

# HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN CALIFORNIA

November 12,2015 San Jose Hearing Oscar Wei, Senior Economist



#### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PEAKED Q1 2012 PRICES V. LOW RATES AND INCOME GROWTH

#### California vs. U.S. – 1984-2015

% OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT CAN BUY A MEDIAN-PRICED HOME



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

#### MEDIAN MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT - CA

#### What Will Happen When Mortgage Rates Increase?





# MINIMUM QUALIFYING INCOME - CA

#### What Will Happen When Mortgage Rates Increase?





# HOUSING AFFORDABILITY INDEX - CA

What Will Happen When Mortgage Rates Increase?

#### % OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT CAN BUY, ALL ELSE CONSTANT





#### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN CA: BY COUNTY



#### California



#### San Francisco



#### Los Angeles



#### Sacramento



#### HOW MUCH HOME CAN A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD AFFORD

#### 2015 – Q2

County	Median Price*	Price that Median- Income Households Can Afford	Difference in \$	Difference in %
San Francisco	\$1,247,570	\$383,670	\$863,900	225.2%
San Mateo	\$1,075,390	\$452,020	\$623,370	137.9%
Santa Clara	\$884,030	\$474,230	\$409,800	86.4%
Los Angeles	\$436,010	\$275,530	\$160,480	58.2%
San Bernardino	\$222,310	\$255,970	-\$33,660	-13.1%
San Diego	\$475 <b>,</b> 230	\$312,180	\$163,050	52.2%
Fresno	\$216,160	\$216,910	-\$750	-0.3%
Merced	\$203,930	\$230,350	-\$26,420	-11.5%
Sacramento	\$282,770	\$272,310	\$10,460	3.8%
California	\$446,980	\$304,490	\$142,490	46.8%

\*Includes existing single-family homes, condos, and townhomes

#### CALIFORNIA HOUSING MARKET OUTLOOK

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015p	2016f
			(20.0			(	(
SFH Resales (ooos)	416.5	422.6	439.8	414.9	383.3	407.5	433.0
% Change	-12.3%	1.4%	4.1%	-5.9%	-7.6%	6.3%	6.3%
Median Price (\$000s)	\$305.0	\$286.0	\$319.3	\$407.2	\$447.0	\$476.3	\$491.3
% Change	10.9%	-6.2%	11.6%	27.5%	9.8%	6.5%	3.2%
Housing Affordability							
Index	48%	53%	51%	36%	30%	31%	27%
30-Yr FRM	4.7%	4.5%	3.7%	4.0%	4.2%	3.9%	4.5%

SERIES: CA Housing Market Outlook SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

#### VERY SLOW REAL INCOME GROWTH



SERIES: Median Household Income SOURCE: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

#### INVENTORY CONTINUED TO DECLINE FROM LASTYEAR

#### Sep 2014: 4.2 Months; Sep 2015: 3.7 Months



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®

#### AFFORDABLE INVENTORY AVAILABLE TO MEDIAN-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

2015 Q2



SOURCE: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



#### CA PERMITS UP BUT MORE UNITS NEEDED



SERIES: New Housing Permits SOURCE: Construction Industry Research Board

# INADEQUATE HOUSING SUPPLY

- 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 multi-family
  - Unfavorable legal/business environment for development in general & multi-family in particular



## SHARE OF FIRST-TIME BUYERS REMAINS BELOW LONG-RUN AVERAGE





#### PERCENT OF BUYERS WITH ZERO DOWN PAYMENT



# WHILE THE SHARE OF FHA INCREASED FROM THE RECENT LOW, IT WAS STILL MUCH LOWER THAN 2009



#### 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



#### REASONS FOR RENTING INSTEAD OF BUYING

Can't afford to buy Poor credit / Can't qualify Renting is easier Young/Starting out/Not ready Flexibility/Freedom if renting Cost/Upkeep/Responsibility Plan to / Saving for down Never considered it/No interest Disabled/On disability



#### REASONS FOR CHANGING COUNTY ALL BUYERS (2014 VS. 2015)



#### 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!



# THANKYOU!

www.car.org/marketdata oscarw@car.org This presentation can be found on

www.car.org/marketdata

**Speeches & Presentations**