

LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

Sample Letter #1

Subject: Protect the Mills Act – Affordable Housing & Historic Preservation at Risk

Dear Councilmember [NAME],

I am writing as a resident of **[YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD]** in District **[#]** to express my strong opposition to any changes that would weaken the Mills Act program. This program is essential not only for preserving San Diego's historic homes but also for maintaining affordable homeownership in our city.

Historic neighborhoods provide some of the last Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) for middle- and working-class residents. The Mills Act makes it possible for homeowners to afford the high costs of maintaining these properties, preventing displacement and speculation. Restricting or rolling back its benefits would accelerate gentrification, shifting ownership from middle-class homeowners to corporate owners, creating high-end rental properties, and driving up housing costs even more.

I urge you to:

- Protect and expand the Mills Act program to cover more historic homes and keep them affordable as NOAH properties.
- Improve administration of the program without reducing its benefits.
- Recognize the Mills Act as a key tool in preserving affordable homeownership for low- and middle-income residents.

This program is about more than historic preservation—it is a vital housing policy that keeps San Diegans in their homes. Please stand with residents to protect both our history and affordability.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR ADDRESS (optional, but encouraged)]

[YOUR EMAIL]

How to Write & Send Your Message

1. Write a letter or email using the template above or your own words. Personal stories make a big impact.
2. Find your representative's contact information <https://www.sohosandiego.org/main/politiciansplus.htm>
3. Send your email or mail your letter to your City Councilmember's office. If mailing, use a standard envelope and address it to:

Councilmember [NAME]

City of San Diego

202 C Street, 10th Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

Sample Letter #2

Subject line: Preserve Our Neighborhoods and the Mills Act - Don't Undermine San Diego's Historic Legacy

Dear [Official's Name],

I am writing as a Mills Act homeowner and a dedicated steward of San Diego's architectural and cultural heritage.

Recent moves under the City's **Preservation and Progress initiative** appear poised to weaken the very tools that have made San Diego a model of responsible historic preservation—including the Mills Act, historic district designations, and protections for individual homes.

This is deeply concerning. My own home has benefitted greatly from the Mills Act contract. With it, I have made meaningful, historically appropriate repairs and restoration I could not have afforded otherwise. Without it, the future of many historic homes—and the neighborhoods they anchor—is at risk.

I strongly urge you to:

- **Protect the Mills Act and all existing contracts**
- **Strengthen, not weaken, our city's preservation ordinance**
- **Engage transparently with preservationists and homeowners**

Preservation isn't at odds with with progress—it's essential to it. San Diego's walkable, character-rich historic neighborhoods are prime examples of smart growth, affordability, and sustainability.

Please don't let short-term development pressures erase a century of civic identity.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR ADDRESS OR NEIGHBORHOOD]

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