

Supervisors hear community blowback of State Housing Element

January 28, 2023



Supervisors listened to an update and report of the octo-annual Draft Del Norte County 2022-2030 Housing Element.

Upon invitation from Community Development, Brian Lester, Project Manager shared with supervisors and the community the State requires 40% no or low income projects planned through the end of this decade.

Mr. Lester reported 386 new Housing developments must be planned and The Del Norte Housing Element identified 154 units would be dedicated to zero and low income recipients. No criteria were presented in what scaffold determines low income.

5TH District Supervisor Dean Wilson was clearly unhappy with the State's role in mapping out Del Norte County's future housing and shared his concern the consequences of not adhering to adopting the Housing Element could result in dire consequences for Del Norte.

Public Speakers expressed their concern that Sacramento is determining the future face of Del Norte. Public Speaker Branden Bieber addressed the Board stating, "...this is Government imposing more government. This is Sacramento telling Del Norte County what to do and how to live. That's unacceptable".

Lester responded, "...the Housing Element is the report what counties will do over the next eight years. Failure to adhere to the adopted Element would invite State scrutiny on why the subordinate governance is not following up with its adopted plan, what incentives are being researched to adhere to the Plan and what additional outreach can be extended as fully promised obligations. The dire consequences stated by Supervisor Wilson could be a State law suit or additional governmental scrutiny which would be costly and punitive to the defiant lower level government.

The Housing Element will come back before the Board for consideration of adoption, February 28.