

Gautho, Julia

From: Santa Cruz YIMBY <santacruzylimby@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:46 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Gautho, Julia; Herlihy, Katie (kherlihy@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: [PDF] Santa Cruz YIMBY input on Item 8A - August 22, 2024 Agenda
Attachments: Santa Cruz YIMBY input on #8A - Aug 22 2024.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers,

Please see attached and below for our input on item 8A on your August 22, 2024 agenda.

To: Capitola City Council Date: August 20, 2024

RE: Item #8A on August 22, 2024 Agenda

When Capitola first published its draft Housing Element, Santa Cruz YIMBY urged the city to more directly address barriers to housing production and include incentives to significantly increase housing over the next eight years. We appreciate the city's efforts to strengthen the Housing Element in response to our feedback, as seen in the 10th draft released in August 2024.

Several programs are now better aligned with our recommendations, including initiatives to incentivize the redevelopment of Capitola Mall and address housing development constraints for other parts of the city. There are also commitments to promote more equitable development, including on the east side, which is dominated by single-family zoning. We see programs focused on reducing building costs through objective standards and lowering parking requirements. We also commend Capitola's commitment to transit-oriented development, with plans for a high-quality transit stop at Capitola Mall and more housing sites along key corridors like Capitola Rd, Bay Ave, and 41st Ave.

The real challenge begins as Capitola focuses on implementation. The urgent need for more homes is clear, but meaningful progress will require tough decisions and unwavering commitment. Without the changes outlined in the Housing Element, Capitola will continue to face the same housing challenges. High housing costs burden the community, particularly workers in the service, retail, and tourism sectors, leading to longer commutes, traffic congestion, and climate impacts. It's time to prioritize getting people into homes near their jobs, schools, and essential services.

We appreciate the staff's openness and collaborative approach in developing this 6th Cycle Housing Element. We look forward to ongoing engagement as Capitola works to implement these programs and deliver additional housing at all levels of affordability.

Sincerely,
Lola Quiroga
Ryan Meckel
Janine Roeth
Leads, Santa Cruz YIMBY

Santa Cruz YIMBY advocates for abundant housing at all levels of affordability to meet the needs of a growing population in Santa Cruz County. We support sustainable growth, including along transportation corridors and activity centers and a commitment to lower Vehicle Miles Traveled by housing people near services and jobs.



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