

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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November 20, 2024

Brandon Pangman, Planning Director
Planning Department
County of Sierra
101 Courthouse Square
Downieville, CA 95936

Dear Brandon Pangman:

RE: County of Sierra's 7th Cycle (2024-2029) Draft Housing Element Update

Thank you for submitting the County of Sierra's (County) revised draft housing element received for review on November 15, 2024. Pursuant to Government Code section 65585, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is reporting the results of its review.

The revised draft housing element meets the statutory requirements described in HCD's October 4, 2025 review. The housing element will substantially comply with State Housing Element Law (Gov. Code, § 65580 et seq) when it is adopted, submitted to and approved by HCD, in accordance with Government Code section 65585.

As a reminder, the County's 7th cycle housing element was due June 30, 2024. As of today, the County has not completed the housing element process for the 7th cycle. The County's 6th cycle housing element no longer satisfies statutory requirements. HCD encourages the County to revise the element as described above, adopt, and submit to HCD to regain housing element compliance.

Public participation in the development, adoption and implementation of the housing element is essential to effective housing planning. Throughout the housing element process, the County must continue to engage the community, including organizations that represent lower-income and special needs households, by making information regularly available while considering and incorporating comments where appropriate. Please be aware, any revisions to the element must be posted on the local government's website and to email a link to all individuals and organizations that have previously requested notices relating to the local government's housing element at least seven days before submitting to HCD.

Several federal, state, and regional funding programs consider housing element compliance as an eligibility or ranking criteria. For example, the CalTrans Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sustainable Communities grant, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities programs, and HCD's Permanent Local Housing Allocation consider housing element compliance and/or annual reporting requirements pursuant to Government Code section 65400. With a compliant housing element, the County will meet housing element requirements for these and other funding sources.

For your information, some general plan element updates are triggered by housing element adoption. HCD reminds the County to consider timing provisions and welcomes the opportunity to provide assistance. For information, please see the Technical Advisories issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research at: <https://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/guidelines.html>.

HCD appreciates the hard work and dedication of the County of Sierra, in preparation of the County's housing element and looks forward to receiving the County's adopted housing element. If you have any questions or need additional technical assistance, please contact Jed Hackett, of our staff, at jed.hackett@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul McDougall
Senior Program Manager