



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**November 19, 2021**

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Orange County Council of Governments

On June 21, 2021, the Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG) filed a petition for writ of mandate seeking to compel the California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) to follow state housing statute when determining the allocation of new housing units for the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment. On November 18, 2021, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Mary H. Strobel sustained without leave to amend the demurrers filed by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and HCD to OCCOG's writ of mandate. The demurrers cited *City of Irvine v. Southern California Association of Governments (2009)* claiming that the court did not have jurisdiction over the matter, and the court agreed.

**STATEMENT**

Attribute to OCCOG Chair, Trevor O'Neil

OCCOG chose to file this lawsuit because it recognizes that Orange County's citizens and taxpayers deserve to be treated fairly under the law. The court's decision is very disappointing because we believe that HCD did not follow the statutes outlined in state law to develop the projected number of units needed in the next eight years to adequately house Orange County's population. Further, we are troubled that SCAG filed the demurrer, given that our arguments paralleled SCAG's position and that many jurisdictions in the SCAG region supported our action. The OCCOG Board will discuss next steps at their next Board Meeting in early December.

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OCCOG is Orange County's legally-designated sub-regional planning organization, ensuring that Orange County's unique perspective is included in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) federal and state mandated planning efforts. OCCOG's members include the County of Orange, 34 cities and 25 special districts located in Orange County.

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