

The City of
SAN DIEGO
Accessibility Advisory Board

May 13, 2026

Heidi Vonblum, Director
City Planning Department
202 C Street, MS 413
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Director Vonblum,

Thank you for your thoughtful response dated April 7, 2026, regarding the City's accessible housing initiatives. The Accessibility Advisory Board (Board) appreciates the City Planning Department's (Planning) commitment to expanding accessible housing options through both Housing Action Package 1.0 and 2.0, and we look forward to deepening our collaboration on this important work.

We are encouraged by the two programs included in the Housing Action Packages: the amended Housing Accessibility Program that incentivizes new homes exceeding California Building Code accessibility requirements, and the ADU Home Density Bonus that allows for an additional accessible ADU. These are meaningful steps, and we are eager to serve as a resource as the City continues to develop and refine these programs.

We are particularly interested in the ongoing outreach for the Neighborhood Homes Initiative and welcome the opportunity to provide input on interior accessibility features incorporating Universal Design elements that will best serve seniors, people with disabilities, and residents seeking to age in place. Universal Design concept will ensure inclusivity for not just the aforementioned groups, but for all residents of San Diego.

As previously discussed with Planning staff at our April 8, 2026, Board meeting, we look forward to continued collaboration between Planning and the Board's Accessible Housing Ad Hoc Committee so that we may offer substantive feedback before the initiative is finalized.

We are glad to hear that the Planning conducts an annual review of home permits issued. To strengthen this tracking effort, the Board respectfully requests the following:

- That annual reports specifically disaggregate data on permits issued under the Housing Accessibility Program and the accessible ADU Density Bonus, so that the Board and the public can assess utilization and outcomes over time.
- That the City considers establishing clear numerical benchmarks or targets for accessible home production, which would help evaluate whether current incentives are sufficient or whether additional amendments are warranted.

- **That the Board be included as a standing stakeholder in future reviews of these programs, consistent with our advisory role.**

We understand and share the City’s recognition that homes are constructed by private and non-profit entities, and that economic factors influence how many accessible homes are ultimately built. With this in mind, the Board would welcome a broader conversation with Planning and the Chief Housing and Community Development Officer about potential additional tools — such as fee waivers, density bonuses, or priority permitting — that could further reduce barriers to accessible home construction.

The Accessibility Advisory Board is committed to working alongside the City Planning Department to ensure that San Diego’s growth is inclusive for residents of all abilities. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Accessibility Advisory Board, City of San Diego:

Victor Roosen, Chair

Patricia Sieglen-Perry, Vice Chair

Mary Wolford, Member

Wayne Landon, Member

Jacqueline Jackson, Member

Diane Koczur, Member

Kate Pecora, Member

Cc: Chris Ackerman-Avila, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Casey Smith, Chief Housing & Community Development Officer
Seth Litchney, Deputy Director, City Planning Department
Thyme Curtis, Program Manager & Citywide Accessibility Coordinator, ADA
Compliance and Accessibility