



April 8, 2021

California Cities for Local Control, a growing coalition comprising to-date of **over 416 locally-elected California City Mayors and Councilmembers**, opposes SB 9 (see website www.localcontrolca.com for a list of elected officials).

SB 9 has severe and irreversible consequences for California communities. It facilitates haphazard development in neighborhoods with aging infrastructures (e.g., water and sewage lines) that were not designed to handle the effects of potentially quadrupled density allowed by the bill's lot splitting provisions. In contrast, local city councils know which particular areas and streets can accommodate new buildings and can then concentrate upgrades to infrastructures, thereby maximizing cost efficiencies.

SB 9 does not appropriately address the need for affordable housing. Rather, it invites investors and speculators to buy up homes for sale and replace them with new market-rate units, thereby shutting out first-time and lower income buyers, enabling gentrification, and exacerbating racial injustices.

It facilitates destruction of urban green space, including urban canopies that offset climate-warming and groundwater-capturing landscapes.

The bill's elimination of sufficient onsite parking requirements creates safety hazards and incredible inconvenience to residents in neighborhoods whose streets are already filled with parked cars.

The Legislature should work with, not against, city governments to address the state's housing needs.

Sincerely,

Mike Griffiths

Founder, California Cities for Local Control

www.localcontrolca.com