

Submitter: Richard Mills

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

I oppose removing Design Review as proposed in the SB974 –1 Amendment “Section 12 (5)” on page 10 and “Section 13 (5)” on page 11.

The pressing need for new housing should not preclude all other considerations. Design review helps ensure that new housing construction fits into established neighborhoods and has taken into consideration other important factors, such as energy efficiency and access to sun. Recently in my neighborhood, an empty lot suddenly sprouted a new sign detailing the multifamily structure that was to be built on it. Included in the posted information were details about what effects the design review process had had on the buildings' design. It was very clear that the design of the buildings were greatly improved by the design process. Since new construction will be around for decades, it is vitally important to ensure that these buildings are appropriate for the neighborhood. Please do not remove the requirement for housing proposals to go through design review!