

**Contact:**

**Marie Vasari Hislop**  
**Monterey Bay Economic Partnership**  
[media@mbep.biz](mailto:media@mbep.biz) / (831) 224-2132

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MBEP-Supported Bills Headed to Governor's Desk to Increase Broadband Access and Housing**

(Marina, CA, Sept. 2, 2022) - Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) strongly urges Governor Newsom to sign bills headed to his desk including [Assembly Bill 2011 \(Wicks, D-Oakland\)](#). This is a significant piece of legislation that advances housing production and feasibility and moves the state forward on labor, economic, and environmental fronts. If signed, underutilized commercial properties could be converted into approximately 2.4 million homes statewide, including up to 400,000 income-restricted affordable homes, increasing net local and state tax revenues while significantly reducing water consumption, vehicle miles and greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 2011 is among several bills supported by MBEP this legislative season and now headed to the governor's desk. Below is a comprehensive list of MBEP's supported bills.

*Housing Production*

- **AB 2097 (Laura Friedman, D-Glendale)** will reduce housing costs by eliminating parking mandates for homes and commercial buildings near transit or in neighborhoods with low rates of car use.
- **SB 6 (Anna Caballero, D-Merced)** authorizes housing on parcels zoned for office, retail, parking, or commercial use.
- **AB 2234 (Robert Rivas, D-Salinas)** will create a framework for local governments to process residential building permits more efficiently and cost-effectively.
- **AB 2295 (Richard Bloom, D-Santa Monica)** will make it easier for school districts to build housing on land they already own.

*Broadband:*

- **AB 2752 (Jim Wood, D-Santa Rosa)** will require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to map last-mile connections from California's middle-mile network and collect data at the household level, improving maps defining broadband access statewide and supporting equitable and efficient deployment.

Policy advocacy is critical to MBEP's mission of improving quality of life in the Monterey Bay region. A member-supported nonprofit organization, MBEP builds cross-sector regional collaborations to advance policy issues important to the counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. Together, with members, MBEP tackles some of the biggest issues facing the region in Housing, Broadband, and Economic and Workforce Development.