



Promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary taxes and spending



September 1, 2023

Speaker Presentation

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Summary of CoCoTax Breakfast Board Meeting 8-25-23 Speaker Presentation

Lindy Johnson, Vice President and Policy Director, East Bay Leadership Council (EBLC)

Addressing Housing and homeless, EBLC primary objectives are Pro development & building high density housing.

- State is proposing a \$10 billion bond measure for “affordable housing”
- Gavin Newsom is also proposing an additional \$4.68 billion bond for mental health that will also include housing funds.
- The Bay Area Financing Housing Authority is also planning a bond measure in 2024 that could be as large as \$20 billion.
- The Bay Area Financing Housing Authority has local elected officials who serve on its board. Appointees include representatives from the League of California Cities, Board of Supervisors and local Mayors’ Conferences.

Ms. Johnson explained that the State has assumed the power to override local zoning control. “State mandates changing our communities,” so as to better reflect State perceived public needs. “Our communities will change.” Local communities are assigned RHNA housing mandates. This will create a mixture of housing in all communities.

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Speaker Presentation, Continued

She offered a “housing first” policy where the “homeless” are provided housing first before any treatment. There is another separate bond proposal to take mental health fund and transfer them to housing.

She acknowledged a large factor in the “homeless” crisis, is addiction and mental illness.

Comments or questions:

- “Housing first” will not cause the addicted and mentally ill to accept treatment when they have not accepted available community help so far.
- There was also unanimous objection to the State imposition of high-density housing in residential communities.
- Nothing was addressed about promoting general business development, though the focus of the EBLC is a “business group.”

Mark Fernwood

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