



City of Encinitas City Council's Office

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June 3, 2025

The Honorable Avelino Valencia
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5510
Sacramento, CA 95814

Bruce Ehlers
Mayor

RE: AB 492 (Valencia) Alcohol and drug programs: licensing – Notice of Support

Dear Assembly Member Valencia,

Joy Lyndes
Deputy Mayor

The City of Encinitas is pleased to support AB 492 (Valencia), which would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to notify cities anytime a new alcohol and drug treatment facility is approved in their jurisdiction.

Jim O'Hara
Council Member

California has 2,043 alcohol and drug treatment facilities, nearly 70% of which are in Southern California. DHCS is not currently required to notify local governments when approving licenses, leaving cities in the dark about the operation of new facilities within their jurisdictions. This lack of communication can make it challenging to address community concerns, maintain public safety, and ensure that recovery and treatment programs are effectively integrated into local communities.

Maro San Antonio
Council Member

AB 492 would enable cities to better coordinate services and identify emerging trends and potential gaps in the state's approach to treatment needs. Similar notification requirements are already in place for liquor licenses, cannabis businesses, and syringe exchange programs.

Luke Shaffer
Council Member

By receiving direct notifications of new or renewed licenses, Encinitas can better monitor the establishment and operation of recovery facilities within its jurisdiction, ensuring they align with local zoning laws and community standards. Residents and local organizations will be informed about the presence of treatment facilities, facilitating community engagement and support for individuals seeking recovery services. With timely information, Encinitas can coordinate with DHCS and other stakeholders to address any emerging public health concerns related to substance use and recovery services.

Jennifer Campbell
City Manager

A recent state audit on drug and alcohol treatment facilities in California confirmed what cities across California have been saying for years: There is an overconcentration of recovery housing in residential neighborhoods. AB 492 takes a critical step forward by keeping cities informed and

enhancing their collaboration with the state to more effectively address substance use treatment needs.

For these reasons, the City of Encinitas strongly supports AB 492 and respectfully requests your "aye" vote on this important measure.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ehlers
Mayor
City of Encinitas

cc: Assemblymember Tasha Boerner
Senator Catherine Blakespear