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Donne Brownsey, Chair
CA Coastal Commission

RE: Support for Magnolia Tank Farm Proposal for Huntington Beach

Dear Chair Brownsey and Coastal Commissioners:

The Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of and provides access to Orange County's 30,000 Hispanic-owned businesses. Our goal is to participate as partners in support of civic, social, cultural and legislative programs which are designed to enhance the quality of life of the Hispanic community. As such, we regularly consider issues brought before us that impact the Hispanic Community. In accordance with that mission, we are writing to express our support for the City of Huntington Beach Local Coastal Plan Amendment to allow for the Magnolia Tank Farm, currently under California Coastal Commission (CCC) review.

As you are aware, California is facing a growing housing, homelessness, and affordability crisis. There are few areas of the state that have not felt the immediate consequences of this growing crisis. Across Orange County this crisis is exacerbated by a lack of housing inventory which is causing home and apartment costs to skyrocket and forcing some Californians to move out of state altogether. According to the California Association of Realtors, the median price of a home in California has [never been higher](#).

Orange County is facing a serious housing shortage. To address this, Orange County is required by the state to plan for 180,000 new homes according to the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). To meet RHNA needs, local governments must identify land that is available and facilitate the building of more homes in their jurisdiction.

The Magnolia Tank Farm project would add 250 new homes in an area that is protected by existing flood control infrastructure, namely the Talbert and Huntington Beach Channels, which are in place to reduce the risk of flooding to countless residences, schools, libraries, public facilities, and other forms of critical infrastructure.

To make meaningful progress toward solving our housing crisis, state agencies such as the CCC must work collaboratively with local governments to identify ways to move housing projects in the coastal zone forward.

The Hispanic Chamber recognizes the impacts climate change is having and will continue to have on our state. However, just as jurisdictions are making reasonable planning decisions regarding housing in fire prone areas, so too must jurisdictions responsible for housing decisions in the coastal zone. This means striking a balance between statewide policy and local planning flexibility.



ORANGE COUNTY HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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This principle was reaffirmed in the Sea Level Rise Working Group Joint Statement on Adaptation Planning, which specifically stated that the CCC, the California State Association of Counties, and the League of California Cities would together “plan for sea-level rise adaptation in a way that is responsive and flexible, and based on unique local community contexts.”

This is an exceptionally critical time for home building in California. The Governor and the California Department of Housing and Community Development have stated a goal of 2.5 million new homes over the course of the next eight years, and we all must do our part to achieve that goal. We respectfully request that the CCC adopt a smart and reasonable approach to environmental policies that will also address the housing crisis. We look forward to your consideration of this request and proactive efforts to assist with providing housing for our members at all income levels to live near the coast.

Sincerely,

Reuben Franco
President & CEO
Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce