February 2, 2020

Honorable Teresa Barrett
Mayor
City of Petaluma
11 English Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

RE: Sid Commons Apartment Project - Support

Dear Mayor Barrett:

The California Apartment Association’s North Bay Division which represents rental housing providers in Petaluma strongly supports the proposed Sid Commons Apartment project.

As you know, we are facing an extreme housing crisis not only in Petaluma but the entire State of California. It is vitally important that each community focuses on their own needs and plans for additional housing at all levels of income. An increasing amount of working class employees find it difficult to secure housing and are often forced to commute to Petaluma from as far away as the Central Valley. This project will provide much needed relief for renters looking for housing and will bring the City of Petaluma one step closer to meeting its housing goals and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers.

It is also clear the developer listened to community concerns and made significant modifications to the project by reducing the number of units from 278 to 180, decreasing the building footprint, preserving wetlands, protecting existing trees, increasing diversity in unit make up and supporting inclusionary housing. Furthermore, Sid Commons is a net zero energy project fully committed to building all electric residential units which is consistent with the recently adopted city goals (Workplan Item #43).

Lack of housing production and population growth has put a significant amount of stress on the housing market. According to the Sonoma County Economic Development Board, the City of Petaluma is projected to grow 3.2% by 2022 and will be home to 62,700 residents. The need for housing is undeniable and this project creates essential housing and affordable units for the City of Petaluma. We urge the City Council to approve the Sid Commons Apartment Project.
Sincerely,

Alex Khalfin
Vice President of Public Affairs
California Apartment Association