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Consultant

Mark Wilson
Coalition for Responsible
Community Development

May 2, 2013

City Council President Herb Wesson
Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Hall, 200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA. 90012
via fax (213) 485-9829

RE: CITY COUNCIL FILE # 13-0002-S40, SUPPORT

Council President Herb Wesson:
Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing (SCANPH), we are pleased to support City Council File # 13-0002-S40 (SB 391 (DeSaulnier) / California Homes and Jobs Act of 2013). The *City of Los Angeles desperately needs the jobs and affordable places to live* that it will generate.

Millions of Californians are caught in the "perfect storm," mortgages remain out of reach, credit standards have tightened, and the foreclosure crisis has pushed more people into a rental market already suffering from decades of short supply - leading to record-setting rent increases. The most vulnerable, who struggled to make rent before the foreclosure crisis, face even more uncertainty in today's rental markets. They risk joining over 130,000 Californians who are homeless on any given night.

The California Homes and Jobs Act of 2013 will:

- ✓ Create 29,000 jobs annually, primarily in the beleaguered construction sector.
- ✓ Help businesses attract and retain the talent that fuels California's economy.
- ✓ Generate an estimated \$500 million in state investment and leverage an additional \$2.78 billion in federal, local, and private investment.
- ✓ Deploy these dollars throughout California using a successful private/public partnership model, creating jobs and generating revenue for local governments.
- ✓ Build safe and affordable apartments and single-family homes for Californians in need, including families, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.

Rents and mortgages within the reach of working families are critical to maintaining California's business competitiveness. This is why both the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Business Council both say Los Angeles needs to increase the supply of housing options affordable to workers, so companies can compete for the talent that drives our local economy.

The city's support is important as the housing funds that may be made available by SB 391 would help to replace the state bond monies from the Multi-Family Housing Program which have now largely run out. Los Angeles had received over \$445 million dollars previously, which helped to leverage over \$2 billion in economic investment for the City and created thousands of jobs, primarily in the construction industry. With these funds running dry and the complete elimination of redevelopment, the availability of state dollars to leverage federal funds and private investment is the lowest it's been in years. This threatens housing production and the jobs that go with it. Failure to act now will leave too many of us without an affordable place to call home and make it difficult for our local businesses to remain competitive.

We need your immediate help to make sure that Los Angeles follows other cities such as San Francisco, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Oakland, Pasadena, West Hollywood, and Santa Monica who have all endorsed SB 391. **We urge your support for affordable homes and SUPPORT of Council File # 13-0002-S40.**

Sincerely,



Alan Greenlee
Executive Director

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