

State law recognizes the vital role local governments play in the supply and affordability of housing. Each governing body (City Council or Board of Supervisors) of a local government in California is required to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city, city and county, or county.

The housing element is one of the seven mandated elements of the local general plan. Housing element law, enacted in 1969, mandates that local governments adequately plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community. The law acknowledges that, in order for the private market to adequately address housing needs and demand, local governments must adopt land use plans and regulatory systems which provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development. As a result, housing policy in the State rests largely upon the effective implementation of local general plans and, in particular, local housing elements.

Housing element law also requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) review local housing elements for compliance with State law and to report its written findings to the local government. For more on this law, [click here](#) .

- Housing Element Initial Study, October 2008, Revised February 2010, Revised September 2010 [Click here](#)
- CEQA Addendum on TCSP [Click here](#)
- Housing Element Section I Draft, November 2010 [Click here.](#)
- Housing Element Section II Draft, September 2010 [Click here.](#)