From: Karin Demarest [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2026 3:38 PM
To: Public Comment Received For City Council <citycouncil@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Retain AB 1033

November 16, 2026

To: Mayor McLewis and Members of the Sebastopol City Council

Re: Agenda Item 19: Retain AB 1033 and Reject the Resolution to Rescind

Dear Mayor McLewis and Councilmembers,

As elected leaders, you have two important responsibilities. You must manage the issues and pressures of the moment, but you must also be visionaries and stewards of our community's future. Good leadership requires both. And when it comes to housing, the decisions you make today will shape who gets to call Sebastopol home for generations to come.

I ask you to imagine that future. A Sebastopol where teachers live alongside firefighters, young families, retirees, and young professionals. Where our schools are thriving because families with children can afford to live here. Where the young adults who grew up in Sebastopol have a realistic opportunity to return, buy a home, raise their families, and contribute to the community they love. Where people of different ages, incomes, and backgrounds can share in what makes this town so special.

That future will not happen without courageous leadership.

I find it deeply disappointing, and frankly irresponsible, that in the same week the City is inviting residents to participate in ***Sebastopol Growing Together: A Strategy for a Livable Community*****,** the Council is considering rescinding a policy that helps make that very vision possible.

How can we ask our community to envision a more livable, inclusive Sebastopol while simultaneously considering the removal of an effective tool that can expand access to homeownership?

AB 1033 creates opportunities for smaller, potentially more attainable homes in a community where the cost of housing has placed ownership beyond the reach of so many. It is not a complete solution to our housing challenges, but it is an important tool. We should be expanding these opportunities, not eliminating them.

I understand that change brings concerns and that individual development proposals can generate strong opposition. Those concerns deserve to be heard. But the voices of those who resist change cannot be the only voices shaping our future. We must also consider the people who are not in the room: the young families who cannot afford to move here, the workers who commute because they cannot live near their jobs, and the next generation who may never have the opportunity to make Sebastopol their home.

The responsibility of the City Council is not simply to respond to the loudest concerns of today. It is to protect the possibilities of tomorrow.

I love this community, and I want it to remain vibrant, welcoming, and economically diverse. Preserving what makes Sebastopol special should not mean making it inaccessible to the very people who give it life.

I urge you to demonstrate the vision and courage that you had when you passed AB 1033, and that this moment once again requires. Move beyond the immediate resistance and consider the community we are creating for future generations.

Please reject the resolution to rescind AB 1033 and retain the City's provisions allowing the separate sale of accessory dwelling units.

Let *Sebastopol Growing Together* be more than the name of a planning initiative. Let it be a genuine commitment to a community where more people have the opportunity to belong.

Sincerely,

Karin Demarest
Sebastopol Resident

Karin Demarest, Principal Consultant

[redacted]

November 16, 2026

To: Mayor McLewis and Members of the Sebastopol City Council

Re: Agenda Item 19: Retain AB 1033 and Reject the Resolution to Rescind

Dear Mayor McLewis and Councilmembers,

As elected leaders, you have two important responsibilities. You must manage the issues and pressures of the moment, but you must also be visionaries and stewards of our community's future. Good leadership requires both. And when it comes to housing, the decisions you make today will shape who gets to call Sebastopol home for generations to come.

I ask you to imagine that future. A Sebastopol where teachers live alongside firefighters, young families, retirees, and young professionals. Where our schools are thriving because families with children can afford to live here. Where the young adults who grew up in Sebastopol have a realistic opportunity to return, buy a home, raise their families, and contribute to the community they love. Where people of different ages, incomes, and backgrounds can share in what makes this town so special.

That future will not happen without courageous leadership.

I find it deeply disappointing, and frankly irresponsible, that in the same week the City is inviting residents to participate in ***Sebastopol Growing Together: A Strategy for a Livable Community*****,** the Council is considering rescinding a policy that helps make that very vision possible.

How can we ask our community to envision a more livable, inclusive Sebastopol while simultaneously considering the removal of an effective tool that can expand access to homeownership?

AB 1033 creates opportunities for smaller, potentially more attainable homes in a community where the cost of housing has placed ownership beyond the reach of so many. It is not a complete solution to our housing challenges, but it is an important tool. We should be expanding these opportunities, not eliminating them.

I understand that change brings concerns and that individual development proposals can generate strong opposition. Those concerns deserve to be heard. But the voices of those who resist change cannot be the only voices shaping our future. We must also consider the people who are not in the room: the young families who cannot afford to move here, the workers who commute because they cannot live near their jobs, and the next generation who may never have the opportunity to make Sebastopol their home.

The responsibility of the City Council is not simply to respond to the loudest concerns of today. It is to protect the possibilities of tomorrow.

I love this community, and I want it to remain vibrant, welcoming, and economically diverse. Preserving what makes Sebastopol special should not mean making it inaccessible to the very people who give it life.

I urge you to demonstrate the vision and courage that this moment requires. Move beyond the immediate resistance and consider the community we are creating for future generations.

Please reject the resolution to rescind AB 1033 and retain the City's provisions allowing the separate sale of accessory dwelling units.

Let *Sebastopol Growing Together* be more than the name of a planning initiative. Let it be a genuine commitment to a community where more people have the opportunity to belong.

Sincerely,

Karin Demarest
Sebastopol Resident