

[date]

Sebastopol

To: [Committee Chair]

Subject: AB 965 (Levine) SUPPORT

Dear [author and/or committee chair],

[I am/we are] writing on behalf of the City of Sebastopol to express our support for [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 965](#), authored by Assemblymember Marc Levine.

AB 965 authorizes the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) to develop and implement building standards for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at existing multi-family housing and non-residential building developments. Given the ongoing confusion between public agencies, housing developers and the EV industry, this measure is necessary to provide clear guidance to ensure the equitable deployment of EV charging infrastructure throughout California.

In response to the climate crisis, California is on a policy trajectory toward full economic decarbonization. Gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles are the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in California. In September 2020, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order to cease the registration of new gasoline-powered cars no later than 2035. To achieve this goal, the California Energy Commission (CEC) has estimated that California will need 1.5 million EV chargers to support the transition to EVs in the coming decade.

Requiring EV-ready parking spaces at multi-family housing developments is one of the biggest challenges, but also one of the most cost-effective and socially equitable methods to facilitate broad deployment of EV charging infrastructure. Renters in multi-unit dwellings who want to drive an EV but don't have their own garage or other location to install charging equipment are at an unfair disadvantage.

In 2019, Assemblymember Levine authored AB 684, which would have required the HCD and the BSC to develop building standards for EV charging infrastructure at multi-family housing and non-residential developments. That legislation received bi-partisan support but was vetoed by the Governor stating that the "issue is best addressed administratively." Later that fall in a public hearing on EV charging infrastructure HCD stated that it did not have the authority to develop standards on their own without legislative authorization. Therefore, AB 965 is clearly needed.

For the above reasons, we urge your "aye" vote when this measure comes to your committee.

Sincerely,

[official Sebastopol signer]

cc: Hon. Marc Levine, California Assembly, District 10