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Important City Meeting for Orindans

By Laurie Snyder

There has been much recent debate surrounding the status and content of Orinda's General Plan - particularly with regard to its Housing Element, an item that California state law requires be included in all city and county general plans. So, at the next Orinda City Council meeting on Aug. 20, Orinda residents will be given a critically important opportunity to learn more about California's often confusing regulations as they apply to Orinda and its citizens.

For readers unfamiliar with the current situation, the second draft of Orinda's Housing Element was recently submitted by city staff for review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development as required by state law. It serves as an official policy statement of the city regarding the type and amount of housing to be provided in the community, the purpose of which is to ensure that an adequate supply of housing is provided for current and future residents of Orinda. The housing element also seeks to conserve the city's existing housing stock through programs that assist Orinda residents with home improvement and conservation, and is designed to reflect existing conditions, constraints, and opportunities for improving and expanding the housing supply.

City staff will deliver a PowerPoint presentation and provide additional information at the meeting; council members will not vote on any items.

The meeting will be held in the Orinda Library Auditorium at 26 Orinda Way, beginning at 7 p.m., and is expected to be well attended. Residents are advised to arrive early in order to find parking and seating.

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