

AIA San Diego

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIA San Diego Supports Recommendation Not to Adopt City's Affordable Housing Fee

June 8, 2007 (San Diego, Calif.) — The American Institute of Architects (AIA) San Diego recently notified San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and the City Council that it does not support adoption of the City's "Linkage Fee"/Housing Trust Fund fee as the solution to the production of affordable housing. Highlights of the letter are below. The full version is attached.

In 2003, the Affordable Housing Task Force identified a number of recommendations to address the pressing issue of affordable housing. However, recent discussions by the City Council and Mayor's office have focused on just one aspect of this solution – the "Linkage Fee"/Housing Trust Fund fee in which development pays a fee to the city based on the size of a project. The fee is to be utilized for the construction of affordable housing projects.

In April, 2007, the City's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that the city not adopt an amended linkage fee for land uses until the city develops and adopts a comprehensive housing production strategy that addresses the provision of housing to all income levels. A linkage fee is merely one aspect of a comprehensive housing production.

Additionally, the City's Small Business Advisory Board and Business Improvement District Council have not yet been contacted for feedback and the linkage-fee increases have significant cost implications on all development, hitting small businesses the hardest.

AIA San Diego supports the TAC's recommendations and believes they are necessary, constructive steps for the city to move forward in addressing the critical issue of affordable housing in San Diego.

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About the AIA: With more than 74,000 members, the national AIA organization provides tools and resources to help architects meet the challenges of a complex and competitive marketplace. Over its 150-year history, the organization has grown to more than 300 local chapters. Its members have access to exclusive information and services on AIA websites and are kept abreast of latest developments through educational programs. The San Diego chapter serves the needs of more than 1,000 members from its offices in downtown San Diego; Tel (619) 232-0109; www.aiasandiego.org.