

May 10, 2022  
Mayor Kimbley Craig  
200 Lincoln Ave.,  
Salinas, CA 93901  
PublicComment@ci.salinas.ca.us

Subject: LandWatch's support for ZCA 2022-002 to create affordable housing for teachers

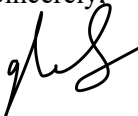
Dear Salinas City Council,

This is a letter of support for Zoning Code Amendment (ZCA) 2022-002 to allow the Salinas Union High School District to acquire an empty apartment complex in order to provide affordable housing for teachers and other school employees. The goals of the zoning amendment align with principles guiding LandWatch's advocacy for the development of affordable housing and the amendment aligns with the city's General Plan.

LandWatch supports the development of housing, especially affordable housing, within city limits in order to fulfill Regional Housing Need Assessment goals and in accordance with state guidance for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. The development proposed by SUHSD has been found categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review because the proposed amendment would only permit the District to acquire, construct, or preserve affordable rental housing for its staff or the public. This use is consistent with the Teacher Housing Act of 2016 and affordable infill housing is desperately needed in Salinas and across Monterey County, especially for public servants in the education sector.

LandWatch strongly supports ZCA 2022-002 and the housing development best practices it represents going into California's 6<sup>th</sup> Housing Element cycle.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Sanders  
Deputy Director  
LandWatch