Garrick, Chair
Orange County Interfaith
Presidents Council
Tustin, Orange County

Kathleen D. Sylvester
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Fullerton, Orange County

The Rev. Holly Cardone
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Orange, Orange County

The Rev. Jeannie Martz, Rector
Trinity Episcopal Church
Los Alamitos, Orange County

Sadie Sacks, Justice Team
Los Altos United Methodist
Church
Los Alamitos, Orange County

Member of Los Altos UMC, Long
Beach P McMillan
United Methodist Church
Santa Ana, Orange County

Bishop Andrew A. Taylor
Pacifica Synod of the ELCA
Santa Ana, Orange County

Sacramento County

Terry Tuvey Allen, Assistant to
the Bishop
Pacifica Synod
Sacramento, Sacramento
County

Akram Keval, Public Relations
Officer Interfaith Council of
Sacramento
Sacramento, Sacramento
County

Mrs. Serene Erby
Baha'i Faith
Sacramento, Sacramento
County

Deacon Richard Koppes
St Anthony Catholic Parish
Social Justice Committee
Sacramento , Sacramento
County

San Diego County

Edrine Ddungu, President
Interfaith Council of Greater
Sacramento
San Diego, San Diego County

Monica Ball, Faith Community
Outreach Lead
YIGBY - Yes In God's Back Yard
San Diego, San Diego County

Mr. John Ball
UPLIFT
La Mesa, San Diego County

Lois Knowlton, Chair
Community Outreach Ministry,
La Mesa First United Methodist
Church
Carlsbad, San Diego County

Pastor Greg R. Bostrom
Christ Presbyterian Church
La Mesa, San Diego County

Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn
Vista La Mesa Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
San Diego, San Diego County

Karen Koblentz, Chair
San Dieguito Interfaith
Ministerial Association
La Jolla, San Diego County

Lucinda Rasmussen PhD,
Community Outreach

Committee Unity Outreach
Program
La Mesa First United Methodist
Church
La Jolla, San Diego County

The Rev. Hannah Wilder, Priest
St Mark's Episcopal Church
Lemon Grove, San Diego
County

Ladrue Jordan, Chairman of the
Board
First Baptist Church of Lemon
Grove
San Diego, San Diego County

Pastor Jonathan Doolittle
Clairemont Lutheran Church
San Diego, San Diego County

Jolene Wade, Director of
Operations
Point Loma Community
Presbyterian Church, member
San Diego, San Diego County

Pamela Mabry, CEO
Luke 418 Ministries
San Diego, San Diego County

Pastor Jay Shirley
Northminster Presbyterian
Church
San Marcos, San Diego County

Mark Steenstra, Treasurer
Crossroads Christian Reformed
Church
San Diego, San Diego County

Reverend Karen Marohn
King of Kings Lutheran Church
San Diego, San Diego County

Thomas Morgan
Legacy Church SD
La Mesa, San Diego County

Deacon Taflin Fisher
Christ Lutheran Church
La Jolla, San Diego County

Pastor Paul Cunningham
La Jolla Presbyterian Church
San Diego, San Diego County

Senior Pastor Brian Daly
Pacific Beach Christian Church
San Diego County, San Diego
County

San Francisco County

Abbott Bailey, Canon to the
Ordinary
Episcopal Diocese of California
San Francisco, San Francisco
County

John Williams, Secretary, Board
of Directors
Pine Valley Bible Conference
Association
San Francisco, San Francisco
County

Deacon G. L. Hodge
San Francisco Interfaith Council
San Francisco, San Francisco
County

Theresa Cho
St. John's Presbyterian Church
San Francisco, San Francisco
County

Kathleen Piraino
Episcopal Impact Fund
San Francisco, San Francisco
County

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley
Andrus, Bishop of California
Episcopal Diocese of California
San Francisco, San Francisco
County

San Mateo County

Pastor Trena Turner
Faith in the Valley
East Palo Alto, San Mateo
County

Pastor, St Samuel Church &
Founder, WeHOPE Pastor Paul
Bains
WeHOPE & St Samuel Church
Redwood City, San Mateo
County

Rev. Katie Goetz
Woodside Road UMC
Burlingame, San Mateo County

Pastor Holly Hillman
Burlingame United Methodist
Church
San Mateo, San Mateo County

President John Tastor
First Presbyterian Church of
San Mateo
San Mateo County, San Mateo
County

Sister of Mercy Sister Joan
Marie O'Donnell
Sisters of Mercy
Foster City, San Mateo County

Rabbi Corey Helfand
Peninsula Sinai Congregation
San Mateo, San Mateo County

Santa Barbara County

The Reverend Lauren P.
McCombs
Peninsula Interfaith Cohort
Santa Maria, Santa Barbara
County

Santa Clara County

Lead Pastor Tim Mossholder
Santa Maria Foursquare Church
Los Altos, Santa Clara County

Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit
Beth Am
Santa Clara, Santa Clara
County

Rev. Jon Pedigo
Catholic Charities Of Santa
Clara County
San José, Santa Clara County

Jennifer Lathrop, Spiritual Care
Provider
United Church of Christ
Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County

Carol Haywood, Retired Minister
United Church of Christ in
Northern California Nevada
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

The Rev. Randle R. Mixon
First Baptist Church
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

Rev. Debra Murray
First United Methodist Church of
Palo Alto
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

Sonoma County

Lead Pastor Lori Sawdon
First United Methodist Church,
Santa Rosa, CA
Windsor, Sonoma County

Pastor Laurie Bayen
Windsor Community United
Methodist Church
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Priest Associate Gail Cafferata
Church of the Incarnation
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Rabbi George Gittleman
Congregation Shomrei Torah
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Retired Clergy Rev. Allan B.
Jones
N/A (Retired)
Kenwood, Sonoma County

Charles Ensley, Interim Worship
Pastor
Kenwood Community Church
Sebastopol, Sonoma County

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent
The Community Church of
Sebastopol, UCC
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Mrs Winnie Hogoboom,
President
First Congregational Church,
Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Pastor Adam Peacocke
FeatherVine
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Senior Minister Christopher Bell
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Ventura County

Toby Caplan-Stonefield,
Member of Core Team for
Justice working on
Homelessness
Congregation Or Ami
Ventura, Ventura County

District Superintendent Rev.
James R. Powell
North District of the United
Methodist Church
Somis, Ventura County

Yolo County

Rev Dr. Pastor Dave Worth
(retired PCUSA)
Presbytery of the Pacific
Yolo County
Omran AbuAboud, President
Islamic Center of Davis
Davis, Yolo County

Susan Padgett, Co-chair,
Service and Justice Ministry
the Davis United Methodist
Church
Yolo County

Lynn Zender, Interim Chair
Social Justice and Outreach
Committee
Church of St Martin
Davis, Yolo County

Ellen Kolarik, Co-chair Social
Justice Committee
Lutheran Church of the
Incarnation
Davis, Yolo County