



June 24, 2024

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Majority Leader
State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8210
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments for ACA 10 – Local government financing

Dear Majority Leader Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to convey our comments and concerns regarding your proposed constitutional amendment - ACA 10. Last year, the City was proud to support ACA 1, and overall, the City is in strong support of greater flexibility to raise much-needed revenue to develop affordable housing and public infrastructure projects.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

MARK STAPP
Vice Mayor

We are, however, deeply concerned with a few provisions included in ACA 10, as summarized below:

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
DIANNA MACDONALD
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS

1. To include private businesses, such as railroads and utilities, in the definition of public infrastructure, causes an undue burden and inequitable hardship on cities like Santa Rosa and other local government agencies that are responsible for the operation and maintenance of public infrastructure systems. We are concerned with public funds from a tax measure going to an entity like PG&E to fund a private sector project.
2. To omit the term “stormwater” in ACA 10 as an allowable provision under public infrastructure is a significant oversight. We strongly encourage you to add the term “stormwater” back into ACA 10, identical to its use in ACA 1. The City of Santa Rosa has over 322 miles of storm drainpipe and 17,900 storm water related structures to operate and maintain. Management of these assets is essential to protect public infrastructure, relieve drainage and flooding concerns, address and comply with stringent storm water regulations, and enhance the health and vitality of our local waterways. Current statutes make it difficult and costly to adopt stormwater fees, and stormwater systems throughout the state are typically severely underfunded. Additional revenue to maintain, repair, and invest in aging stormwater infrastructure is critical to the health and safety of our community and environment.
3. Our most significant concern with ACA 10 is the revised language introduced under affordable housing. We strongly oppose the elimination of “moderate income” households within the definition of affordable housing. This is a major change in law that will limit local agency flexibility to approve funds for the development of the full range of local affordable housing needs as identified in the state’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). To alleviate this tension, we recommend broadening the language to include “low- and moderate-income households” instead of simply “lower income households,” which would benefit local governments across the state immensely as we strive to meet our RHNA goals.



We appreciate your attention and sincere consideration of our comments and concerns. Should you have any questions please contact our legislative advocate, Alyssa Silhi with the Renne Public Policy Group, at (916) 849-5536.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Rogers", written in a cursive style.

Natalie Rogers
Mayor

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

MARK STAPP
Vice Mayor

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