



*Office of the Mayor*

3300 Capitol Avenue, Building A | P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006

510 284-4011 *ph* | 510 284-4001 *fax* | [www.fremont.gov](http://www.fremont.gov)

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 866 (Blakespear) – Planning and zoning: housing element: unhoused population  
City of Fremont Oppose**

Dear Senator Blakespear:

**On behalf of the City of Fremont, I respectfully oppose SB 866 (Blakespear).** Currently, the state's Planning and Zoning Law requires local governments to adopt a general plan for land use development, which must include a housing element. The law requires the housing element to contain an assessment of housing needs, as well as an inventory of resources and constraints relevant to meeting such needs. Among other provisions, SB 866 would require local governments that do not receive direct Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program funding to include in their assessments specified data on the unhoused population, along with a description of key actions to be taken to reduce the number of individuals who are unhoused.

Currently, the HHAP program allocates funding to all 58 counties, 44 Continuums of Care, and cities with populations over 300,000. Only 14 cities in the state receive direct funding through HHAP. Subsequently, this would mean the proposed bill would apply to all recipients, except for the 14 cities that receive direct HHAP funding.

Notably, in the City of Fremont, HHAP funding has been critical to supporting our Housing Navigation Center, which has served over 250 unhoused individuals in the last five years. However, this bill could complicate local governments' access to and administration of HHAP funding. The City of Fremont is primarily opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- **The bill imposes new, additional reporting burdens and metrics that are difficult to administer and collect, and duplication of existing data infrastructure.** For example, Section 1, Subdivision (a)(10)(C)(i)(VI), of the bill would require local governments to collect data on the number of people who become unhoused after exiting institutional settings, including but not limited to jails, prisons, and hospitals. This information is nearly infeasible to collect and report. Furthermore, County agencies and CoCs are already mandated and funded to operate databases that collect local homeless response data via Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- **The bill would require changes to local governments' housing planning efforts and goals.** Many local governments, including the City of Fremont, typically update their housing element every eight years, whereas HHAP regional plans are updated each year that funding is available. The bill would require housing elements to include the information and data specified in Section 1, Subdivision (a)(10). However, because the housing element is a long-term housing planning document, the reporting of the specified data imposed under this bill would quickly become outdated. The information collected through annual Continuum of Care point-in-time counts already provides more in-depth context regarding the evolving needs of unhoused individuals and better addresses the issues that this bill seeks to address. This bill would effectively mandate that

local governments' housing planning documents mirror the system performance measures in HHAP regional plans.

- **The bill is an unfunded mandate.** The bill would require local governments to bear the full cost of updating their reporting mechanisms and infrastructure to be able to collect the specified data and information.
- **The City of Fremont maintains a unique HHAP funding model.** Specifically, the City of Fremont voluntarily receives HHAP funding from Alameda County's allocation and from the Cities of Newark and Union City. This bill would likely disrupt that coordination through unfunded mandates, and the City of Fremont will likely risk losing these funds.

I recognize and appreciate the bill's intent to expand transparency around the broader effort across the state to address homelessness. However, the reporting requirements imposed by the bill are nearly impossible to implement, and the bill would require local governments to have these reporting mechanisms and infrastructure set in place by an ambitious deadline of January 1, 2027, which is just less than a year from today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raj Salwan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Raj Salwan  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes, Chair, California State Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Jesse Arreguín, Chair, California State Senate Housing Committee  
The Honorable Dr. Aisha Wahab, California State Senate  
The Honorable Alex Lee, California State Assembly  
League of California Cities