



HOUSING

AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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March 17, 2020

Sent via Email with/ copy to the HUD Field Office

Waiver Team
Department of Housing and Urban Development
PIH_Disaster_Relief@hud.gov

RE: WAIVER REQUESTS FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED PER FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE DOCKET NO. FR-6050-N-03

Dear HUD Waiver Team:

The Housing Authority is submitting a revised waiver request to conform with the guidelines as outlined in Federal Register Notice Docket No. FR-6050-N-03. Accordingly, Attachment A from the notice has been copied and completed as instructed. As described in our original waiver request notice dated March 13, 2020 (Attachment B), we are making these waiver requests in order to minimize the negative health impact to our employees, residents and program participants.

The outbreak of the coronavirus throughout the country has resulted in the President of the United States issuing a Major Disaster Declaration (MDD) on March 13, 2020, with further guidance from the State of California, to take drastic measures to help mitigate the spread of the virus and assist in reducing community spread of the virus. Governor Gavin Newsom has issued an Executive Order No. 28-20 (Attachment C), which directs local jurisdictions to take needed measures to protect the health and welfare of citizens and specifically requests local Public Housing Authorities to extend deadlines for program recipients and applicants within our ability. Our agency has implemented immediate and necessary measures to follow national, state and local guidelines to protect our constituents. These measures include:

1. Cessation of all inspections with the exception of new move-in inspections and inspections addressing exigent health and safety issues.
2. Closing the offices to face-to-face meetings with clients and promoting remote working from home for able staff (taking measure to protect personally identifiable information).

With these and other measures in place, we foresee the inability for our agency to meet the timeline regulations for completing required Housing Quality Standards inspections and annual income reviews as well as meeting the 60-day timeline for submission of our unaudited REAC financials with our fiscal year-end of March 31, 2020. Therefore, we are pre-emptively requesting several waivers as outlined in Attachment A.

We recognize HUD published a FAQ sheet on March 13 which directs housing authorities to take advantage of flexibilities allowed under HOTMA. However, our agency has already implemented HOTMA measures such as biennial inspections and we now have the two-year inspections coming due and would need relief from completing those in the required timeline. We implore HUD to work expeditiously to approve our requested waivers as protecting the lives of our staff, residents and participants is paramount.

Sincerely,

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

ROB FREDERICKS
Executive Director/CEO

cc: U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal – 24th Congressional District, California
Mayor Cathy Murillo – City of Santa Barbara
Patricia Wheatley – Chair, Housing Authority of the Board of Commissioners
Management Team - Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara