



League of California Cities-Latino Caucus

March 17, 2014

Diane J. Martinez
President
City of Paramount

Alicia Aguirre
Vice President
City of Redwood City

Daniel Parra
Treasurer
City of Fowler

Xavier Campos
Secretary/Parliamentarian
City of San Jose

Tony Cardenas
Immediate Past President
Council Member

REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Armenta
City of Rosemead

Karen Avilla
City of Carson

Karina Cervantez
City of Watsonville

Jose Cisneros
City of San Francisco

Jose Flores
City of Clovis

Armando Lopez
City of Parlier

Emilio Morales
City of Dinuba

Robert Silva
City of Mendota

Cecilia Valdez
City of San Pablo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John E. Arriaga

LEGAL COUNSEL
Bonny Garcia

Assembly Member Luis Alejo
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 2280 (Alejo) Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Alejo:

The League of California Cities Latino Caucus is pleased to support your AB 2280 (Alejo).

This legislation, which is updated to reflect all of the good work, negotiations and amendments taken to your AB 1080 from last year, authorizes the creation of a new entity at the local level called a Community Revitalization Investment Authority (CRIIA) that would provide a redevelopment option for the most disadvantaged and poorest areas of our state.

Communities across California are still reeling from the loss of redevelopment agencies, which were focused on revitalizing urban cores and building affordable housing, especially those areas most economically and physically disadvantaged.

A CRIIA would be empowered to invest the property tax increment of consenting local agencies (other than schools) and other available funding to improve conditions leading to increased employment opportunities, including reducing high crime rates, repairing deteriorated and inadequate infrastructure, and developing affordable housing. Its powers and responsibilities would mirror those of former redevelopment agencies.

This legislation would particularly benefit California's low-income, disadvantaged communities. In recent years, more and more communities in California have fallen into blight, with high-unemployment coupled with the elimination of programs that provided economic/social support. This is especially evident in predominantly rural and heavily Latino-populated communities in the Central Valley.

Numerous economic development proposals have been introduced on different approaches and policy priorities. AB 2280 fills a void among those proposals by offering a tool that can be used in the state's disadvantaged poorer areas and neighborhoods, which was the original focus of redevelopment. Thus this tool can be offered to communities, not

to the exclusion of other ideas, but to expand the choices available to fit unique local circumstances.

While the reality is that this tool will be less financially robust than the former redevelopment tool, it can serve as a critical first step toward addressing the challenges faced by California's most disadvantaged and poorest areas.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please call me at (916) 669-

1340.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diane J. Martinez", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Diane J. Martinez
President
League of California Cities Latino Caucus

Cc: Chair and Members, Assembly Local Government Committee
Chair and Members, Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee
William Weber, Principal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Debbie Michel, Chief Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
Misa Yokoi-Shelton, Associate Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
Lisa Engle, Chief Consultant, Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee
Katie Kolitsos, Special Assistant to Speaker John A. Pérez
Camille Wagner, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown
Gareth Elliott, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown