

Berkeley Citizens Action – April 2015 Newsletter

**You are invited to a “teach-in” and discussion on
Berkeley development & affordable housing:
Saturday, April 18, 2-4 pm, at the
Berkeley Arts Festival space, 2133 University Avenue
(above Shattuck Avenue near Ace Hardware)**

**Join Berkeley Citizens Action, Berkeley Neighborhoods Council, and the forming
Sustainable Berkeley Coalition**

What do we want for our future? How do we maintain a diverse city? What role can we play?

- Hear what’s in the pipeline & our city’s need for affordable housing
- Discuss opportunities for coalition-building
- Explore preparations for the 2016 elections

Keynote speakers: Joseph Smooke and Dyan Ruiz, journalists covering the San Francisco housing crisis. Plus **Steve** Finacom, Rob Wrenn, Tom Hunt, Jesse Arreguin & Sophie Hahn.

Recent Development Misses Berkeley's Real Housing Needs

*By Tom Hunt, Berkeley Daily Planet, April 04, 2015
(excerpt)*

For years we've been hearing that Berkeley needs all the new housing that can be built, at whatever price point the developers choose. But a quick review of the data confirmed my suspicion that developers have built way too much expensive housing and much too little housing for those whose income is moderate and below. It's even worse than I had previously thought.

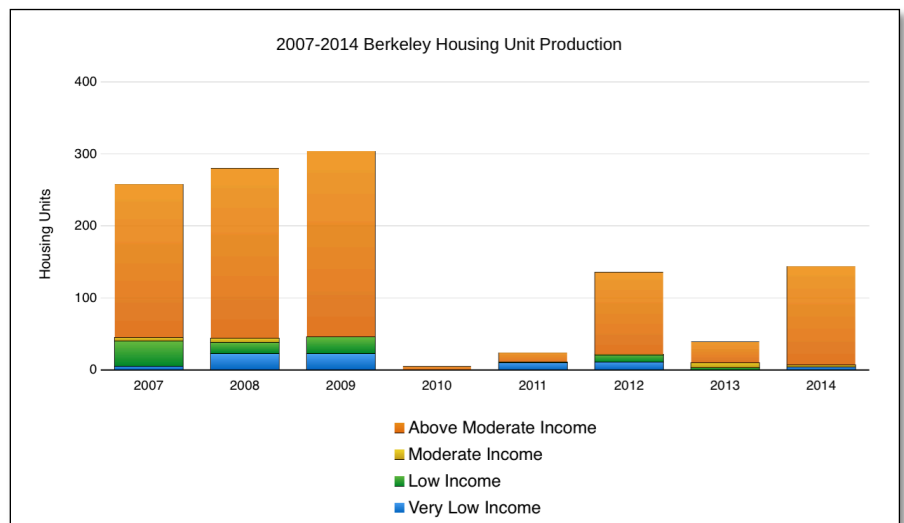
First let's look at the last 8 years. 84% of the new housing in Berkeley was for households with greater than \$92,566 yearly income. Over the last 8 years Berkeley has added only 14% of the housing goals set by the regional Plan Bay Area for moderate income and below but has added 89% of the goal for households making more than \$92,566 (Above Moderate Income). If we don't build **1,116 units of affordable housing before** we build 125 above-moderate

Most of the new housing in Berkeley has been for upper income households. We'd need to build more than 1,000 affordable units to catch up. Data source: 2015-2023 Berkeley Housing element 2014 draft, p. 8

income units, we won't build our way out of the affordable housing hole we're in.

Our questionable water supply alone threatens our capacity for population growth. At the current growth rate, 1.75%/year, Alameda County will need twice as much water in just 40 years.

We're going to have to find some other way to equitably distribute the housing we have. I suggest covering all new housing under rent control and eliminating vacancy decontrol.



Berkeley Citizens Action

A multi-partisan Political Action Club
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Berkeley, CA 94709

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Tired of elections being bought and sold?

The Berkeley Fair Campaign Practices Commission (FCPC) will hold a public workshop April 23rd on proposed changes to the City Charter and the Berkeley Election Reform Act to allow for public financing of local elections. The workshop will be at 7 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. This issue was referred by council to the FCPC last year, the FCPC is now seeking public input before making a recommendation to council for the November 2016 ballot. *-excerpted from the Berkeley Voice*

Tell the city what benefits downtown developers should provide:

Berkeley City Councilmember Jesse Arreguin, (Dist 4), along with Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board members Sophie Hahn and Shoshana O'Keefe are holding a community workshop to help develop a framework for "Significant Community Benefits from new Downtown High Rises" on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at the Fireside Room in Live Oak Park Community Center located at 1301 Shattuck Avenue at Berryman, from 7-9 pm

City Council will hold a special session on this topic on May 5th starting at 7 pm at Old City Hall, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

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