

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
California State Assembly, District 53
1021 O Street, Room 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1505 (Rodriguez) Seismic Retrofitting: Soft Story Multifamily Housing
City of Palo Alto - Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Rodriguez,

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write in support of your legislation AB 1505, which would grant \$250,000,000 from the General Fund in the 2023–24 Budget Act to the Seismic Retrofitting Program for Soft Story Multifamily Housing Fund. This critical funding provides for matching grants for seismic retrofit engineering and construction to protect affordable multifamily housing developments from earthquakes.

With California's historic vulnerability to earthquakes, it is urgent and imperative to provide funding for seismic retrofitting. Funding for this program was originally included in budget trailer legislation and signed into law by the Governor in 2022. However, the funding was proposed to be omitted from the 2023 preliminary budget submitted to the Legislature. AB 1505 will work to restore this funding on an urgency basis.

To keep our community safe from future earthquake damage and fatalities, it is pertinent to comply with seismic building standards, and provide adequate funding to ensure public safety and disaster preparedness needs are met. California has historically been a hub of major earthquake disasters, given its position along the tectonic plate boundaries including the San Andreas, San Gregorio-Hosgri, and Hayward-Rodgers Creek fault zones.

AB 1505 will help protect our State and local communities from earthquake damage and devastation by ensuring compliance with seismic retrofitting to proactively prepare for future disasters. By submitting this letter, we express our support for the inclusion of the pre-dedicated \$250 million for seismic retrofitting support in the upcoming iteration of the State's budget, whether catalyzed by this legislation or similar budget trailer legislation.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto supports AB 1505.

Sincerely,



Lydia Kou
Mayor
City of Palo Alto