



June 8, 2023

The Honorable Phil Ting
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814-0007

RE: Assembly Bill 480 – Surplus Land – Notice of Opposition (As Amended on April 5, 2023)

Dear Assemblymember Ting:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to respectfully oppose your Assembly Bill (AB) 480, which would undermine the ability of local agencies to conduct appropriate economic development activities on properties they acquire or otherwise own by expanding the scope of authority for the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review “any action to dispose of land,” which would include properties retained for agency use, properties declared “exempt surplus,” and properties that local agencies are authorized by other laws to acquire and dispose of for economic development purposes.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

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VICTORIA FLEMING
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In 2023, the Santa Rosa City Council adopted priority issue areas of great import to the City. Among these are delivering housing for all, reducing homelessness and its impacts, and ensuring a healthy and safe community for all. Allowing local agencies the ability to appropriately conduct economic development activities for the establishment and preservation of a solid local tax base and to dispose of land to perpetuate the building of housing in a timely manner are essential to the furtherance of these essential community goals.

The implementation of the Surplus Lands Act (SLA), including HCD’s recent guidelines, has created immense delays and difficulties for local government agencies dealing with the control and disposal of their local properties. Regrettably, AB 480 would compound those difficulties by expanding state reviews and delays affecting properties retained for agency use and declared exempt surplus.

Rather than expanding the scope of the SLA, the Legislature should thoroughly evaluate the difficulties, bureaucratic delays, and unintended consequences caused by implementation of existing law on local agency activities, including addressing unresolved conflicts with other laws and state policy priorities that the Legislature has enacted that affect the disposal of local agency property.



For these reasons, we must respectfully oppose your measure. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Dane Hutchings with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers
Mayor

CC: The Honorable Mike McGuire, Senate District 2
The Honorable Damon Connolly, Assembly District 12
The Honorable Jim Wood, Assembly District 2
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs

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