November 23, 2021

In the spirit of collaboration, Housing staff on the Monterey Peninsula are collaborating on statewide housing requirements in order to advance affordable housing goals. Now is the time to begin this collaborative effort as the update of the 6th Cycle of the Housing Element is in effect.

In addition, new state housing laws are leading to major local changes for planning and housing staff, including SB9, SB35, State Density Bonus Law and new Housing Element requirements. Preliminary Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) numbers have more than tripled since the last Housing Element cycle. Housing is a top concern locally and at the state level.

Staff currently collaborate on regional housing efforts through a number of regional agencies, including:

- The AMBAG Planning Director’s Forum
- The Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) Housing Initiative
- The Coalition of Homeless Service Providers Continuum of Care (CoC)
- The United Way’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and ADU development efforts

In a recent example of collaboration, the City of Pacific Grove hosted an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) workshop and Ben Nurse, Housing Program Manager for Seaside, attended. It was beneficial to have additional perspective and experience on ADU construction since Mr. Nurse is leading Seaside’s local ADU effort. Seaside and Pacific Grove have the highest numbers of permitted ADU’s on the Peninsula.

Going forward, staff plans on collaborating on the following shared areas of interest:

- Housing Element Workshops
- Housing Discussions and Public Engagement
- Informational Housing Materials
- Water Availability for Housing Development
• Sharing information

Housing staff collaborating include staff from the cities of Pacific Grove, Monterey, Seaside, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Marina.

Sincerely,

Ben Nurse, Housing Program Manager, City of Seaside

Grant Leonard AICP, Housing Analyst, City of Monterey

Anastacia Wyatt, Housing Program Manager, City of Pacific Grove

Brandon Swanson, Planning Director, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea

Nick McIlroy, Associate Planner, City of Marina