

May 21, 2021

To: Members, California State Senate

RE: SB 9 (Atkins) Housing development: approvals – SUPPORT

Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, **is pleased to support SB 9 (Atkins), a bill that would help increase the state's housing supply while respecting local control.**

Orange County, like other densely populated regions in the state, needs creative policy reforms to ensure more housing can be built. OCBC's "[2019-20 Workforce Housing Scorecard](#)" found that Orange County has an existing shortfall of 58,000 units. This shortfall will likely grow to over 114,000 units unless housing production can meet new job growth and population growth. SB 9 would be an important tool for addressing this shortfall.

SB 9 requires that qualified applications to a local government to create a duplex or subdivide an existing residential parcel be approved ministerially without discretionary review. This allows builders to take advantage of developed but underutilized land and build equity for homeowners.

The need for legislative solutions on the state's housing crisis is made clear by the increasing decline of new housing permits. In 2020, only 102,800 new permits were approved—far short of the Governor's campaign goal of approving 500,000 new permits annually. This is an 8.8% decrease from 2019. Small-scale residential developments create a crucial opportunity to produce more housing units, which in turn supports Californian families, communities and the economy.

For these reasons, OCBC asks you to vote YES on SB 9.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs