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## State of California Sues Huntington Beach to Force It to Build Low-Income Housing

The lack of affordable housing in California continues to intensify. Expensive land, tough regulations and soaring building costs hinder California home builders. Local approval of building permits can take several years to secure.

One of Governor Gavin Newsom's first moves as the state's governor was to file a lawsuit against the City of Huntington Beach. The lawsuit asserts that the City is standing in the way of affordable housing construction and refusing to meet regional housing needs.

The state alleges that Huntington Beach has not followed state law (Regional Housing Need Allocation) requiring cities to provide housing to keep up with job and population growth. This litigation pits local control over housing against state-wide mandates. Until recently, there were no penalties for ignoring this law. However, the Governor has threatened to withhold state funds from California cities that fail to meet state standards.

Huntington Beach is the first city to be sued for lack of compliance with this state law. According to the lawsuit, this City of about 200,000, is required to build 533 low-income housing units by the end of 2021 to meet its state mandated quota. Look for more to come!

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