



June 2, 2022

Heather Adamson, AICP  
AMBAG Director of Planning  
24580 Silver Cloud Court  
Monterey, CA 93940

sent USPS standard, certified mail, email

RE: Draft 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA Plan and Sand City Allotment

Dear Ms. Adamson:

This correspondence is in response to the Draft 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle (2023-2031) RHNA Plan and the allotment of 260 units in this cycle of the RHNA allocation to the City of Sand City. According to the Department of Finance, the City has a 2022 estimated population of 372 persons. There are approximately 184 dwelling units within the City (8 of which are currently under construction). Requiring a RHNA allocation of 260 that is approximately 141% of the existing number of all existing residential units in the City is patently unreasonable. The allocation to Sand City fails to meet the requirement of Cal. Gov. Code section 65584(d)(1) that the RHNA plan allocates in a manner that is equitable within the region. By comparison, if applied to the City of Monterey, the allocation to Sand City would be equivalent to allocating approximately 42,600 units to the City of Monterey based on its population of approximately 30,218 residents. Instead, your allocation in the draft plan allocates 3,654 units to the City of Monterey.

In addition, the allocation to Sand City ignores additional factors that the methodology requires be observed. For example, you are required to consider “the availability of land suitable for urban development or for conversion to residential use, the availability of underutilized land, and opportunities for infill development and increased residential densities...” and “land preserved or protected from urban development under federal or state programs, or both, designed to protect open space... environmental habitats...” (AMBAG Draft 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA Plan, April 2022, page 20); Cal Gov. code section 65584(d)(2). Sand City is small in land area (approximately 347 acres), landlocked between other jurisdictions and the Monterey Bay, with development within constrained by the presence of environmentally sensitive species and habitat protected and regulated by both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. About half of the City is located west of the Highway 1 freeway

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May 31, 1960

corridor within an appealable Coastal Zone overlay regulated by the City's Local Coastal Plan (LCP); yet subject to appeal to the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The CCC has previously imposed strict limits on coastal development in Sand City due to the Coastal Act's prioritization of public access, coastal recreation, and the preservation of sensitive coastal habitat over that of residential land use.

In addition, a majority of the City has already been re-zoned to either High Density Residential (R-3) or Planned Mixed Use, both enabling high density and multifamily residential development, consistent with Government Code Section 65584(d)(2) for infill and equitable housing opportunities and Government Code Section 65584(d)(3) for an improved relationship between jobs and housing. There are almost no other practical opportunities for re-zoning to accommodate additional residences without impacting the City's primary revenue source, its regional shopping centers.

The City understands the State-wide need for affordable housing and job/housing balance. However, in light of the above constraints and efforts already implemented by the City, it is inconceivable how the City could meet the goals of the current RHNA allocation. The City of Sand City requests AMBAG lower Sand City's allotment to a number that is actually achievable in light of its small size and noted constraints.

Sincerely,



Vibeke Norgaard  
City Manager

cc: Mary Ann Carbone, Mayor  
Sand City Council Members  
Adam Lindgren, City Attorney  
Charles Pooler, City Planner