



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE #05-2024**

**Subject: Court Upholds La Habra's Housing Element**

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An Orange County judge ruled Wednesday that the City of La Habra followed State law in updating and adopting the Housing Element of its General Plan, which was subsequently certified as substantially compliant with State law by the California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD"). Orange County Superior Court Judge Donald F. Gaffney denied the petition challenging the City's Housing Element brought by "Californians for Homeownership ('CFH')," a housing advocacy group.

The La Habra City Council adopted the Housing Element on September 19, 2022, following an extensive public hearing process. As part of this approval, the City Council expressly authorized the City Manager and staff to work with HCD to make technical revisions necessary to meet the State's requirements. Following technical refinements, HCD certified the document in April of 2023. CFH filed a legal challenge to the certified Housing Element, arguing that the City should have held another public hearing on the technical refinements that were made. Following a court hearing, Judge Gaffney ruled that the City followed the procedural requirements of State law and upheld the validity of the City's certified Housing Element.

"The City is pleased that it can continue its progress towards providing housing development opportunities on appropriate sites, as designated in its General Plan" said Jim Sadro, La Habra City Manager. "The La Habra City Council, Planning Commission, and staff worked diligently to develop and adopt a Housing Element that designates numerous sites in the City for potential housing development. HCD agreed and certified the City's Housing Element as compliant with State law, and the City is grateful that the court validated this effort."

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