



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

September 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O. St, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 439 (Skinner) Special motions to strike: priority housing development projects
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to respectfully **request your veto on SB 439 (Skinner)**, regarding the use of anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) motions to dismiss lawsuits intended to delay or prevent affordable housing developments.

We acknowledge the critical need for affordable housing in California and understand the intentions behind this bill to speed up development and minimize frivolous SLAPP lawsuits. However, we strongly believe this approach, particularly in its application to CEQA-related suits, could inadvertently undermine important environmental protections as well as weaken public participation in the planning process.

Since the bill would require trial courts to deny a motion to strike based on whether a probability exists that the plaintiff will win on the claim, this would have the potential to strike a significant amount of legitimate claims, as the “probability of success” is not only arbitrary, but also would be determined by the court itself. This could lead to harmful consequential effects on the infrastructure of countless communities across the state, including the City of Beverly Hills.

Affordable housing is vital for the social and economic well-being of our city, but it should not come at the cost of environmental sustainability or public participation. Instead of rushing the approval process, we advocate for a more thoughtful approach which respects and values all stakeholders.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully **OPPOSE SB 439 (Skinner) and request your veto of this legislation**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Senator, 9th District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange