

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 11, 2025

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 315 (Grayson), Infill housing and parkland dedication restrictions – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Durazo,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to SB 315 (Grayson), which proposes to limit the authority of local governments to require parkland dedication or collect fees in lieu thereof for infill housing developments. While we recognize the intent to support infill housing and address the housing crisis, this bill would significantly undermine our ability to expand vital park infrastructure for our growing communities.

Loss of Local Authority and Flexibility

This legislation imposes a one-size-fits-all approach by capping the dedication requirement at 25% of a subdivision's total acreage and prohibiting any dedication or fee for subdivisions located within one-half mile of an existing park. These restrictions severely limit local discretion and planning flexibility—especially for counties like Kern, where neighborhood needs and park access vary widely. Additionally, by applying these mandates to charter cities, the bill disregards constitutionally protected local control.

Threat to Public Park Funding and Quality

The inability to require parkland dedication or impose in-lieu fees for infill developments within a half-mile of an existing park will create funding shortfalls. Even when a park is nearby, new development places additional pressure on those facilities. Without mitigation fees or land contributions, our ability to expand or improve parks to meet increased demand will be significantly constrained, potentially resulting in overcrowded or deteriorating public spaces.

Increased Administrative and Fiscal Burden

The bill further adds to the local administrative burden by imposing new financial reporting and accounting requirements on Quimby Act fees, previously exempt from the Mitigation Fee Act. These changes would necessitate additional staff time, data systems, and resources—costs that would fall directly on local governments already working with limited budgets.

Negative Impacts on Long-Term Community Planning

Parkland requirements and mitigation fees play an essential role in creating livable, healthy communities. By limiting these tools, the bill may have unintended consequences for urban planning, reducing our ability to ensure adequate park access, particularly in underserved areas.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges you to oppose SB 315. We stand ready to collaborate on solutions that promote housing while preserving the essential public infrastructure needed to support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Local Government Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange