



CITY OF DEL MAR

July 9, 2025

The Honorable Matt Haney
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 16 (Blakespear) Ending Street Homelessness Act
Notice of OPPOSITION *(As Amended 06/23/2025)*

Dear Assemblymember Haney,

The City of Del Mar must respectfully oppose SB 16 (Blakespear). As amended, SB 16 would impose several significant new requirements on the state's flagship homelessness grant program—the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program.

For years, cities have urged state leaders to invest a minimum of \$1 billion in ongoing flexible funding for the HHAP program. [Federal](#) and [state](#) reports tell us that targeted and sustained funding leads to decreases in homelessness. With a permanent, reliable funding source, cities would be better positioned to meet the goals outlined in SB 16, developing long-term solutions to help our most vulnerable residents.

Unfortunately, SB 16 was introduced at the tail end of the legislative session and in the midst of budget negotiations. Although, as a small city, Del Mar does not directly receive HHAP funding through the state, the City is disappointed that this year's state budget cuts HHAP funding by half and will not fully allocate new funding until the next fiscal year. The implications of these cuts are potentially devastating, with California's largest cities projecting the loss of 3,250 shelter beds, reduced outreach services for over 12,500 individuals, and stalled development for over 2,250 housing units as a direct consequence.

Given these circumstances, the City of Del Mar does not believe that now is the right time to advance legislation that proposes a major overhaul of the HHAP program and creates new long-term planning goals without a commitment to long-term funding. SB 16 introduces significant programmatic changes tied directly to the state budget process, and more time is needed to carefully assess and work through the details. The City of Del Mar would appreciate the author and sponsors taking time this fall to engage with stakeholders on SB 16 and return next year with a proposal that ensures the success of the HHAP program for years to come.

With uncertainty around future federal funding and a projected multiyear state budget deficit, communities across California are bracing for increased housing instability and homelessness. In the absence of ongoing funding, the complicated new requirements included in SB 16 will only make it more challenging for local governments—including small cities like Del Mar—to access crucial state homelessness funding that is instrumental to addressing the immediate homelessness challenges across California.

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For these reasons, the City of Del Mar opposes SB 16 (Blakespear).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Gaasterland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Gaasterland
Mayor

cc. Senator Catherine Blakespear, Jack.Christensen@sen.ca.gov
Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, Annie.Pham@asm.ca.gov
Del Mar City Council
Ashley Jones, City Manager, City of Del Mar
Catherine Hill, League of California Cities, chill@calcities.org
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