



**Buena Vista Audubon Society
PO Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049-0480**

Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
September 29, 2017

RE: Request for Signature on AB 890 (Medina)

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing, on behalf of the Buena Vista chapter of the Audubon Society, to request your signature on AB 890 (Medina), which would help protect our community from the negative impacts of large development projects, while maintaining the opportunity for such projects to win approval through the local elected body. Our organization is supported by 2,200 member households in north coastal San Diego County. Our members are concerned about the quality of the environment for residents and wildlife, and support the application of the California CEQA regulations for all new development.

Complex land-use decisions deserve careful deliberation, not shallow campaign slogans. When a developer seeks to amend the General Plan or zoning ordinances to accommodate a project, analysis of the environmental impacts is appropriate. Community members deserve to know whether the change would pollute their air, burden local budgets, or exacerbate climate change.

AB 890 is narrowly-drawn, applying only when a project is inconsistent with the existing zoning. The bill closes a court-created loophole through which developers of large commercial developments, sports arenas, and shopping center have attempted to escape their obligation to mitigate their projects' impacts. AB 890 will not affect the vast majority of developments, which are consistent with existing zoning or plan to go through the regular planning process.

Please sign AB 890 and close this loophole before the trend of using the ballot to avoid scrutiny and accountability accelerates further.

Sincerely,
Joan Herskowitz
Conservation Chair
Buena Vista Audubon Society