

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Speaker Anthony Rendon  
California State Assembly  
California State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
California State Senate  
California State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for SB 899 - Unlocking Faith-Based Land for Affordable Housing**

Dear Speaker Rendon and President Pro Tem Atkins,

We, the undersigned faith communities, strongly support SB 899, which allows us to re-imagine the land owned by our houses of worship as a solution, a home, and a sanctuary for those in need. Affordable housing is a resource to our communities that provides stability, community, and economic opportunity to our neighbors. We only have this resource if we build it. With so many families rent-burdened, struggling to make ends meet because of rising rents across the state, SB 899 would give us the tools to help our community and provide stability, and protection.

We represent diverse communities of faith across California including Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and other faiths, in counties across our entire state.

We believe that every child, woman, man, and human deserves dignity and justice, and we come to the table understanding how fundamental a safe, stable, affordable home is to achieving these rights. One way we live out our faith is by providing food and shelter to those in need. SB 899 will undo harmful and exclusionary policies that keep us from building affordable housing on the lands we own and desire to offer to the communities we serve.

SB 899 will make building 100% affordable housing easier, faster, and cheaper on land owned by faith-based institutions and non-profit colleges by removing zoning restrictions and speeding up approval processes.

As faith-based organizations, we serve as long-standing community anchors and we are very excited to utilize SB 899 to build the affordable housing opportunities our residents, congregation members, and community members so desperately need. We are inspired by the power of SB 899 to transform our neighborhoods into welcoming, inclusive communities open to people of all races and creeds. SB 899 is an opportunity to undo some of our state's ugly history of segregated neighborhoods by creating more opportunities to build 100% affordable housing in places that have made such development infeasible.

With this bill we will build in neighborhoods of opportunity which are neighborhoods whose residents have been shown in study after study, to enjoy longer life expectancy with better overall health outcomes and higher lifetime earnings. According to Mapping the Potential and Identifying the Barriers to Faith-Based Housing Development, a study by the UC Berkeley Turner Center, 45% of land owned by faith-based institutions (around 18,000 acres) is located in high opportunity areas based on maps created by the Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

To put it simply: We have the desire to create more affordable and inclusive communities, we have the means, and our communities have the needs. We need SB 899 to give us the way.

We look forward to working with you to pass this critical bill that will make building affordable housing easier, faster, and cheaper for faith-based institutions and non-profit colleges that want to build affordable housing.

Sincerely,

**Alameda**

CEO Rev. Ambrose F. Carroll  
Green The Church  
Berkeley, Alameda County

Trustee Dharma Galang  
The Berkeley Friends Church  
Oakland, Alameda County

Founder/Leader Rabi'a Keeble  
Qalbu Maryam Women's  
Mosque  
Berkeley, Alameda County

The Rev. Phil Brochard  
All Souls Episcopal Parish  
Berkeley, Alameda County

Rabbi Chai Levy  
Congregation Netivot Shalom  
Oakland, Alameda County

Senior Pastor & CEO Dr.  
Kenneth Anderson  
Williams Chapel Baptist Church  
Berkeley, Alameda County

Ms. Maureen Prochaska  
First Church Berkeley  
Berkeley, Alameda County

Moderator Julia Greer  
First Congregational Church of  
Berkeley  
Oakland, Alameda County

The Reverend Joellynn  
Monahan  
The Spiral Way - Spiritual  
Direction  
Oakland, Alameda County

Laurie Manning  
Skyline Church UCC  
Berkeley, Alameda County

Reverend Nancy McKay  
First Congregational Church  
Berkeley  
Oakland, Alameda County

Pastor Rev. Ken Chambers  
West Side Missionary Baptist  
Church  
Oakland, Alameda County

President Rev. Ken Chambers  
Interfaith Council of Alameda  
County (ICAC)  
Oakland, Alameda County

Pastor Jim Hopkins  
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist  
Church  
Oakland, Alameda County

Chairperson Sheila Sims  
LABC Hunger Task Force  
Alameda, Alameda County

Dr. Joan Farnsworth  
First Congregational Church of  
Alameda  
Oakland, Alameda County

Pastor Anthony Jenkins  
Taylor Memorial United  
Methodist Church  
Oakland, Alameda County

Ms. Jennifer Brooks  
Episcopal Impact Fund and  
Christ Church Alameda  
Oakland, Alameda County

**Amador County**

Presiding Elder Cedric Alexander  
San Francisco-Sacramento District of the AME Church  
Jackson, Amador County

**Contra Costa County**

Clerk, Judith Bunting  
Delta Monthly Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends  
Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County

Senior Pastor Colin Kerr-Carpenter  
Walnut Creek United Methodist Church  
Pleasant Hill, Contra Costa County

Executive Director Rev. Will McGarvey  
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County  
Clayton, Contra Costa County

Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley  
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church  
El Cerrito, Contra Costa County

Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain  
The Good Table United Church of Christ  
Danville, Contra Costa County

Associate Pastor Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley  
Danville Congregational Church  
Concord, Contra Costa County

Gloria Sewell-Murphy,  
Member/EDC Commissioner  
BMCR/ EHUMC  
Richmond, Contra Costa County

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible  
Northern California Nevada Conference UCC  
Pittsburg, Contra Costa County

Pastor Rev. Will McGarvey  
Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, CA  
Lafayette, Contra Costa County

Rabbi Jay LeVine  
Temple Isaiah  
Richmond, Contra Costa County

**Los Angeles County**

Rev. Dr. Dale M. Weatherspoon  
Easter Hill UMC  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Ministry Associate Rev. Bert Newton  
Pasadena Mennonite Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Jill Shook  
Making Housing and Community Happen  
Santa Monica, Los Angeles County

Senior Pastor Eric C. Shafer  
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
Santa Monica, Los Angeles County

Minister Rev. Jim Conn  
United Methodist Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Rev. Jason Gamble  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Reverend Cedrick Bridgeforth  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Los Angeles/Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County

Pastor Nicolette Wilson  
St James AME Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Michelle Seyler, Executive Director  
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice  
Canoga Park, Los Angeles County

Pastor Rev. Bill Freeman  
Bill Freeman Ministries and Interfaith Solidarity Network  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

The Rev. John Cager  
Ward AME Church  
Culver City, Los Angeles County

Rev. Heidi Worthen-Gamble  
Presbytery of the Pacific  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Elder Nancy Wambaa  
St. John's Presbyterian  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Nirinjan Singh Khalsa,  
Executive Director  
California Sikh Council  
Culver City, Los Angeles County

Rev. Dr. Frances W. Rosenau  
Culver City Presbyterian Church  
Redondo Beach, Los Angeles County

Reverend Peter Dunn  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

Senior Pastor Robert L Taylor  
Beulah Baptist Church  
Inglewood, Los Angeles County  
Rev. Dr. Harold E. Kidd  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Inglewood  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Rev. Dr. Bethany Fox  
Beloved Everybody Church  
San Pedro, Los Angeles County

Pastor Lisa Williams  
San Pedro United Methodist  
Church  
Culver City, Los Angeles County

Disa Lindgren, Church Council  
Chairperson  
Culver-Palms United Methodist  
Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Rev. Dr. Pat Langlois  
MCC United Church of Christ in  
the Valley  
Vsn Nuys, Los Angeles County

Rector Robin L. Kassabian  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Scott Tanner, Director of  
Church Communication  
Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints, Los Angeles  
Region  
Encino, Los Angeles County

Marsha L. Novak, Vice  
President/CFO  
Interfaith Solidarity Network  
San Pedro, Los Angeles County

The Rev. Jeanette Repp  
San Pedro Faith Consortium  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Rev. Dr. Steven Craig  
St. John's Presbyterian Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Rev. Dr. Janet Bregar  
Village Church of Brentwood  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley  
Neighborhood Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
Van Nuys, Los Angeles County

Rabbi Jim Kaufman  
Temple Beth Hillel and the  
Interfaith Solidarity Network,  
San Fernando Valley  
Malibu, Los Angeles County

The Rev. Paul Elder  
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
Lomita, Los Angeles County

Elder Marilyn Miles  
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Jennifer Perkins  
Oasis Church LA  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

John Oh  
LA Voice  
Agoura Hills, Los Angeles  
County

The Rev. Paul Elder  
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Juliana Serrano, Community  
Relations Director  
All Saints Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Pastor Brita Pinkston  
Pasadena Foursquare Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County  
Marvin Andrade  
LA Voice  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

M. Fareed Farukhi, Executive  
Director  
Risala USA Foundation  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Mayra Maxedo-Nolan  
Clergy Community Coalition  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rector Mark Bradshaw  
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Mariann H.M. Reardon, Minister  
of Congregational Care  
Pasadena Mennonite Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rev. Connie Millsap  
The United Methodist Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Rev. Wendy S. Tajima  
Presbytery of San Gabriel,  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Los Angeles County, Los  
Angeles County

Mr. and Mrs. Roger and  
Marilynne Wilander  
Pasadena First United Methodist  
Church/Pasadena FUMC  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Reverend Sandra Olewine

First United Methodist Church  
Pasadena  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

John Bowlin, Community  
Outreach Care Coordinator  
Lake Avenue Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater  
Friends In Deed  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Pastor Chuck Ryor  
Prism Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Mr. Aleksan Giragosian, Deacon  
St. Gregory Armenian Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Lead Pastor Robert Webster  
Foothills Community Church in  
Pasadena  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble  
Presbytery of the Pacific  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Senior Pastor Drew Sams  
Bel Air Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Dr Anthony Manousos  
Quaker  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Associate Pastor Jasmine Boyle  
Pasadena Foursquare Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Pastor Camille Wooden  
Abundant Life Covenant Bible  
Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Tina Wilks, Sunday School  
Superintendent  
New Life Holiness Church

Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Wendy Gist, Mission Advocate  
for Hunger, Poverty, and  
Peacemaking Issues  
Presbytery of San Fernando  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Joyce Hill, Committee Member  
The Bethel Baptist Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles  
County

Associate Pastor Rev. Michael  
Morgan  
Bel Air Church  
Long Beach, Los Angeles  
County

Rabbi Noah Farkas  
Valley Beth Shalom  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

Dr. David Sacks  
Temple Israel,  
Long Beach, California

Pamela Bingham, Trustee  
Lincoln Ave Christian Church  
Pasadena, Los Angeles County

### **Marin County**

Pamela Bingham, Trustee  
Lincoln Ave Christian Church  
Mill Valley, Marin County

Ginger Strickland, Associate  
Priest  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
San Geronimo, Marin County

Pastor Katharine (Kate) Clayton  
San Geronimo Community  
Presbyterian Church  
Novato, Marin County

Co-Pastor Kristina Karen  
Ardito  
Novato Community of Christ

Marin, Marin County

Reverend Stephanie Ryder  
Redwoods Presbyterian Church  
Marin, Marin County

Ms. Leslie R Lee  
Mt Tamalpais United Methodist  
Church and the Marin  
Organizing Committee  
Marin, Marin County

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Mt. Tam United Methodist  
Church and MOC  
Woodacre, Marin County  
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Board of Directors  
Gan HaLev  
Tiburon and Marin, Marin  
County

Senior Rabbi Susan Leider  
Congregation Kol Shofar  
Woodacre, Marin County

Rev. Scott Quinn  
Marin Interfaith Council  
Bollinas, Marin County

Priest Carol Luther  
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
Novato, Marin County

### **Orange County**

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Novato United Methodist  
Church  
Santa Ana, Orange County

Senior Leader Dave Gibbons  
NEWSONG  
Anaheim, Orange County

Rev James Ford  
Unitarian Universalist Church in  
Anaheim  
Anaheim, Orange County

Geraldine McNenny, President,  
Board of Trustees  
Unitarian Universalist Church in  
Anaheim  
Huntington Beach, Orange  
County  
Don Garrick, Chair  
Orange County Interfaith  
Presidents Council  
Tustin, Orange County

Kathleen D. Sylvester  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Fullerton, Orange County

The Rev. Holly Cardone  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
Orange, Orange County

The Rev. Jeannie Martz, Rector  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Los Alamitos, Orange County

Sadie Sacks, Justice Team  
Los Altos United Methodist  
Church  
Los Alamitos, Orange County

Member of Los Altos UMC, Long  
Beach P McMillan  
United Methodist Church  
Santa Ana, Orange County

Bishop Andrew A. Taylor  
Pacifica Synod of the ELCA  
Santa Ana, Orange County

### **Sacramento County**

Terry Tuvey Allen, Assistant to  
the Bishop  
Pacifica Synod  
Sacramento, Sacramento  
County

Akram Keval, Public Relations  
Officer Interfaith Council of  
Sacramento  
Sacramento, Sacramento  
County

Mrs. Serene Erby  
Baha'i Faith  
Sacramento, Sacramento  
County

Deacon Richard Koppes  
St Anthony Catholic Parish  
Social Justice Committee  
Sacramento , Sacramento  
County

### **San Diego County**

Edrine Ddungu, President  
Interfaith Council of Greater  
Sacramento  
San Diego, San Diego County

Monica Ball, Faith Community  
Outreach Lead  
YIGBY - Yes In God's Back Yard  
San Diego, San Diego County

Mr. John Ball  
UPLIFT  
La Mesa, San Diego County

Lois Knowlton, Chair  
Community Outreach Ministry,  
La Mesa First United Methodist  
Church  
Carlsbad, San Diego County

Pastor Greg R. Bostrom  
Christ Presbyterian Church  
La Mesa, San Diego County

Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn  
Vista La Mesa Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
San Diego, San Diego County

Karen Koblentz, Chair  
San Dieguito Interfaith  
Ministerial Association  
La Jolla, San Diego County

Lucinda Rasmussen PhD,  
Community Outreach

Committee Unity Outreach  
Program  
La Mesa First United Methodist  
Church  
La Jolla, San Diego County

The Rev. Hannah Wilder, Priest  
St Mark's Episcopal Church  
Lemon Grove, San Diego  
County

Ladrue Jordan, Chairman of the  
Board  
First Baptist Church of Lemon  
Grove  
San Diego, San Diego County

Pastor Jonathan Doolittle  
Clairemont Lutheran Church  
San Diego, San Diego County

Jolene Wade, Director of  
Operations  
Point Loma Community  
Presbyterian Church, member  
San Diego, San Diego County

Pamela Mabry, CEO  
Luke 418 Ministries  
San Diego, San Diego County

Pastor Jay Shirley  
Northminster Presbyterian  
Church  
San Marcos, San Diego County

Mark Steenstra, Treasurer  
Crossroads Christian Reformed  
Church  
San Diego, San Diego County

Reverend Karen Marohn  
King of Kings Lutheran Church  
San Diego, San Diego County

Thomas Morgan  
Legacy Church SD  
La Mesa, San Diego County

Deacon Taflin Fisher  
Christ Lutheran Church  
La Jolla, San Diego County

Pastor Paul Cunningham  
La Jolla Presbyterian Church  
San Diego, San Diego County

Senior Pastor Brian Daly  
Pacific Beach Christian Church  
San Diego County, San Diego  
County

### **San Francisco County**

Abbott Bailey, Canon to the  
Ordinary  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
San Francisco, San Francisco  
County

John Williams, Secretary, Board  
of Directors  
Pine Valley Bible Conference  
Association  
San Francisco, San Francisco  
County

Deacon G. L. Hodge  
San Francisco Interfaith Council  
San Francisco, San Francisco  
County

Theresa Cho  
St. John's Presbyterian Church  
San Francisco, San Francisco  
County

Kathleen Piraino  
Episcopal Impact Fund  
San Francisco, San Francisco  
County

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley  
Andrus, Bishop of California  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
San Francisco, San Francisco  
County

### **San Mateo County**

Pastor Trena Turner  
Faith in the Valley  
East Palo Alto, San Mateo  
County

Pastor, St Samuel Church &  
Founder, WeHOPE Pastor Paul  
Bains  
WeHOPE & St Samuel Church  
Redwood City, San Mateo  
County

Rev. Katie Goetz  
Woodside Road UMC  
Burlingame, San Mateo County

Pastor Holly Hillman  
Burlingame United Methodist  
Church  
San Mateo, San Mateo County

President John Tastor  
First Presbyterian Church of  
San Mateo  
San Mateo County, San Mateo  
County

Sister of Mercy Sister Joan  
Marie O'Donnell  
Sisters of Mercy  
Foster City, San Mateo County

Rabbi Corey Helfand  
Peninsula Sinai Congregation  
San Mateo, San Mateo County

### **Santa Barbara County**

The Reverend Lauren P.  
McCombs  
Peninsula Interfaith Cohort  
Santa Maria, Santa Barbara  
County

### **Santa Clara County**

Lead Pastor Tim Mossholder  
Santa Maria Foursquare Church  
Los Altos, Santa Clara County

Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit  
Beth Am  
Santa Clara, Santa Clara  
County

Rev. Jon Pedigo  
Catholic Charities Of Santa  
Clara County  
San José, Santa Clara County

Jennifer Lathrop, Spiritual Care  
Provider  
United Church of Christ  
Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County

Carol Haywood, Retired Minister  
United Church of Christ in  
Northern California Nevada  
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

The Rev. Randle R. Mixon  
First Baptist Church  
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

Rev. Debra Murray  
First United Methodist Church of  
Palo Alto  
Palo Alto, Santa Clara County

### **Sonoma County**

Lead Pastor Lori Sawdon  
First United Methodist Church,  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Windsor, Sonoma County

Pastor Laurie Bayen  
Windsor Community United  
Methodist Church  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Priest Associate Gail Cafferata  
Church of the Incarnation  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Rabbi George Gittleman  
Congregation Shomrei Torah  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Retired Clergy Rev. Allan B.  
Jones  
N/A (Retired)  
Kenwood, Sonoma County

Charles Ensley, Interim Worship  
Pastor  
Kenwood Community Church  
Sebastopol, Sonoma County

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent  
The Community Church of  
Sebastopol, UCC  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Mrs Winnie Hogoboom,  
President  
First Congregational Church,  
Santa Rosa  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Pastor Adam Peacocke  
FeatherVine  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

Senior Minister Christopher Bell  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation, Santa Rosa  
Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

### **Ventura County**

Toby Caplan-Stonefield,  
Member of Core Team for  
Justice working on  
Homelessness  
Congregation Or Ami  
Ventura, Ventura County

District Superintendent Rev.  
James R. Powell  
North District of the United  
Methodist Church  
Somis, Ventura County

### **Yolo County**

Rev Dr. Pastor Dave Worth  
(retired PCUSA)  
Presbytery of the Pacific  
Yolo County  
Omran AbuAboud, President  
Islamic Center of Davis  
Davis, Yolo County

Susan Padgett, Co-chair,  
Service and Justice Ministry  
the Davis United Methodist  
Church  
Yolo County

Lynn Zender, Interim Chair  
Social Justice and Outreach  
Committee  
Church of St Martin  
Davis, Yolo County

Ellen Kolarik, Co-chair Social  
Justice Committee  
Lutheran Church of the  
Incarnation  
Davis, Yolo County