



# CITY OF SARATOGA

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COUNCIL MEMBERS:

*Mary-Lynne Bernald*

*Kookie Fitzsimmons*

*Rishi Kumar*

*Tina Walia*

*Yan Zhao*

Incorporated October 22, 1956

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President pro Tempore, California State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 9 (Atkins)

Dear Senate President Pro Tempore Atkins,

I am writing on behalf of the City Council of the City of Saratoga to express opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 9, which would require ministerial consideration without any discretionary review, hearing, or environmental review for proposed housing developments with 2 residential units in zones in single-family residential zones.

Housing affordability and homelessness are among the most critical issues facing California cities. Affordably priced homes are out of reach for many people and housing is not being built fast enough to meet the current or projected needs of people living in the state.

There has been a movement at the State level to address the affordable housing crisis by stripping communities of local control. This effort has been based on the underlying belief that the housing crisis can be solved by eliminating imagined barriers to development. For at least the past 15 years, Saratoga has not denied a single application for housing.

SB 9 continues this effort to chip away at the ability of our communities to plan for their own futures and growth and will fail to spur housing construction in a manner that supports local flexibility, decision-making, and community input.

We urge the State Legislature and the Governor to reject this bill and seek a collaborative solution to the housing crisis that allows local jurisdictions to be part of the solution without sacrificing our ability to shape the future of our communities.

Sincerely,

Yan Zhao, Mayor  
City of Saratoga

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-009**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA  
IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 9 (ATKINS)  
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: APPROVALS**

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, California has experienced a growing need for affordable housing and the State has enacted many laws that seek to address that need by stripping jurisdictions of local control; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill (SB) 9 would require ministerial consideration without any discretionary review, hearing, or environmental review for proposed housing developments with 2 residential units in zones in single-family residential zones; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill would require cities to permit the development of a duplex or subdivision of a parcel into two equal parcels, prohibit cities from imposing dedications of rights-of-way, limit parking requirements to no more than one space per unit, and prohibit any parking requirements for developments within ½ mile of a major transit stop or stop on a high frequency bus line or within one block of a car share vehicle; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 9 would not spur much needed housing construction in a manner that supports local flexibility, decision-making, and community input and State driven ministerial or by-right housing approval processes fail to recognize the extensive public engagement associated with developing and adopting zoning ordinances and Housing Elements; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 9 imposes no requirement to build affordable units and continues a one-size-fits all approach to the housing crisis by eroding local control and the ability of residents to shape the future of their community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Saratoga does hereby oppose SB 9, authorizes the Mayor to execute a letter reflecting the City Council's position, and urges the California State Legislature and the Governor of California to reject this bill and seek a collaborative approach to the housing crisis that allows local communities to part of the solution to the housing shortfall across all income levels without sacrificing their ability to plan future growth.

The above and foregoing resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Saratoga City Council held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Yan Zhao, Vice Mayor Tina Walia, Council Members Rishi Kumar, Kookie Fitzsimmons, Mary-Lynne Bernald

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Yan Zhao, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Debbie Bretschneider, CMC, City Clerk

DATE: 3/4/2021