



CITY OF MERCED

MERCED

April 25, 2025

The Honorable Timothy S. Grayson
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 315 – Quimby Act – OPPOSE - *(As Amended March 17, 2025)*

Dear Senator Grayson:

On behalf of the City of Merced, I write to express our opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 315, which would significantly curtail the effectiveness of the Quimby Act. Specifically, this bill proposes to limit the amount of land a local agency can require for dedication to no more than 25% of the total acreage of an infill housing development. It would also cap the acreage used to calculate in-lieu Quimby fees and prohibit the imposition of those fees entirely if the development is located within one-half mile of an existing park.

The Quimby Act was enacted to ensure that new urban development includes adequate parkland and recreational facilities to support community health, safety, and general welfare. Quimby fees uniquely ensure that new developments contribute directly to the recreational infrastructure needed by future residents. SB 315 undermines this long-standing and equitable framework by shifting the financial burden of park development from developers to cities and their residents.

In addition, the bill provides substantial cost savings to developers without requiring transparency or accountability for how those savings are used. Despite ongoing efforts to reduce development fees in the name of housing affordability, there is little evidence these reductions translate to lower costs for homebuyers or renters. Quimby fees, while a small component of total development costs, deliver immense long-term value by funding parks and open space in growing communities.

Parks are essential public infrastructure. They promote health and wellness, serve as community gathering spaces, and play a vital role during emergencies by acting as evacuation sites and firebreaks. Undermining the ability of local governments to expand park access threatens community resilience, safety, and quality of life.

Moreover, SB 315 risks deepening existing disparities in access to green space, particularly in historically underserved communities. Reducing park funding removes critical tools to address physical and mental health inequities. All Californians, regardless of zip code, deserve access to clean, safe, and well-maintained parks.

For these reasons, the City of Merced must respectfully oppose SB 315. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Sharon Gonsalves or Coby Pizzotti at California Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.



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Sincerely,

Mayor
City of Merced
CC: Members and Staff of the Senate Local Government Committee
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator 14th District