

Samantha Thomas

From: j haidary <wccemail2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 8:17 PM
To: Samantha Thomas
Subject: Re: Calistoga Housing Element Update - The Public Review Draft Housing Element

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Calistoga is a tiny, charming tourist town with water and fire issues. Building, building and more building will destroy the charm, much of which has already been lost. Where will the water come from for all these new homes? How many more people will be at risk trying to get out in a fire evacuation? The state needs to understand that everybody simply can't live in California. We're full.

On Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 7:48 PM j haidary <wccemail2@gmail.com> wrote:
Calistoga is only 2.6 square miles and much of it is ag land. What happens when we run out of room?

On Thu, Feb 17, 2022 at 2:25 PM Samantha Thomas <SThomas@ci.calistoga.ca.us> wrote:

Hello Calistoga Community,

The *Public Review Draft of the Housing Element* is available **NOW**.

Every eight years, State Law requires all California cities to update their Housing Element, a set of plans and strategies to meet housing needs. Calistoga's Housing Element Update is due in January 2023. All cities and counties are assigned a specific number of homes to plan for, commonly referred to as their Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

The RHNA number for Calistoga is 119 – meaning that the City must plan for 119 new housing units between 2023 through 2031. Jurisdictions are recommended to plan for 15-30 percent more housing units than required, altering Calistoga's RHNA number to between 137 to 155.

Through the next 30 days, the Draft Housing Element will be open for **initial** public review before it is sent to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), where they will have a 90-day review period to provide comments. Following HCD's review, the City will begin adoption hearings where **YOU** can provide additional feedback on the edits made.

For now, we want your input and feedback regarding the Draft Housing Element and The Goals, Policies, Programs for the Housing Element. Head over to our website and view the Draft today!

<https://www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/Home/Components/News/News/5401/698>

[News | City of Calistoga](#)

The Public Review Draft of the Housing Element is available here.. For questions or to provide input on the Housing Element, please contact: Samantha Thomas, Associate Planner

www.ci.calistoga.ca.us

For questions or to provide input on the Draft Housing Element, please contact:

Samantha Thomas, Associate Planner

stthomas@ci.calistoga.ca.us

707.942.2763

Hola Comunidad de Calistoga,

El Borrador de Revisión Pública del Elemento de Vivienda está disponible **AHORA**.

Cada ocho años, la ley estatal requiere que todas las ciudades de California actualicen su elemento de vivienda, un conjunto de planes y estrategias para satisfacer las necesidades de vivienda. La Actualización del Elemento de Vivienda de Calistoga vence en enero de 2023. A todas las ciudades y condados se les asigna una cantidad específica de viviendas para planificar, comúnmente conocida como su Asignación Regional de Necesidades de Vivienda (RHNA).

El número RHNA para Calistoga es 119, lo que significa que la Ciudad debe planificar 119 nuevas unidades de vivienda entre 2023 y 2031. Se recomienda a las jurisdicciones que planifiquen entre un 15 y un 30 por ciento más de unidades de vivienda de las requeridas, alterando el número RHNA de Calistoga entre 137 y 155.

Durante los próximos 30 días, el Borrador del Elemento de Vivienda estará abierto para revisión pública **inicial** antes de enviarlo al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario (HCD) de California, donde tendrán un período de revisión de 90 días para proporcionar comentarios. Luego de la revisión de HCD, la ciudad comenzará las audiencias de adopción en las que **USTED** puede brindar comentarios adicionales sobre las modificaciones realizadas.

Por ahora, queremos sus sugerencias y comentarios sobre el Borrador del Elemento de Vivienda y las Metas, Políticas, Programas para el Elemento de Vivienda. ¡Diríjase a nuestro sitio de web y mira el Borrador hoy!

<https://www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/Home/Components/News/News/5401/698>

[News | City of Calistoga](#)

The Public Review Draft of the Housing Element is available here.. For questions or to provide input on the Housing Element, please contact: Samantha Thomas, Associate Planner

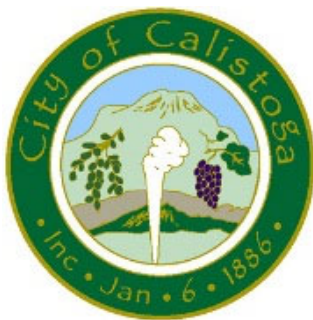
www.ci.calistoga.ca.us

Para preguntas o para proporcionar sugerencias sobre el Proyecto de elemento de vivienda, comuníquese con:

Samantha Thomas, Associate Planner (Planificadora Asociada)

sthomas@ci.calistoga.ca.us

707.942.2763



Samantha Thomas

Associate Planner

City of Calistoga

1232 Washington Street

Calistoga, CA 94515

707.942.2763

sthomas@ci.calistoga.ca.us

||

|



BLUE ZONES PROJECT

February 17th, 2022

City of Calistoga City Council
1232 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

Re: Housing Element Update

Dear Council Members,

Blue Zones Project is writing to urge your consideration of adding tobacco and secondhand smoke recommendations in the City's updated housing element, including comprehensive smoke-free multi-unit housing protections.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand tobacco and marijuana smoke or vaporized aerosols can easily drift from unit-to-unit through vents, pipes and electrical outlets and through windows and doors from neighbor balconies, patios and other outdoor areas. Individuals who are exposed to secondhand smoke can suffer from serious adverse health effects including chronic health problems.

Updating the housing element is a chance to ensure equitable health opportunities for all residents while encouraging a productive community with economic stability. Health starts in our communities and is shaped by where we live, work, and play. As such, housing is a vital component to one's health. The inclusion of tobacco control restrictions to prevent secondhand smoke and aerosol exposure will provide profound health benefits to all residents so they can have healthy and productive lives.

As you work on updating your housing element, we would ask that you consider incorporating the following language into your goals and policies:

To reduce secondhand and thirdhand smoke death and disability, adopt and enforce a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance for multifamily housing properties that covers all exclusive-use areas, both exterior areas (such as private balconies and decks) and interior unit spaces, as well as common areas not already covered by state law.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Razo
Executive Director



Kelly Bond
Public Policy Advocate

1422 Main Street
Saint Helena, CA 94574
unv.bluezonesproject.com

POWERED BY:



Samantha Thomas

From: Heather Brooks <hbrooks@calistogajusd.org>
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Samantha Thomas; Public Comment
Subject: Calistoga Housing Element Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Samantha Thomas and Other Element Project Team Support,

I am the Science High School Teacher for Calistoga High School and I have read the drafts that you sent out regarding the Housing Element Project for our town.

I can not attend the monthly zoom meetings as I am teaching at those times. I wanted to send my feedback, as I have been participating in this conversation since the beginning and I am one of the people in this town that is interested in purchasing a home here, but struggling and finding it very difficult to compete with the cash offers and extremely high prices of housing for a family of 5. When I read through the drafts I found the comment repeatedly stated to support "extremely low-, very low-, low- and moderate-income households" when purchasing or renting a home in the future. I am concerned because I don't see any clear statements about helping teachers or other community members who are just a little above moderate-income households in finding a home to purchase in Calistoga. During my zoom interview with your project earlier I stated that I have worked in Calistoga for 6 years but I have lived in 4 different rentals during this time, (2 of which were not even in Calistoga) due to nothing being available to rent or purchase in my price range, even with an "above moderate-income" and having to commute into town daily with 3 young children attending our schools. I know that in the past the housing projects helped local community members, such as myself, with above moderate-income levels to purchase homes so that they could continue to work and raise a family in this community. I am just outside of this price range, but I have 3 young children who attend the schools here and it is extremely difficult to use my income (even though it is considered just above moderate-income levels) to cover the cost of my current rental in Calistoga (which is extremely high), the high prices of water/garbage/electricity/food/gas and other daily necessities as this town has extremely high cost of living due to it being a world renowned vacation destination. Due to these factors, I have struggled to find a rental house that is stable for a family of 5 and I have never found a home to purchase that has been in my range or available. I have gone to many open houses only to have people there on the first day with cash offers from out of town and frankly out of my price range anyways. I said all of this to the person at the zoom meeting I attended for your project, but I'm not seeing a place in the draft where it states that homes would be set aside and offered first to essential workers in Calistoga who would like to purchase a home here so that they can continue to work in this area but have above moderate-income levels. To be quite frank, if I am kicked out of my house rental again I don't know if I would be willing to continue to stay in this area anymore as moving every couple of years is not what I want for the rest of my life for my family and due to all of these high prices we live month to month to get by. I am not the only teacher that feels this way, in fact most of our school teachers commute from out of town and some have been offered jobs here only to turn it down due to housing. Many teachers are over tired and stressed due to the additional 2 hours of commute time they add to their daily schedules. Even though they are paid well, many consider leaving due to this factor. I can only imagine that other industries that are essential deal with the same issue. I know my husband works for a steel company in Saint Helena and they struggle to find workers for the same reason and are understaffed. I truly love it here and want to stay here with my family and call Calistoga home. Is there any way please that this current Housing Element Project would consider setting aside some homes that would be offered first to the workers who are the backbone of this community and invested in running the town and would be

capable of purchasing, regardless of their income level? Please understand that above moderate-income levels struggle to compete with the extremely wealthy and vacation industry as well as the, "extremely low-, very low-, low- and moderate-income households" do. I would urge this housing project to please factor this into the long term plan as the cost of inflation in this area has gotten even more out of control over the past couple of years. Housing, utilities, gas, groceries and other daily living necessities for a family of 5 has skyrocketed recently in this area and this should be something to consider in this new plan for the town of Calistoga moving forward to have a sturdy backbone that continues to keep the town running smoothly.

I hope you could please consider these statements moving forward. Thank you for your time and support, I hope I can continue to call Calistoga my home for my family for the rest of my life as we do love it that much!

Kindest Regards,

Heather Brooks

Physical Science & CTE Energy Teacher

Engineering Club Adviser

Calistoga High School

1608 Lake Street Calistoga, CA 94515

[Physics of Alternative Energy Website](#)

[Chemistry of Alternative Energy Website](#)