



**For Immediate Release:**  
May 14, 2024

**Contact:** Steven Harmon  
916-651-4007 (office)  
916-539-5005 (cell)

## **Senator Glazer Applauds Audit of State Housing Department**

**A response to cities' concerns that the bureaucracy has been  
inconsistent and unfair in approving plans for housing**

**SACRAMENTO** – The Joint Legislative Audit Committee today approved Senator Steve Glazer's request to audit the housing element review process conducted by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

Senator Glazer requested the audit after serious concerns were raised by cities across the state about the timeliness, consistency and fair application of HCD's standards and procedures.

"We have an affordable housing crisis and cities are working hard to create the zoning for enhanced housing construction," said Senator Glazer, D-Contra Costa. "If we are going to require cities to uphold many state standards in their housing plans, the state must provide clear and consistent guidance to cities. This audit will help provide legislative insight and scrutiny of the work of this important housing department."

California law requires all local governments to adopt a housing element as part of their general plan that complies with state housing laws. Every eight years on a rolling basis, cities and counties must submit updated housing elements to the HCD for review and approval. A housing element is how cities plan where new homes are located.

The audit's scope will include:

- A determination of how clear the HCD's standards and regulations are for housing elements.
- An assessment of how responsive HCD has been to local governments.
- A measure on how many different reviewers evaluate a jurisdiction's housing element.
- A determination of the consistency of HCD's comments and reviews.
- An evaluation of the clarity of HCD's feedback.
- An assessment of how HCD communicates housing element submission deadlines to local governments.

- An evaluation of HCD staffing levels and the turnover rate.
- An analysis of how HCD trains its new and existing staff assigned to review housing elements.

Senator Glazer's request was supported by the League of California Cities. The audit will be conducted beginning this fall.

###