

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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October 28, 2024

Thomas Gaffery, Interim City Manager
City of Fowler
128 South 5th Street
Fowler, CA 93625

Dear Thomas Gaffery,

RE: City of Fowler 6th Cycle (2023-2031) Adopted Housing Element

Thank you for submitting the City of Fowler's (City) housing element that was adopted October 1, 2024 and received for review on October 4, 2024. Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is reporting the results of its review.

HCD is pleased to find the adopted housing element in substantial compliance with State Housing Element Law (Gov. Code, § 65580 et seq) as of the date of this letter. The adopted element was found to be substantially the same as the revised draft element that HCD's August 7, 2024, review determined met statutory requirements.

Additionally, the City must continue timely and effective implementation of all programs including but not limited to the following:

- Program 1: Regional Collaboration
- Program 3: Homeless/Unhoused Needs
- Program 6: Affordable Housing Incentives
- Program 7: Support Funding for Farmworker Housing
- Program 8: Farmworker Preference in New Affordable Housing
- Program 9: Extremely Low-Income Households
- Program 11: Encourage and Facilitate Accessory Units
- Program 13: Housing for a Variety of Needs
- Program 14: Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- Program 15: Reasonable Accommodation
- Program 16: Lot Development Feasibility
- Program 17: Monitoring of Planning and Development Fees
- Program 18: Preliminary Applications and Streamlined Approval
- Program 19: Objective Design Standards
- Program 26: Improve Access to Resources

The City must monitor and report on the results of these and other programs through the annual progress report, required pursuant to Government Code section 65400. Please be aware, Government Code section 65585, subdivision (i) grants HCD authority to review any action or failure to act by a local government that it determines is inconsistent with an adopted housing element or housing element law. This includes failure to implement program actions included in the housing element. HCD may revoke housing element compliance if the local government's actions do not comply with state law.

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant, the Strategic Growth Council and HCD's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, and HCD's Permanent Local Housing Allocation consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the City now meets housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

For your information, some general plan element updates are triggered by housing element adoption. HCD reminds the City to consider timing provisions and welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. For information, please see the Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: <https://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>.

HCD appreciates the hard work and dedication the City's housing element team provided in preparation of the City's housing element. HCD wishes the City success in implementing its housing element and looks forward to following its progress through the General Plan annual progress reports pursuant to Government Code section 65400. If HCD can provide assistance in implementing the housing element, please contact Laurissa Wells, of our staff, at Laurissa.Wells@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul McDougall
Senior Program Manager