



December 15, 2020

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento CA 95814

### **Support for SB 7: Expedited CEQA Review for Environmental Leadership Projects**

Dear Madam President pro Tempore Atkins:

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), and our coalition partners included in this letter, we write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 7, which would extend the sunset date for AB 900 Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership projects from 2020 through 2024.

Our organizations have long been voices for streamlining the development project approval process, especially with regard to CEQA requirements. SPUR's 2017 *Agenda for CASA*, our 2006 *Form and Reform, Planning the City's Future* report with the AIA in 2007, and our support for Governor Brown's 2016 by-right proposal for housing approvals are just a few examples of our collective research and advocacy work in support of commonsense CEQA reform that upholds strong environmental protections while achieving smart growth, infill development and job creation.

Major transformational projects, including mixed-use and housing developments, such as San Francisco's Balboa Reservoir and 3333 California Street Project and Oakland's Sports and Mixed-Use Project at Howard Terminal have been approved by Governor Newsom as Environmental Leadership Projects.

AB 900, which SB 7 would extend through 2024, was enacted to expedite—but not weaken—environmental reviews for “Environmental Leadership Projects.” These are large, low or zero-polluting projects that generate jobs, affordable housing and clean energy. Already, in less than a decade, AB 900 has enabled the construction of nearly 20 major clean energy and infill housing projects, generating over one billion dollars in new investment and thousands of high-wage jobs. Allowing AB 900 to sunset at this moment of high economic uncertainty and ever-increasing

climate risk would slow momentum for environmentally important projects that also support economic recovery.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 7 and hope for its swift passage through the Legislature. Thank you for your leadership in addressing our intertwined environmental and economic development goals.

Sincerely,

Michael Lane - San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)

Jason Baker - Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Leslye Corsiglia - Silicon Valley at Home

Todd David - Bay Area Housing Advocacy Coalition

Russ Hancock - Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Matt Regan - Bay Area Council