

**From:** [Omar Lopez](#)  
**To:** [PLANCOM - Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 3/13/2025 - Item 11.1(a) Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, March 10, 2025 11:08:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [2025 0313 Santa Rosa PC Item 11.1\(a\).pdf](#)  
[HousingActionPlan logo.png](#)

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Good morning,

Attached is Generation Housing's public comment letter on Item 11.1(a) for the Santa Rosa Planning Commission meeting on 3/13/2025.

All the best,

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Omar Lopez | Senior Program Associate  
He/Him/His/El  
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March 13th, 2025

Santa Rosa Planning Commission  
100 Santa Rosa Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Re: Item 11.1(a): Housing Element Amendment Public Hearing**

Dear Chair Weeks, Vice Chair Duggan, Commissioners, and Staff,

Generation Housing continues to support the proposed amendment to the 2023-2031 Housing Element, which includes the transfer of 641 RHNA units from the County of Sonoma to the City of Santa Rosa. This transfer is a logical and necessary step following the annexation of 34.93 acres in northwest Santa Rosa, ensuring that the City appropriately plans for its housing obligations and expands housing opportunities for residents.

Last week, we conveyed this same support to the City Council, when they were considering approving the RHNA transfer. We appreciate the opportunity to reaffirm this position before the Planning Commission.

Additionally, we recognize the importance of the two clerical corrections being incorporated into this amendment to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the Housing Element. Ensuring that Santa Rosa's housing policies are both clear and up to date is critical for meeting the City's long-term housing goals.

We urge the Planning Commission to recommend approval of this amendment to the City Council. This action will help Santa Rosa fulfill its housing commitments while reinforcing the City's leadership in addressing regional housing needs.

In partnership,  
Stephanie Picard Bowen

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Bowen".

Deputy Director, Generation Housing

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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March 11, 2025

Jessica Jones, Deputy Director  
Planning and Economic Development Department  
City of Santa Rosa  
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Jessica Jones:

**RE: City of Santa Rosa's 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle (2023-2031) Draft Amendment to the Housing Element**

Thank you for submitting the City of Santa Rosa's (City) draft amendment to the housing element that was received for review on February 28, 2025. Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is reporting the results of its review.

On April 7, 2023, HCD found the City's housing element in substantial compliance with State Housing Element Law (Gov. Code, § 65580 et seq) and as of this writing, the City continues to comply with State Housing Element Law. This draft amendment does not impact the April 7, 2023 finding of substantial compliance. The element will continue to comply with State Housing Element Law once the amendment has been adopted, submitted, and reviewed by HCD pursuant to Government Code section 65585.

Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning. Throughout the housing element process, the City should continue to engage the community, including organizations that represent lower-income and special needs households, by making information regularly available and considering and incorporating comments where appropriate. Please be aware, any revisions to the element must be posted on the local government's website and to email a link to all individuals and organizations that have previously requested notices relating to the local government's housing element at least seven days before submitting to HCD.

Pursuant to Government Code section 65583.3, subdivision (b), the City must utilize standards, forms, and definitions adopted by HCD when preparing the sites inventory and submit an electronic version of the sites inventory. While the City has submitted an electronic version of the sites inventory, if changes occur or have occurred since prior

submittals, any future adopted version of the element must also submit the electronic version of the sites inventory.

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program, and HCD's Permanent Local Housing Allocation consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the City continues to meet housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

HCD appreciates the City's hard work and diligence during the housing element process and looks forward to receiving the re-adopted element. If you have any questions or need additional technical assistance, please contact me at [paul.mcdougall@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:paul.mcdougall@hcd.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul McDougall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul McDougall  
Senior Program Manager