

From: [Agefriendly Sausalito](#)
To: [Joan Cox](#); [Melissa Blaustein](#); [Ian Sobieski](#); swhiteside@sausalito.gov; [Jill Hoffman](#); [Brandon Phipps](#); [Neal Toft](#); [City Clerk](#); [sybil boutillier](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT - _MISSING EIEMENT IN THE HOUSING PLAN
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025 1:46:39 PM
Attachments: [letter to City Council .docx](#)

Dear Mayor Cox and City Council Members,

This Letter addresses a major issue that needs attention regarding senior and disability housing in The Housing Element Update.

In the General Plan,

-LU 1.20 Aging in Community. states that the city will provide policies to support senior community for mobility, sensory and other limitations. but there is no programs specified for new Senior Housing projects that meet the actual needs of those Seniors living with Disabilities.

LU 1.2.3 Housing and Access , speaks to environmental access, (walkability and access to commercial and transportation amenities), but does not address the real need of no step or stair access to and through actual living areas of senior residences.

The need for actual accessible housing for seniors was made clear in **The Age Friendly Sausalito Survey** Which was answered by over 1,100 older adults living in Sausalito. **Over 95% said they plan to remain in the Community as they age.** When answering the question: **Would the Design of your Home Make it Easy for You to Remain there as you Age?** 507 respondents said NO.

In the Current Housing Element,

Policy H-2.7 Senior and Accessible Housing reads: Support the concept of “aging in place” by supporting a range of housing types that allow people to remain in the community as their housing needs change.

These adopted policies are further mentioned in H-2.4, H-4.3 and H-4.5, but there does not appear to be any program to make clear **how we will implement those agreed upon policies..**

The HCB is very clear about the need for providing appropriate, accessible housing options for people living with disabilities.

The American Community Survey of the **U.S. Census 2023 reported 831 Disabled**

Residents in the City of Sausalito (doesn't include north-end Houseboats or the rest of 94965), at least **67 % of these residents were over the age of 65** two years ago. However, there are currently only about one dozen first floor affordable senior apartments that can be entered without steps or stairs in Sausalito at this time. All of them very much in demand, and constantly occupied.

We need to be clear and firm that Affordable Senior Housing that is built on Publicly owned property, at the very least, (but not necessarily exclusively), needs to be constructed to accommodate older adults across their life span and enable them to be able to remain in their dwellings even as they may age into more restricted mobility, stamina, and other limiting conditions .

Therefore we must have a visitability and accessibility specification through a Visitability Ordinance or a Senior Housing Overlay in place so that projects are Constructed **with no-step entry to and through living spaces**, and the additional standard accessibility features to responsibly provide for the real current and future needs of a large portion of Older Sausalito Residents, especially those looking to downsize, leaving their larger homes available to be occupied by new families.

In the current Housing Element update, Figure 11 indicates Northern Sausalito has the largest percentage of people with disabilities --a conservative estimate of about 30%. Figure 15 (page 60) indicates that the same area (Northern Sausalito) is also where the largest % of Senior residents reside Therefore , it would seem that if a policy is not set for the whole City, which would be the Age Friendly preference, then the North End would be an appropriate area for a Senior Overlay or a Visitability Ordinance to be applied, as this includes several opportunity sites which are expected to build senior housing—including the public sites at the Corporation Yard, (site 75) and Possibly MLK Park (site 84).

The lack of such a program comprises a big gap in the current update of the Housing Element and General Plan especially considering that some **42% of**

the voters in Sausalito are currently over the age of 60.

Age Friendly Sausalito , as part of its continuing work to enhance the livability of Sausalito in accordance with the Age Friendly Community Strategic Plan and the agreed upon “Age Friendly Lens for Planning Processes” respectfully requests that this oversight be remedied.

We Urge the City to pass either a Visitability Ordinance as the community development director has indicated he was amenable to doing, **or by including a Senior Housing Overlay in the housing element.** as was recommended in the Planning Commission on 2/19/25.

Respectfully,
Sybil Boutilier, Chair
Age Friendly Sausalito

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