



2021 Annual Activities Report

www.CatalystsCA.org

415-686-4375

Catalysts launched in March 2021 in response to a barrage of housing bills. The bills dismantle local control over planning and land use and bestow authority to unelected bureaucrats in regional agencies and the state Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). The bills are often based on inaccurate numbers and the unproven pretense that cities are to blame for the housing crisis.

The bills create density and congestion, reduce parking, and impede fire and ambulance vehicles without providing housing that is affordable to low-income wage earners.

Catalysts seeks to EDUCATE, ENGAGE & EMPOWER citizens and generate solutions that benefit people, neighborhoods and communities.

2021 Activities & Accomplishments

This report is organized around **Four Themes: 1) Inform**-activities Catalysts created; **2) Participate**-activities initiated by others; **3) Partner**-collaborators; **4) Influence**-housing legislation



New York Times, 8/26/21

After Years of Failure, California Lawmakers Pave the Way for More Housing, Conor Dougherty

“What is alarming to me is what this does to due process,” said Susan Kirsch, founder of Catalysts for Local Control, an advocacy group in the San Francisco Bay Area. “These are bills where there is no public notice required about what happens to the parcel next door. There is no way for you to hear about it, no way for your city council to look at this project, and no recourse. How is it we have this sham of a democratic process?”

2021 Activities & Accomplishments

INFORM, Participate, Partner, and Influence

INFORM

5 Catalysts Town Halls, Zoom

View the videos at www.Catalystsca.org.

1. **SB9** (*Lot Splits on single-family lots w/duplexes*) & **SB10** (*10-units*), w/**Maria & Jeff Kalban**. Welcome: Marin County Supervisor **Dennis Rodoni**, 3/24.
2. **Water** w/40-year SF Water Dept. manager **Rick Johnson**. Welcome: Asm. **Marc Levine**, 6/10
3. **RHNA**, *Regional Housing Need Allocations* w/former Foster City Mayor **Art Kiesel**, 6/17
4. **CEQA**, *CA Environmental Quality Act* w/former Foster City Mayor **Linda Koelling** and **Kristi Corley**, 6/24
5. **Actions** w/**Maria Kalban**, **Lynetta McElroy**, **Maurice Green**, and **Susan Kirsch**, 7/1

6 Catalysts in CA Times –

Host Guy Meyer, YouTube videos on Channel 26 and the Catalysts' website

1. **Susan Kirsch**, Catalysts in CA Times
2. **Mike Griffiths**, founder, CA Cities for Local Control and Torrance City Council Member.
3. **Hydee Feldstein Soto**, candidate for Los Angeles City Attorney 2022. **John Heath**, president of the United Homeowners' Association, LA.
4. **Rick Johnson**, 40-year manager, San Francisco Water Department.
5. **Lydia Kou**, Palo Alto City Council and **Peggy Huang**, Yorba Linda Mayor
6. Consolidated Clips

2021 Activities & Accomplishments: Inform, **PARTICIPATE**, Partner, and Influence

PARTICIPATE

By Invitation

Radio, Delegation, Interviews & Panels

12 Monthly, 20-40-minute guest spots on **Sonoma Radio** KSVY 91.3 FM with host Marcia McComber

6-part virtual Affordable Housing Delegation organized by **Hawaii Sen. Stanley Chang** to Singapore, Hong Kong, Vienna, & Houston, 8/10-11/10

1-State Town Hall re: SB9 and SB10 w/1,800 registrants, 8/7/21

Interviews & Panels on housing legislation

- 1. Sovereign Nation** TV Zoom interview w/Jon Matthew, 8/7
- 2. Silicon Valley Women's Realtors**, Zoom presentation, 8/9
- 3. Hawaii Conference** Zoom Panelist, "1,000 Units Per Acre: Why Cities Reject Density," 8/12
- 4. Almaden Valley Kiwanis Club**, Zoom Presentation, 10/13
- 5. Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers (CO\$T)** w/ panelists Sen. Mike McGuire, Assemblyman Marc Levine, Novato City Councilwoman Pat Eklund and Susan Kirsch, 10/25

2021 Activities & Accomplishments: Inform, Partipate, **PARTNER**, and Influence

Working together works wonders!

PARTNER

Alameda Citizen Task Force
Bay Area Transportation Working Group
Better Berkeley
Better Cupertino
CA Alliance of Local Electeds (CALE)
CA Cities for Local Control
CA Times
Coalition for San Francisco
Neighborhoods
Community Venture Partners
Friends of Mill Valley
Friends of the Hills
Golden Gate Village
Livable California

Los Altos Hills
Marin Community Service District
Montecito Association
Palo Altans for Sensible Zoning
Responsible Growth Marin
Santa Margarita Neighborhood Association
Save Our Single-Family Neighborhoods
Sustainable Tam/Almonte
United Neighbors, LA
West Bay Citizens Coalition
And more

2021 Activities & Accomplishments: Inform, Participate, Partner, and **INFLUENCE**

INFLUENCE

Catalysts promotes solutions that provide housing that is affordable to low-income residents, protect the environment, and preserve local control.

Despite dedicated, collaborative effort, the bills we opposed passed.

8+ Senate Bills

Lot splits, duplexes, 10-units in single-family neighborhoods, density, bonuses for developers, no public notice, no guarantee of affordability

8+ Assembly Bills

Developer bonuses, parking restrictions, threats of fines against cities, state “strike force” to coerce community compliance

Weekly Bill Updates on the Website

Weekly Catalysts’ Calls

ACTIONS

- **30+ letters/templates to Senate, Assembly and Appropriations Committees**
- **100’s of letters and calls to legislators and committees**
- **Organized opposition to inflated Bay Area RHNA quotas**

2022 Goal: Increase capacity to influence housing policy, provide affordable housing, protect the environment, and restore local control.



Strategies

- EDUCATE more individuals about the benefits of collaboration and local control.
- ENGAGE more groups in California and the country to participate in government.
- EMPOWER individuals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to get involved.
- EXPAND the network that renews hope and builds resilience in our neighborhoods, communities, state, nation, and the world.



INVEST in Catalysts!

Your contribution makes a difference!

IF YOU BELIEVE. . .

- Locally-elected representatives generate better informed decisions than regional and state bureaucrats
- Protecting the local environment is integral to slowing global warming
- Collaboration is superior to autocratic solutions

And IF YOU HAVE THE ABILITY To:

- Make a financial contribution
- Donate your time and talent
- Network with other individuals and groups

Please read on . . .



INVEST in Catalysts!

Catalysts educates, engages, and empowers by means of advocacy, legislation, elections, and litigation so gifts to Catalysts are not tax-deductible.

Make an online donation and subscribe to our newsletter at www.CatalystsCA.org.

Or send a check to **Catalysts for Local Control** at POB 1703, Mill Valley, CA 94942.

Call 415-686-4375 to discuss volunteer, leadership, and networking opportunities.

THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING CATALYSTS!
Your contribution makes a difference!