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## CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

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April 21, 2025

The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Chair, Senate Housing Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 16 (Blakespear) Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program:  
Housing Element  
Notice of OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Senator Wahab,

The City of Solana Beach (City) must respectfully **oppose SB 16 (Blakespear) unless amended** to address cities' concerns. Currently, SB 16 places additional reporting mandates on all but 14 cities, targeting cities that already do not receive direct state homelessness funding.

The state's flagship homelessness grant program, the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant program, allocates funding to all 58 counties, 44 continuums of care, and cities with populations over 300,000. This means that only 14 cities in California are receiving direct state homelessness funding through HHAP.

To receive HHAP funding, grantees must submit a regionally coordinated homelessness action plan to the Housing and Community Development Department that includes specific system performance measures. SB 16 would copy these system performance measures from the HHAP regional plans and impose them as a separate, unequal reporting requirement **only** on cities not receiving state funding — forcing them to track these metrics in their housing elements.

Specifically, SB 16 would require all but 14 cities to provide detailed reports on available homelessness resources, actions taken to connect individuals to those resources, and various data points. For example, SB 16 requires cities to share information about the number of people who become homeless after exiting institutional settings, including jails, prisons, and hospitals, and the number of people who become unhoused after moving into permanent housing. This is a new requirement that would be extremely burdensome, and costly, to small cities that do not currently have full time staff managing homelessness programs.

There is a reason these system performance metrics are currently in the regional planning process — because gathering this data requires collaboration with counties, prisons, hospitals, VAs, and other stakeholders. These requirements create significant administrative burdens for communities that **already** do not receive financial support. Nearly all cities lack the infrastructure to collect the data required by SB 16, making compliance nearly impossible.

The City of Solana Beach is the second smallest city in our region with a population of just 13,000 people, and operates with a lean staff. The City does not have a staff member dedicated solely to homelessness assistance and prevention. We rely heavily on the Sheriff's Office in coordination

with dedicated County outreach workers that specialize in homelessness programs to identify and assist any local unsheltered individuals. This relationship has worked very well, and we believe this to be the most effective process for smaller jurisdictions. To add mandates that would heavily burden existing staff with documentation and tracking of unsheltered individuals, without associated funding, is unfair and will create significant administrative burdens. Therefore, we request that this bill be amended to exclude small cities with a population under 30,000.

Each year, the Legislature introduces bills that change the rules mid-stream, significantly complicating cities' efforts to secure housing element certification. These multi-year planning efforts are already complex, time-consuming, and expensive. SB 16 would add yet another layer of reporting requirements — through a non-reimbursable state mandate — placing a disproportionate burden on smaller cities. For many, the challenge of collecting and reporting this data could further jeopardize their ability to achieve a compliant housing element.

The City urges amendments to SB 16 that create consistency with the existing reporting process and do not unfairly target California's small cities that will continue to be left out of direct state homelessness funding. For these reasons, the City of Solana Beach has an **oppose unless amended position on SB 16 (Blakespear)**.

Sincerely,



Lesa Heebner  
Mayor

cc. Senator Catherine Blakespear  
Assembly Member Tasha Boerner  
Catherine Hill, League Regional Public Affairs Manager  
League of California Cities, [cityletters@cacities.org](mailto:cityletters@cacities.org)