# Homeownership in California



Sacramento Hearing March 7, 2017 Oscar Wei Senior Economist



# Homeownership: Where Are We Today?



SERIES: Homeownership Rate (%) SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing Vacancy Survey (HVS)



# California's Housing Gap

# •Housing Gaps:

- Housing affordability gap
- Housing supply gap

# Affordability Gap

### Housing Affordability Peaked Q1 2012 Prices v. Low Rates and Income Growth

California vs. U.S. – 1984-2016



SERIES: Housing Affordability Index of Traditional Buyers SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

# Housing Affordability In CA: by county

2016-Q4: % able to purchase median-priced home





California, Jan<u>uary 20</u>17: \$489,580, -3.8% MTM, +4.8% YTY



SERIES: Median Price of Existing Single Family Homes SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

### California



### Los Angeles



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, C.A.R.

### San Francisco



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, C.A.R.

### Sacramento



# Mortgage Rates: Surged after the Election But Stabilized in Recent Weeks

### January 2010 – February 23, 2017





# Median Monthly Mortgage Payment - CA

### What Will Happen When Mortgage Rates Increase?



SERIES: Housing Affordability Index SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



# Minimum Qualifying Income - CA

### What Will Happen When Mortgage Rates Increase?



SERIES: Housing Affordability Index SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

# Housing Affordability Index - CA

What Will Happen When Mortgage Rates Increase?



SERIES: Housing Affordability Index SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

### But Affordability Is Not Just a Monthly Mortgage Payment Issue, It's Also a Down Payment Issue

Highest Down Pmt. in \$ Since 2005, but lowest down pmt. in % in last 7 yrs.



SERIES: 2016 Annual Housing Market Survey SOURCE: California Association of REALTORS®



# San Francisco: Affordability Led to More Moving Out? Or Supply? Or Both?

| County Moved<br>To/From | Total Number<br>Moved to San<br>Francisco County | Total Number<br>Moved from San<br>Francisco County | Total Net<br>Migration |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Alameda                 | 3983                                             | 10345                                              | -6362                  |
| San Mateo               | 6161                                             | 7984                                               | -1823                  |
| Contra Costa            | 1856                                             | 2998                                               | -1142                  |
| Sonoma                  | 557                                              | 1602                                               | -1045                  |
| Marin                   | 1428                                             | 1918                                               | -490                   |
| Napa                    | 0                                                | 243                                                | -243                   |
| Solano                  | 796                                              | 815                                                | -19                    |
| Santa Clara             | 4041                                             | 2691                                               | 1350                   |





### Affordability Becomes Biggest Concern



Q: What is your biggest concern about the current real estate market?

SERIES: 2016 Housing Market Survey SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

# Housing Supply Gap



# Supply Remains an Issue

### Jan. 2016: 4.3 Months; Jan. 2016: 3.7 Months



Note: "Unsold Inventory Index" represents the number of months it would take to sell the remaining inventory for the month in question. The remaining inventory for the month is defined as the number of properties that were "Active", "Pending", and "Contingent" (when available) and divide the sum by the number of "Sold" properties for the month in question.

SERIES: Unsold Inventory Index of Existing Single Family Homes-SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



### Years Owned Home Before Selling



Long-Time Homeowners are not moving as in the past because:

- Low rate on current mortgage
- Low property taxes
- Capital gains hit
- Where can I afford to go?



#### 71% of Californian's aged 55+ haven't moved since 1999

California Homeowners by Length of Tenure, 2013



SERIES: Distribution of Home Ownership by Year Moved In SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Housing Survey

# Owners Investing in Staying Put ?

#### Alterations/Additions Reach All-Time High & Gaining Steam Up 16% from 2015 YTD levels



SOURCE: California Homebuilding Foundation (CHF)/Construction Industry Research Board (CIRB) Downloaded from Moody's Analytics



### "Missing" 62,000 New Units Annually

### 2016: 98,881 (47,889 sf, 50,992 mf)

### <sup>350000</sup> 2017f: 102,712 (51,720 sf, 50,992 mf)



### Three of the Top 10 Markets in Need of More Housing Constructions Are in California

#### Top 10 Markets in Need of More Single-Family Housing Starts



| Metro Area       | # of permits required |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. New York      | 218,541               |
| 2. Dallas        | 132,482               |
| 3. San Francisco | 127,412               |
| 4. Miami         | 118,937               |
| 5. Chicago       | 94,457                |
| 6. Atlanta       | 93,627                |
| 7. Seattle       | 73,135                |
| 8. San Jose, CA  | 69,042                |
| 9. Denver        | 67,403                |
| 10. San Diego    | 55,825                |

SOURCE: National Association of Realtors®, Census Bureau

# The More "Underbuilding", the Higher the Price Growth





SERIES: Nonfarm Job Growth, New Housing Permits, Existing Median Prices-SOURCE: CA EDD, C.A.R., Construction Industry Research Board

# Final Remarks



# Housing Affordability Gap

- Affordability crisis goes beyond low income households
  - Lack of affordable housing for low income service workers is apparent
  - Less obvious problem: moderate income households who cannot afford homes in/near communities where they work
  - In general, there are programs to assist the first group, but not the second group



# Inadequate Housing supply issue

- Housing supply constrained in long-run
  - New construction recovery is very slow
  - Production has fallen short of housing needs
  - Short on new units since 2005
- Inhibited by
  - Fiscal interests of local government
  - Residents who disdain further development, especially multifamily
  - Unfavorable legal/business environment for development in general & multi-family in particular



# How Did We Get Here?

### Why the production shortfall?

- Shortage of land:
  - Production shortfall greatest in cities where need is most critical
- High costs of development
  - Fees in most California communities are higher than elsewhere in US
  - Infill development costs higher than suburban development costs
  - Environmental policies, etc increase costs
  - Lengthy permitting process increases cost per unit produced and favors deep pockets



# How Did We Get Here?

- General Desire for Low Density Land Use
  - Preference for detached single family homes
  - Disdain for multifamily developments
    - Cost of service to cities higher than other land uses
- NIMBYism:
  - Desire to preserve existing character of community
  - Dislike for multifamily, higher density development by residents and officials
  - Quality of life concerns
  - Fear of crime and other negative aspects associated with density



# Solutions

- Production Gap is Primary Source of CA's Housing Problems
- Solutions must include:
  - Increase in Production
  - Revitalization of Neighborhoods
  - Change Incentive Structure Facing Cities
    - Fiscal
    - Housing & Zoning Requirements
- Improve Business & Legal Climate for Developers
- Attitude Shift is Essential to Moving Toward Solutions and an Attitude Shift Requires Education and Heightened Awareness of Problems, Implications, and Solutions!

# Thank You