

1 [CEQA Reform Commendation]

2 **Resolution Commending Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Scott Weiner,**
 3 **Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and the California Legislature for Passing CEQA**
 4 **Reforms that Streamline Construction of Urban Homes, Childcare Centers, and**
 5 **Other Essential Facilities.**

6 WHEREAS, The California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, although
 7 enacted with good intent, undermined its purpose of protecting California's environment
 8 by allowing individuals and groups to block desperately needed, environmentally
 9 beneficial new homes in already developed urban environments for, oftentimes, reasons
 10 unrelated to environmental quality¹; and

11 WHEREAS, This cudgel against new homebuilding contributed to California's
 12 and San Francisco's worsening cost of housing crisis²; and

13 WHEREAS, According to *The Lowell*, the student publication of San Francisco's
 14 Lowell High School, San Francisco's cost of housing crisis has uniquely harmed youth
 15 by forcing them and their families out of their communities, jobs, and schools, thereby
 16 separating them from their established friends³; and

17 WHEREAS, AB 130, authored by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks of the East Bay,
 18 exempts new housing projects in already developed urban environments from
 19 environmental review under CEQA; and

¹ Rigel Robinson, "When a Statute Loses Its Way: Fulfilling the Original Intent of the California Environmental Quality Act," *Yale Law & Policy Review* 43, no. 1 (Spring 2025), <https://yalelawandpolicy.org/when-statute-loses-its-way-fulfilling-original-intent-california-environmental-quality-act>.

² Ben Christopher, "No More CEQA for Most Urban Housing Development in California," *CalMatters*, June 2025, <https://calmatters.org/housing/2025/06/ceqa-urban-development-infill-budget/>.

³ Serena Miller and Stella Schulte, "An Impossible Situation," *The Lowell*, May 19, 2025, <https://thelowell.org/16572/features/an-impossible-situation/>.

WHEREAS, AB 130 is one of the most important pro-housing reforms passed by the legislature in modern California history⁴; and

WHEREAS, CEQA had also been mendaciously wielded by individuals acting in bad-faith to block the construction of facilities essential to youth such as childcare centers⁵; and

WHEREAS, SB 131, authored by Senator Scott Weiner of San Francisco, exempts child care centers and other essential facilities from environmental review under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, AB 130 and SB 131 are, collectively, the most important new laws in modern California history to speed-up construction and lower costs for youth and all Californians while benefiting the environment⁶; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission commends Governor Gavin Newsom for signing AB 130 and SB 131 into law and for his exceptional legislative advocacy during this year's state budget process that got these critical reforms passed; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission commends Senator Scott Weiner for authoring SB 130 and for his tireless work to help build more homes, lower housing costs, and make California affordable for youth and future generations; and be it

⁴ Corey Smith, "CEQA Reform: A Landmark Milestone," *Housing Action Coalition*, July 7, 2025, <https://housingactioncoalition.org/news/sf-rezoning-map-9gbmr-bxgld>.

⁵ Anne Cottrell and Liz Alessio, "California Environmental Law Nearly Killed a Childcare Facility in Our Community. Enough Is Enough," *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 27, 2025, <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/california-ceqa-reform-20342916.php>.

⁶ Shawn Hubler, "California Weakens Environmental Law to Build More Housing," *New York Times*, June 30, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/30/us/california-environment-newsom-ceqa.html>.

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission commends
2 Assemblymember Buffy Wicks for authoring AB 131 and for her consistent focus on
3 increasing new housing construction and lowering housing costs; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission commends the California
5 Legislature, including San Francisco Assemblymembers Catherine Stefani and Matt
6 Haney, for overwhelmingly approving SB 130 and AB 131; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Youth Commission urges elected leaders in
8 California and San Francisco to continue pursuing reforms that will increase housing
9 production and lower housing costs; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chair of the Youth Commission is authorized to
11 issue Certificates of Honor to Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Scott Weiner, and
12 Assemblymember Buffy Wicks for their monumental efforts in getting CEQA reforms
13 enacted into law.