

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

EXECUTIVE ORDER W-160-97

WHEREAS, the California recovery from economic recession has been strong and dramatic, the recovery in housing construction remains uneven; and

WHEREAS, California's historic commitment to building public infrastructure has been fundamental to the state's economic growth; and

WHEREAS, over 200,000 units of new housing are needed each year to keep pace with new household formation and population growth in California; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing remains a basic goal for all Californians; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing reduces California's ability to recruit and retain businesses that are critical to California's economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, housing costs in California are more expensive when compared to the national average due to a variety of factors including excessive regulatory burdens placed upon developers; and

WHEREAS, California has among the lowest home ownership rates of any state in the nation -- only 56 percent of all housing in the State is owner-occupied compared to 65 percent for the nation; and

WHEREAS, more than 2 million low-income households pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing, and 1.3 million households live in overcrowded conditions; and

WHEREAS, housing promotes family and community stability and values; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Construction Summits in 1992 and 1996 produced several government reforms that helped lead California's economy out of the recession of the 1990s.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETE WILSON, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effective immediately:

A. The California Housing Policy Council is hereby established, consisting of the following:

Secretary of the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency, who shall also serve as chair
Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency
Secretary of the Trade and Commerce Agency
Secretary of the Resources Agency
Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency
Director of the Department of Food and Agriculture
Director of the Department of Finance
Director of the Office of Planning and Research
Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development
Director of the Department of General Services
Chair of the California Energy Commission

B. The Council shall be in existence until July 1, 2002, unless otherwise extended by Executive Order.

- C. The Council shall meet at least three times a year, but may meet more frequently to consider policy recommendations to the Governor on broad statewide housing issues and concerns.
- D. The Council's specific responsibilities shall be to:
1. Pro-actively explore new public/private initiatives to reinvigorate the housing industry so it may be responsive to the state's housing needs.
 2. Advise the Governor on the administrator's budget and legislative program as it relates to ensuring the availability of affordable housing to all Californians.
 3. Coordinate state policies related to housing, associated land use issues, and the construction of related infrastructure.
 4. Coordinate implementation, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained in the April 9, 1997 report Building the Future: The Report of the Construction Industry Roundtable to Governor Wilson.
 5. Convene an annual Construction Industry Roundtable with leaders in the construction industry, trade associations, and labor organizations to identify any further actions needed to reduce regulatory barriers to housing and construction in California.
- E. Pursuant to Section I 10 19.6(a) of the Government Code, I hereby designate the Office of the Secretary for Business Transportation & Housing as the principal state agency for the coordination of procedures, forms, and deadlines related to housing, and the Office of the Secretary for State and Consumer Services as the principal state agency for the coordination of procedures, forms, and deadlines related to building and construction codes. All other state agencies shall defer to the principal agency in the performance of their duties in these areas, or upon a particular project with respect to procedures, forms, and deadlines, subject to the conditions specified in law. No part of this order shall be construed to limit the authority of any agency to hold public hearings on any matter within its jurisdiction, and no part of this order shall be construed to authorize any state agency to adopt or implement procedures, forms or deadlines in conflict with those exactly specified in statute or in conflict with the Administrative Procedure Act. Nothing in this order shall be construed to confer upon any state agency decision making authority over substantive matters within another agency's jurisdiction, including any informational and public hearing requirements needed to make regulatory and permitting decisions. This order does not apply to any court or office of the judicial branch of government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 25th day of August 1997.

Governor of California

ATTEST:

Secretary of State