

# HOUSING UNDERPRODUCTION AND HOW TO MAKE IT UP



**David Barker,**  
Barker Apartments  
(Moderator)



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ECONorthwest





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## Housing Underproduction in the U.S. Michael Wilkerson, Ph.D.

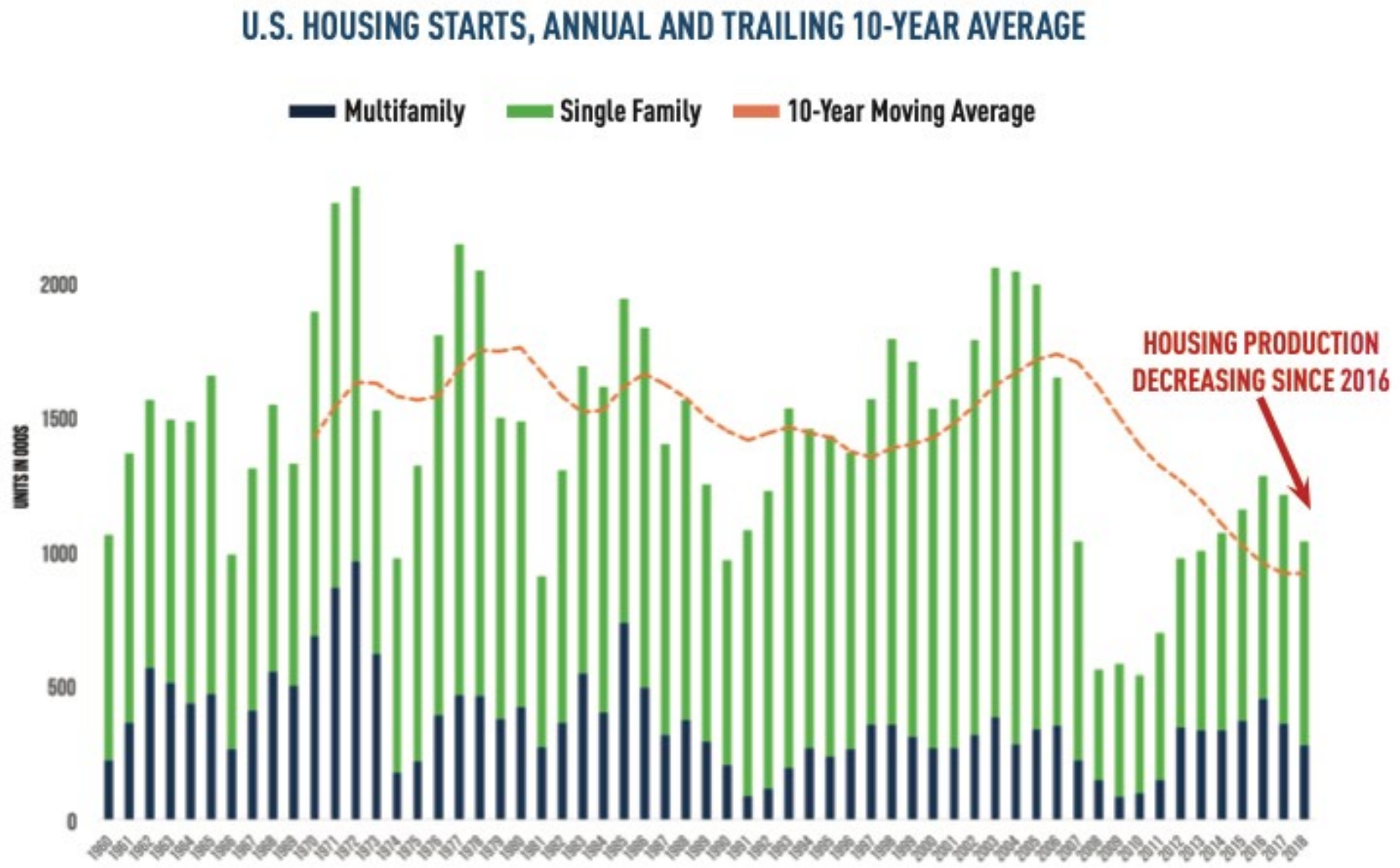
2019 NMHC Research Forum  
**April 2-3, 2019**



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# 2008 TO 2018 PRODUCED THE FEWEST UNITS OF HOUSING OVER 10 YEARS

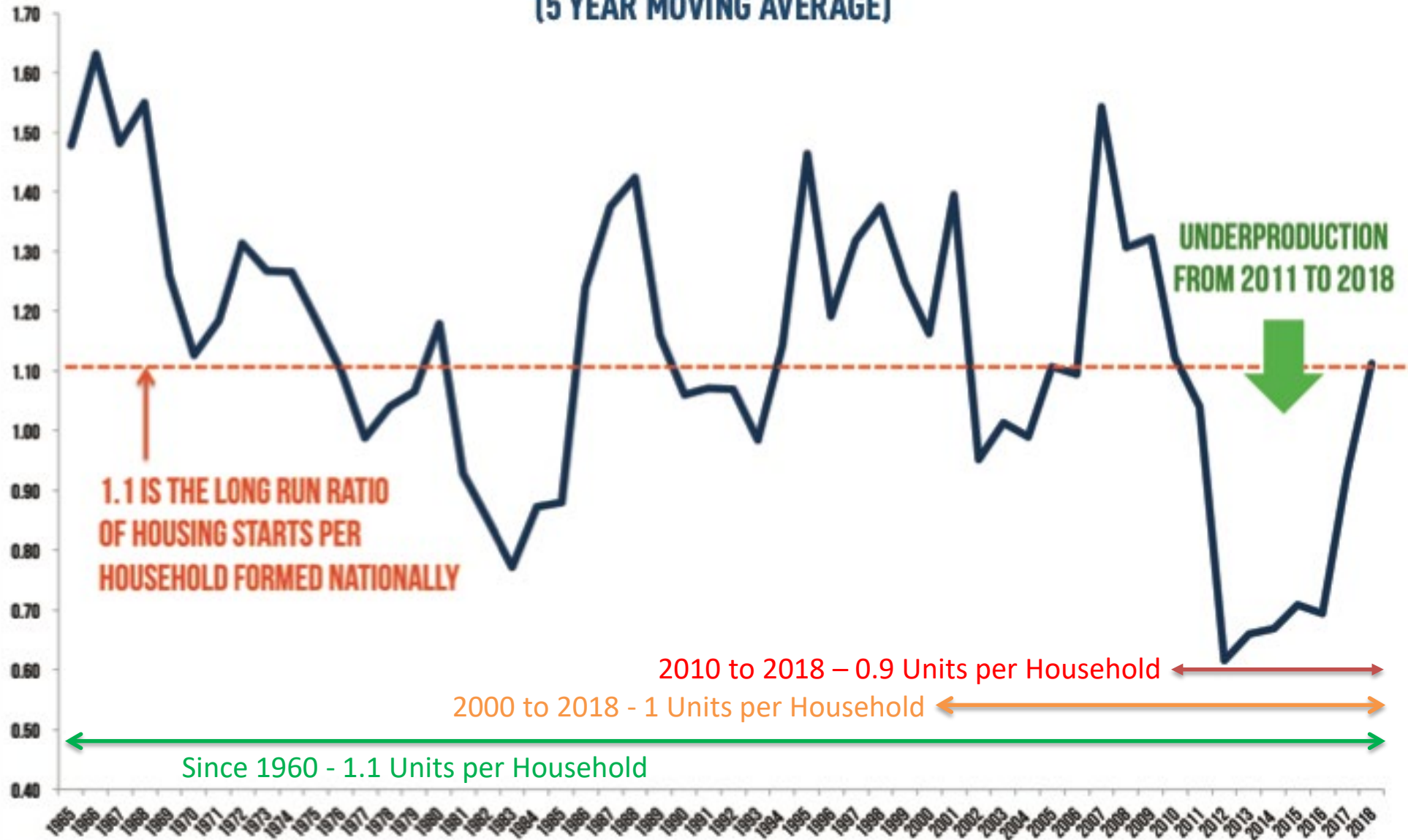


Source: U.S. Census, HUD



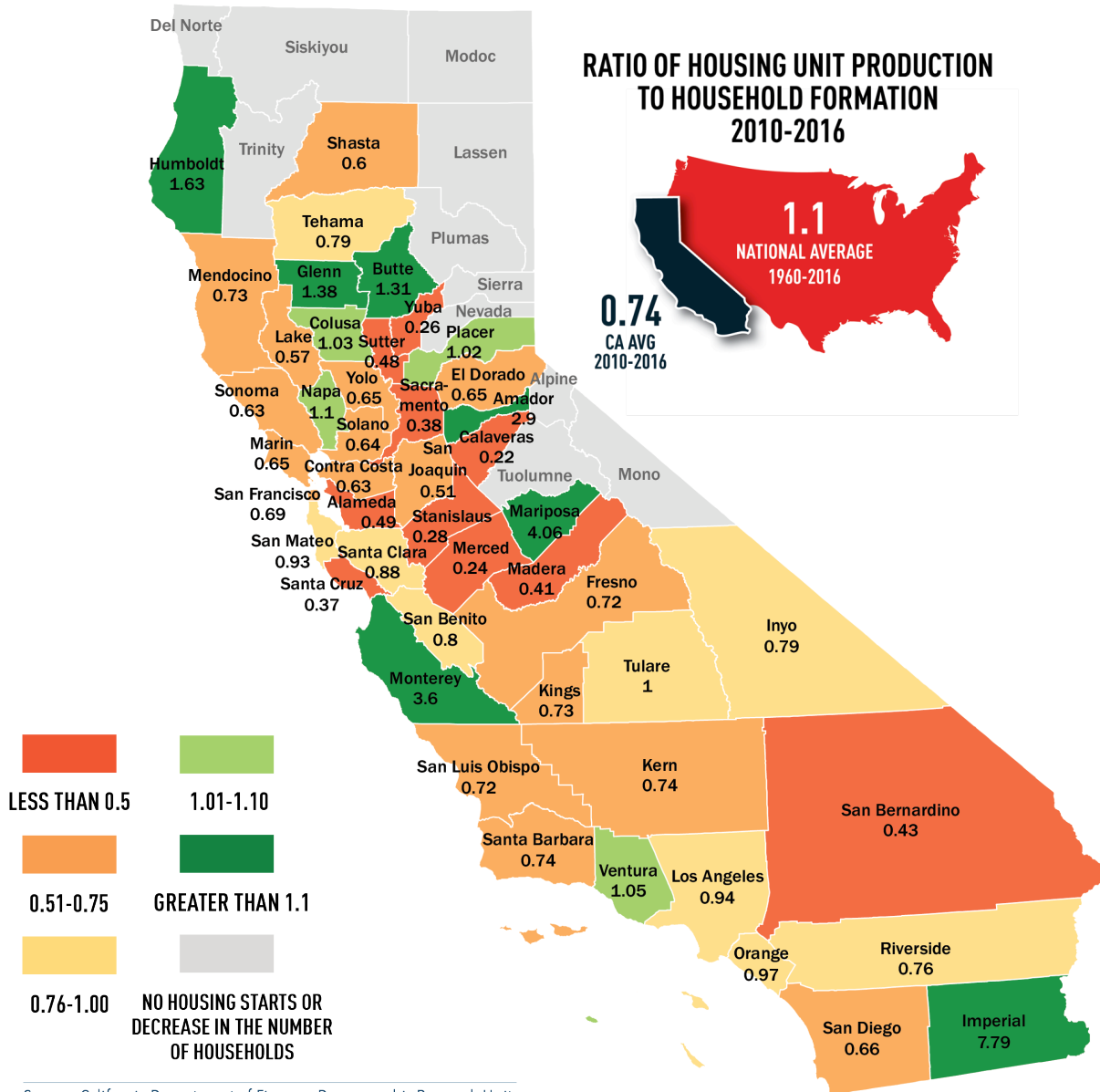


## U.S. HOUSING STARTS TO HOUSEHOLD FORMATION (5 YEAR MOVING AVERAGE)

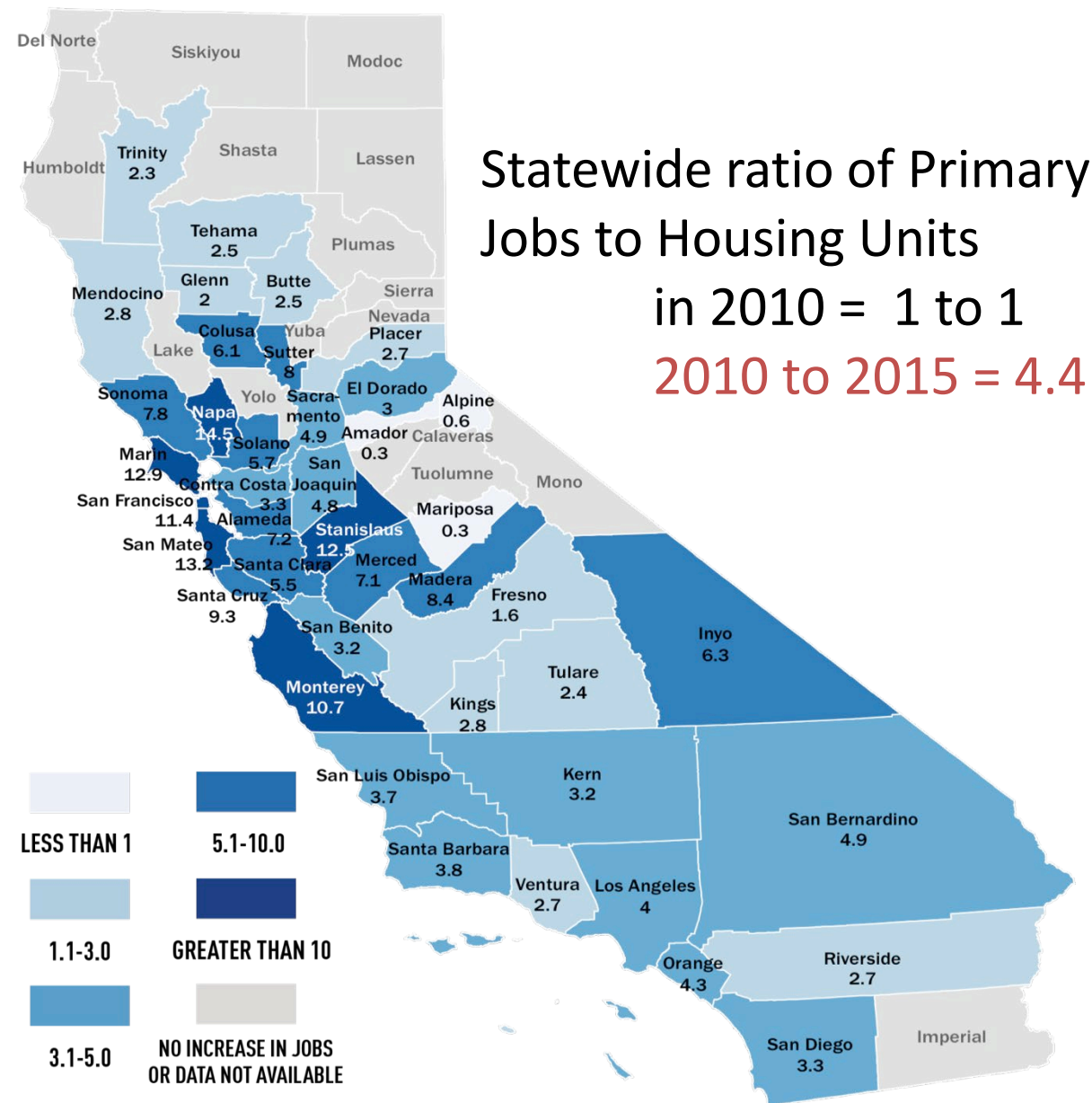


Source: U.S. Census Bureau and HUD



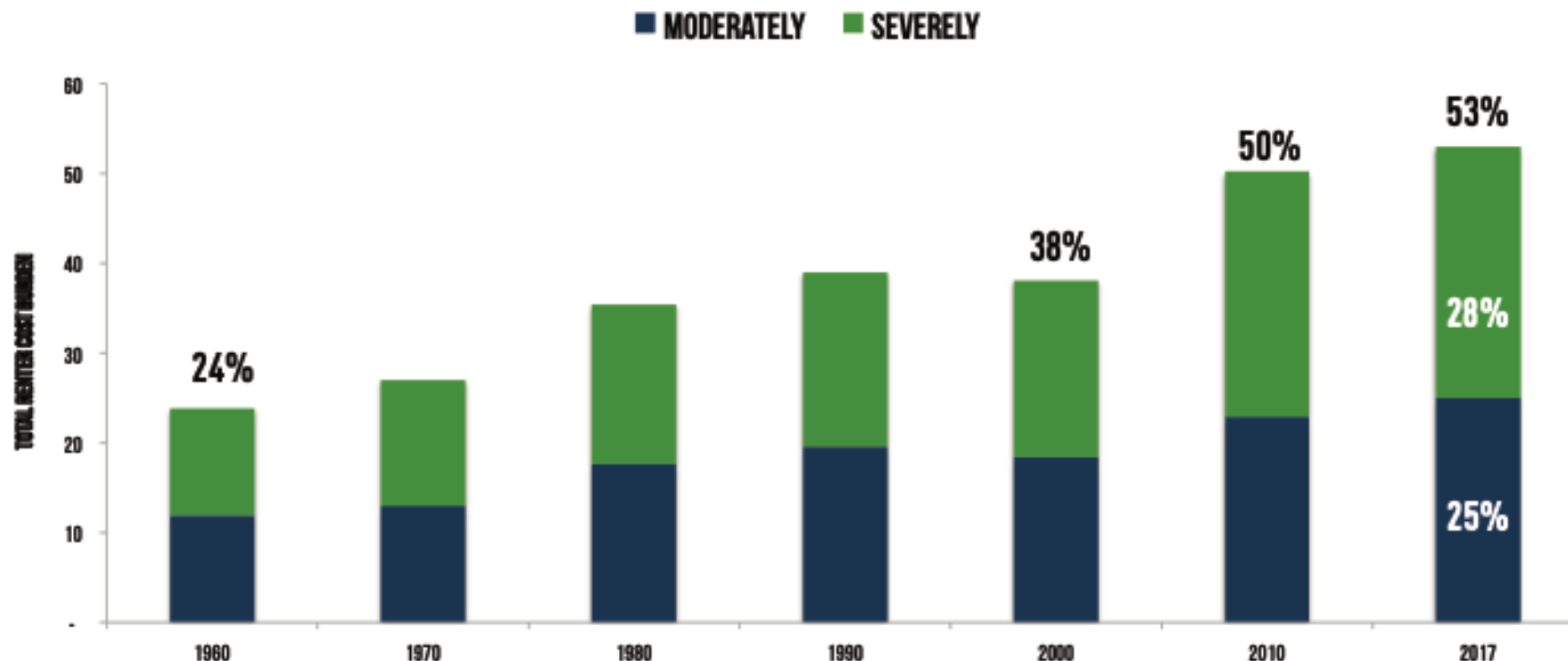


Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit





# NATIONAL RENTER COST BURDENING INCREASING OVER TIME



**Moderate Rent Burden = 30% - 50% of Gross Income**

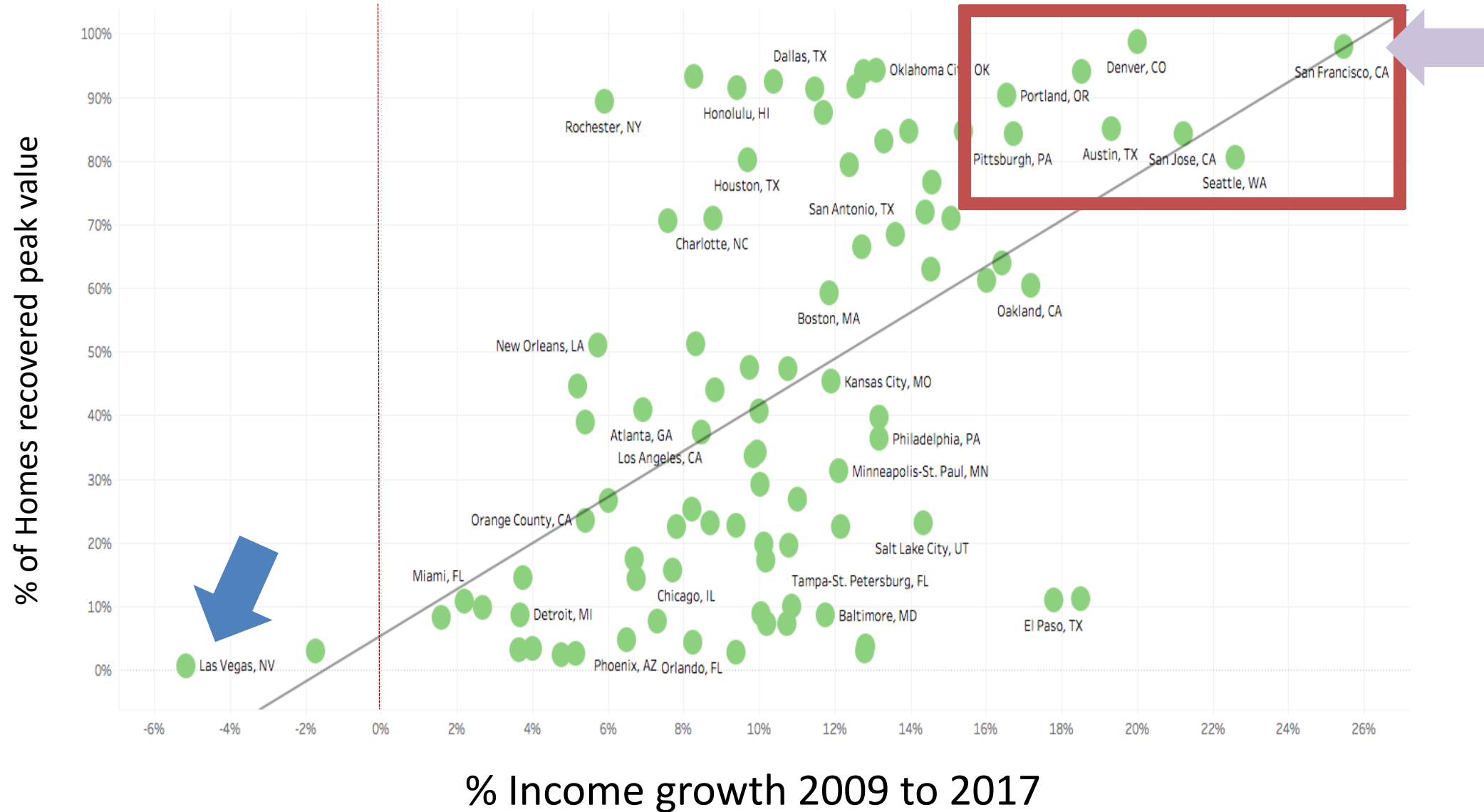
**Severe Rent Burden = 50%+ of Gross Income**

**1 in 4 renters nationally spend 50%+ of gross income on rent**

Source: JCHS Harvard, U.S. Census



# HOUSING DEMAND – INCOME AND MARKET PEAK PRICING

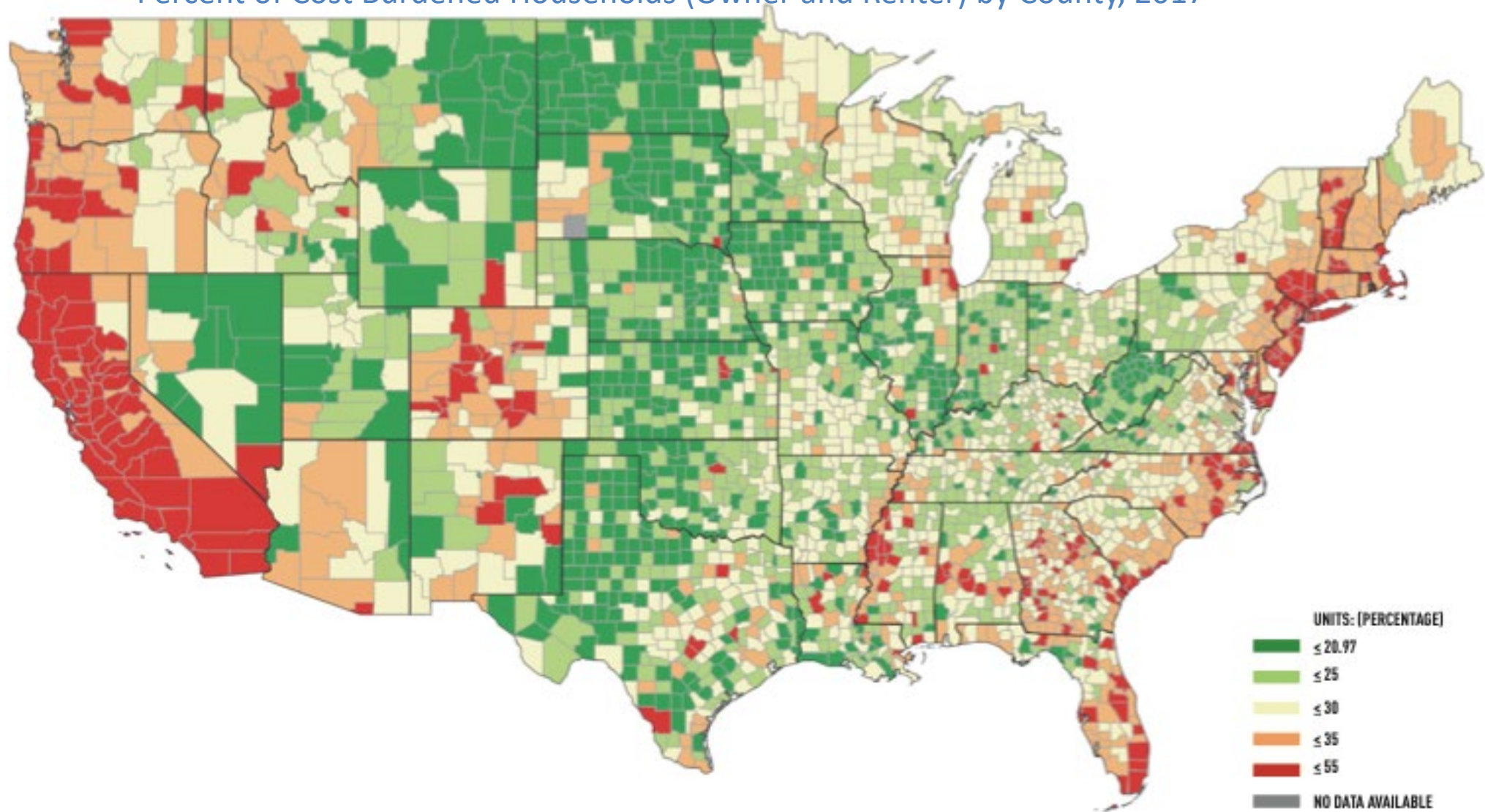


Source: Trulia



# COST BURDENING PREVALENT IN MARKETS WITH LARGEST INCOME GROWTH

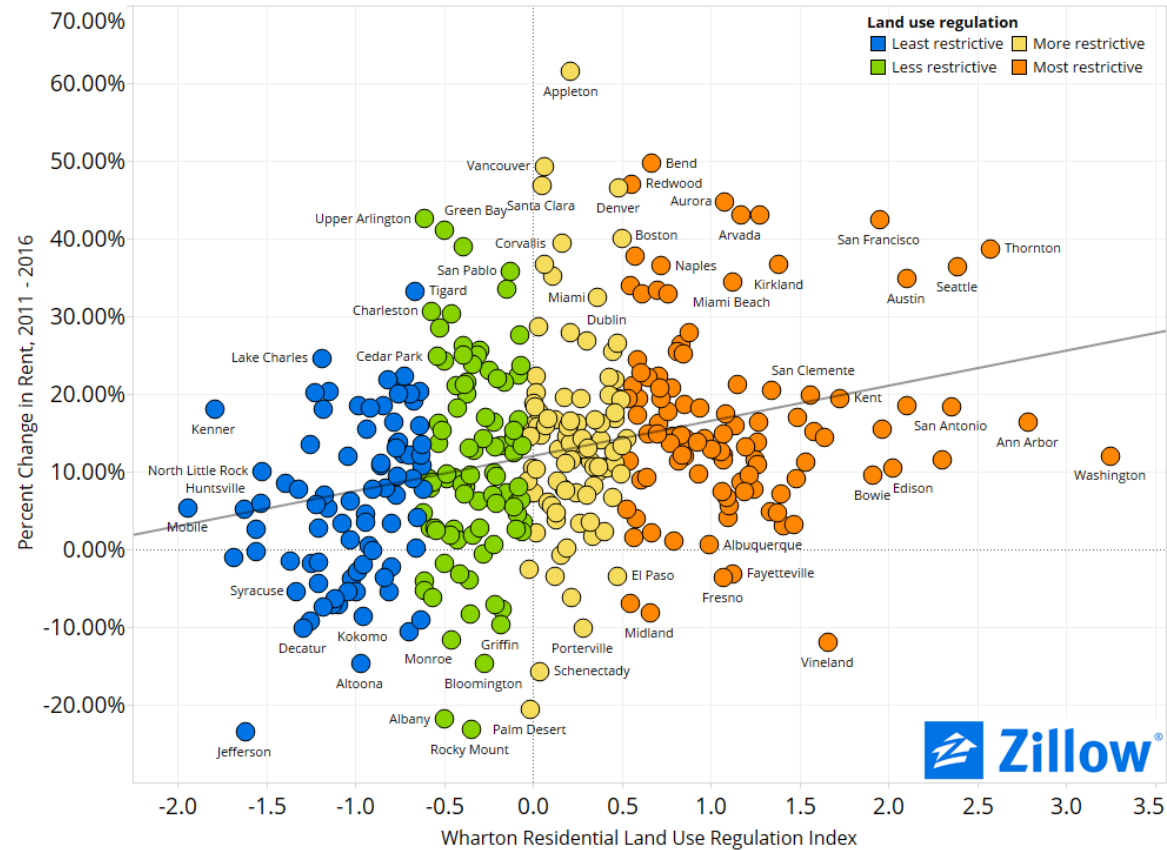
Percent of Cost Burdened Households (Owner and Renter) by County, 2017





# LARGER RENT INCREASES IN MARKETS WITH MORE REGULATION

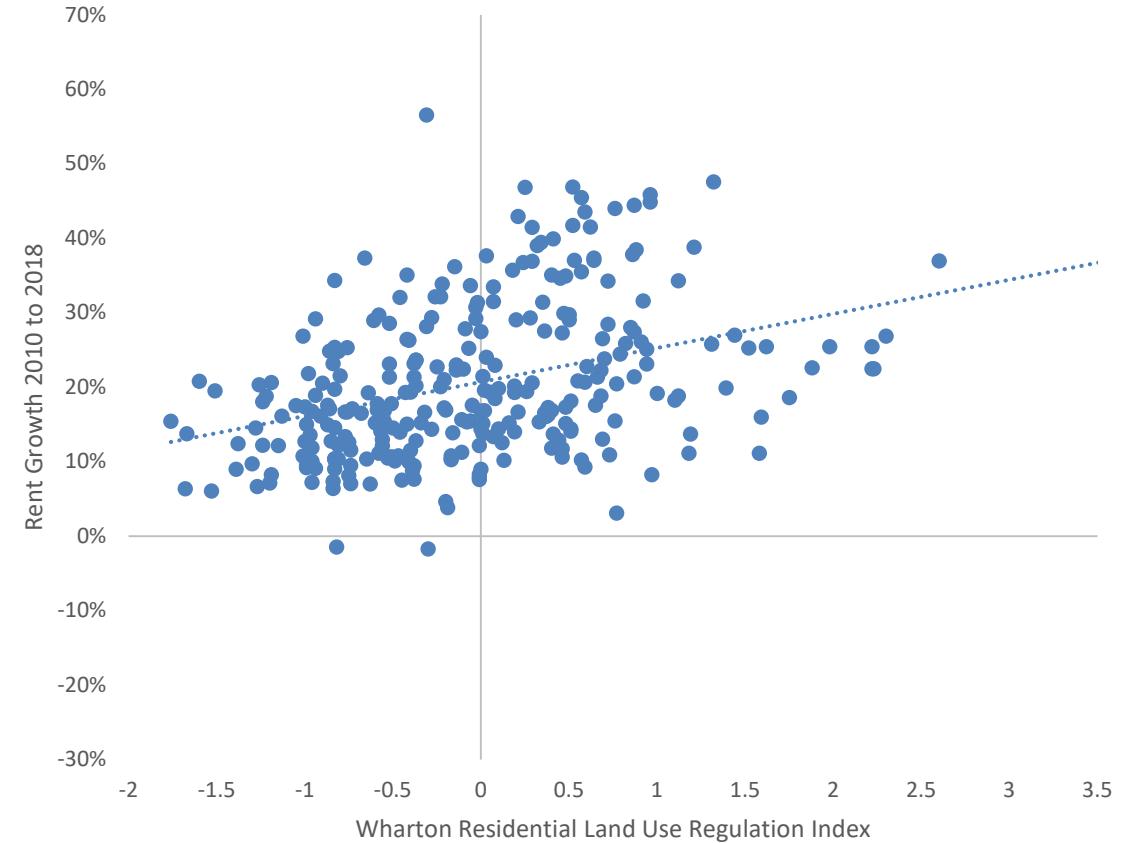
**Figure 1:** Rent appreciates faster in more regulated cities



Source: Zillow analysis of data from the Wharton Residential Land Use Regulation Index, 2008, and Zillow Rent Index, January 2011 - January 2016.

Updated to 2018 using CoStar Data

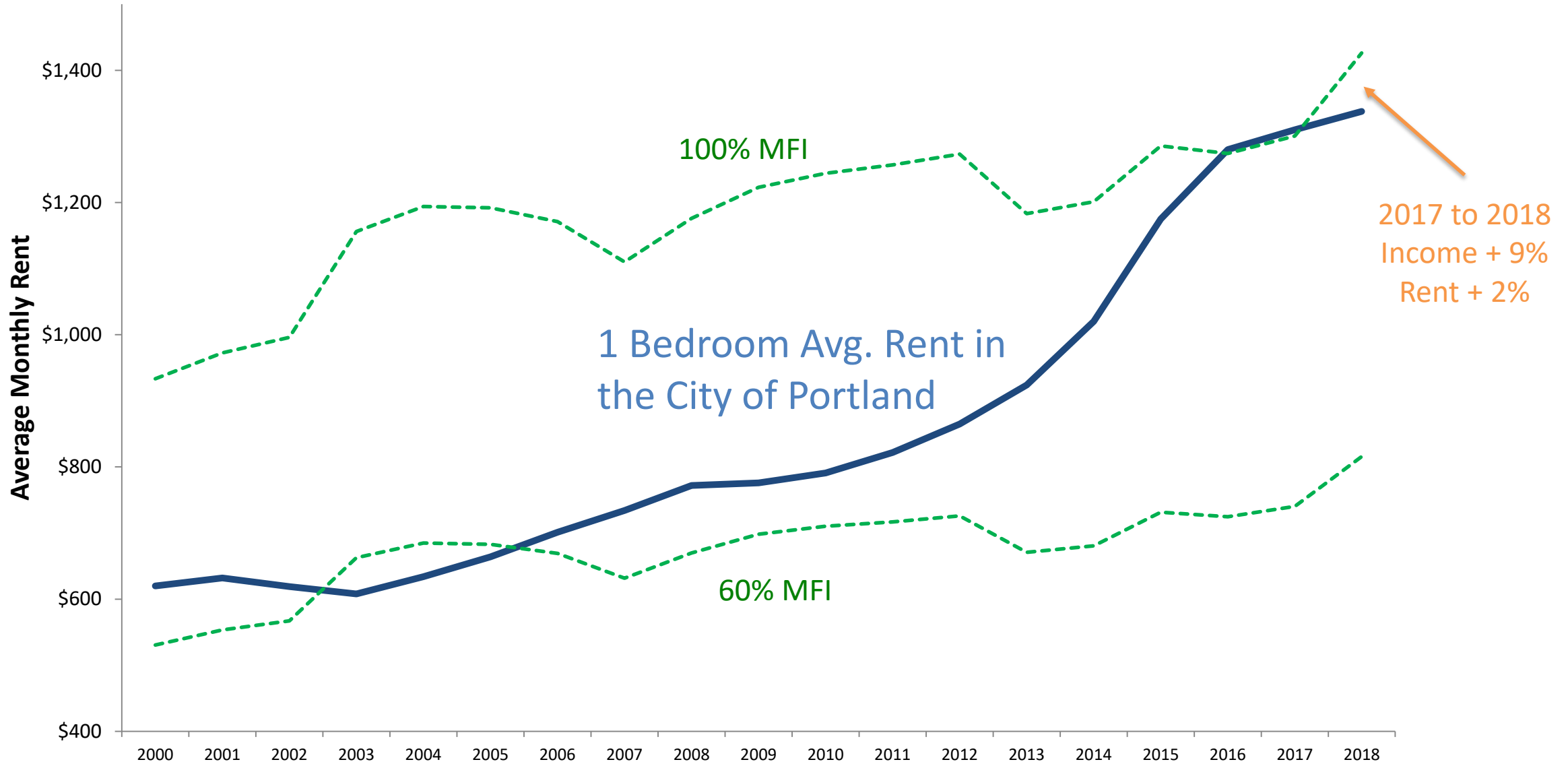
Average Market Rent Growth vs. WRLURI 2010 TO 2018



Source: Costar, WRLURI



# AVERAGE RENT IN PORTLAND INCREASING FASTER THAN INCOMES

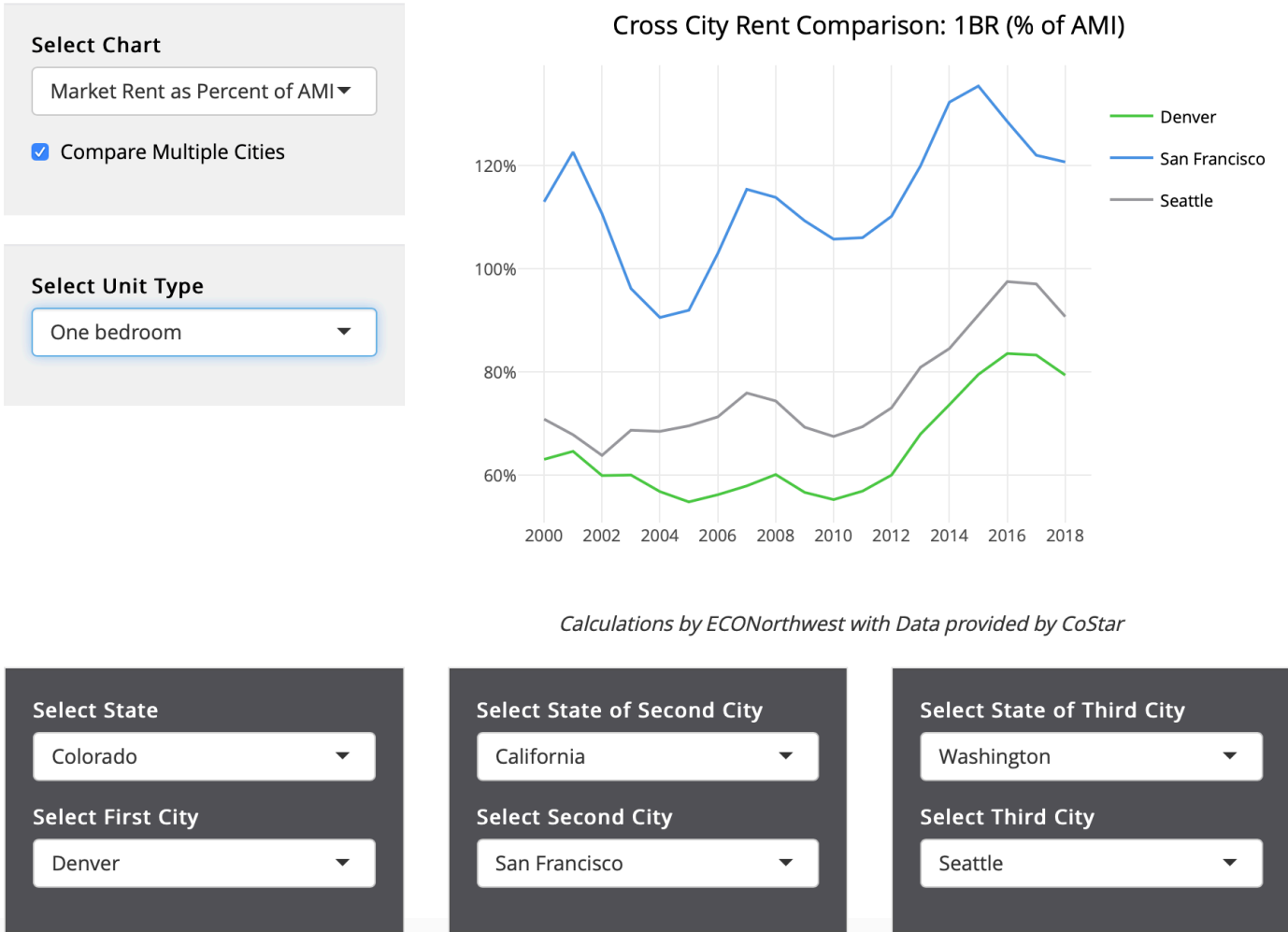


Source: Costar, HUD, ECONorthwest Calculations



# AVERAGE RENTS ARE INCREASING FASTER THAN INCOMES

## Time Series of Affordability



<https://www.upforgrowth.org/unit-affordability-over-time>

- Displays average rent by unit type as a percent of AMI (HUD assumptions)
- Compare up to 3 markets
- Option to select view of nominal rent



# AVERAGE RENTS ARE INCREASING FASTER THAN INCOMES

## Time Series of Affordability

### Select Chart

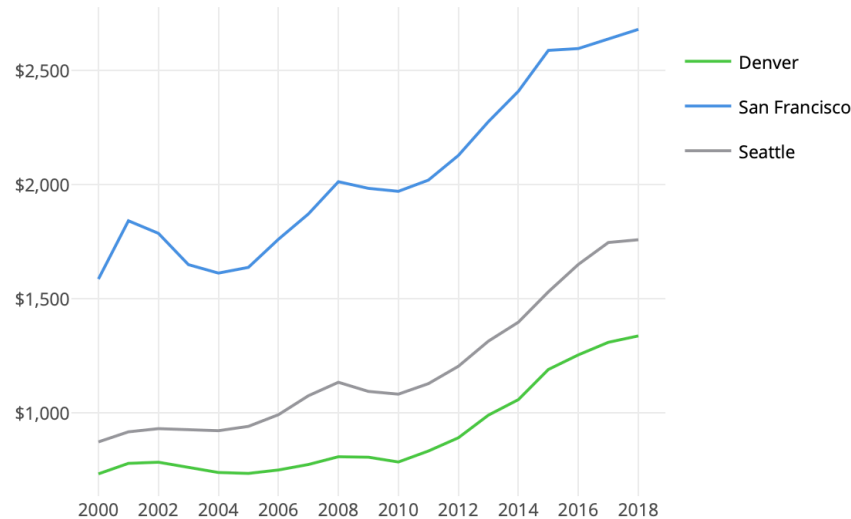
Nominal Rent

☒ Compare Multiple Cities

### Select Unit Type

One bedroom

### Cross City Rent Comparison: 1BR (Nominal Rent)



Calculations by ECONorthwest with Data provided by CoStar

### Select State

Colorado

### Select First City

Denver

### Select State of Second City

California

### Select Second City

San Francisco

### Select State of Third City

Washington

### Select Third City

Seattle

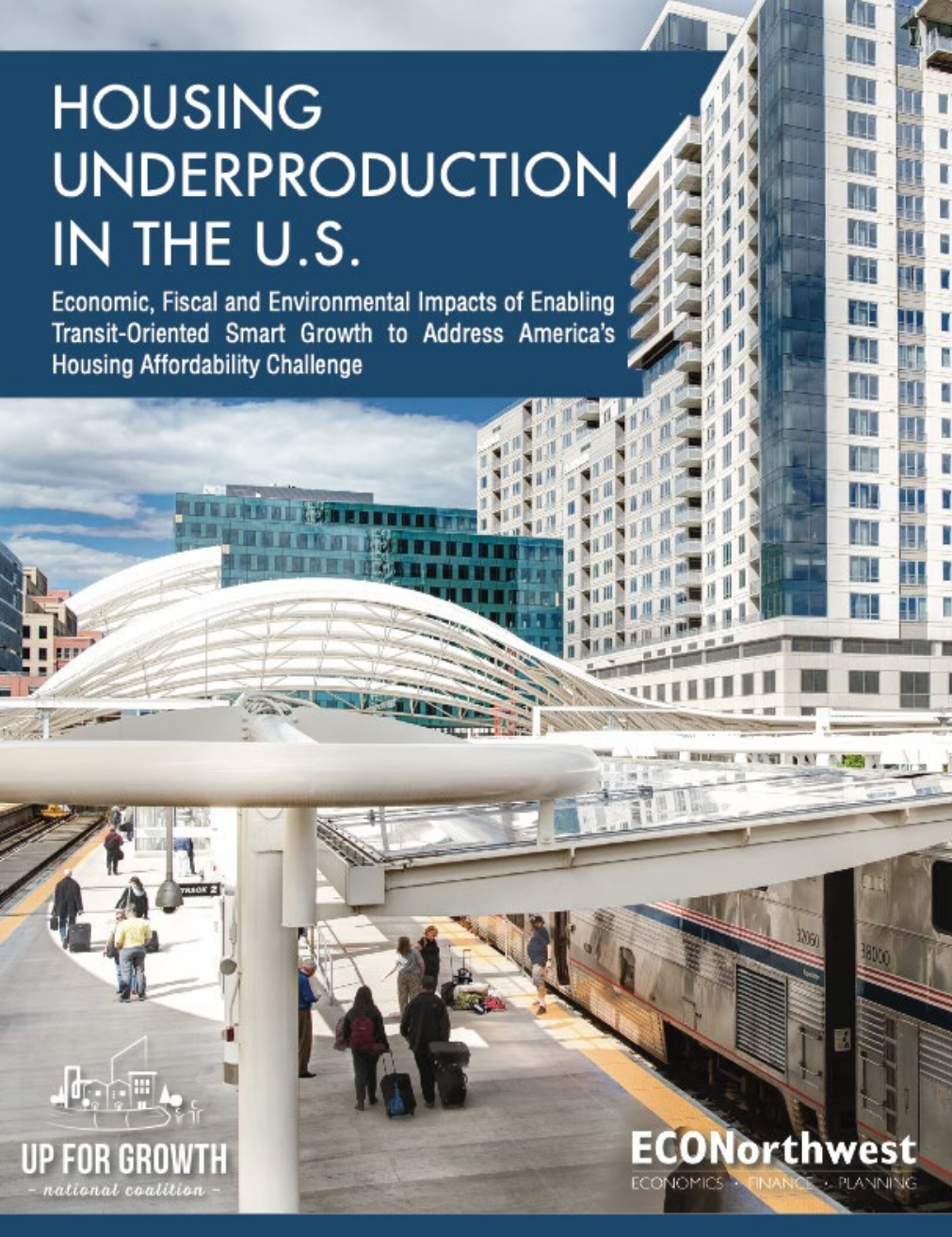
<https://www.upforgrowth.org/unit-affordability-over-time>

- Displays average rent by unit type as a percent of AMI (HUD assumptions)
- Compare up to 3 markets
- Option to select view of nominal rent



# HOUSING UNDERPRODUCTION IN THE U.S.

Economic, Fiscal and Environmental Impacts of Enabling  
Transit-Oriented Smart Growth to Address America's  
Housing Affordability Challenge



Contributes to existing literature through:

- Econometric model to calculate housing supply elasticity and underproduction of units nationally
- Create growth scenarios to analyze different economic, fiscal, and environmental impacts associated with increasing the production of housing
- Use REMI to model dynamic economic and fiscal impacts over a 20 year production period

Available for Download at:

[www.upforgrowth.org](http://www.upforgrowth.org)



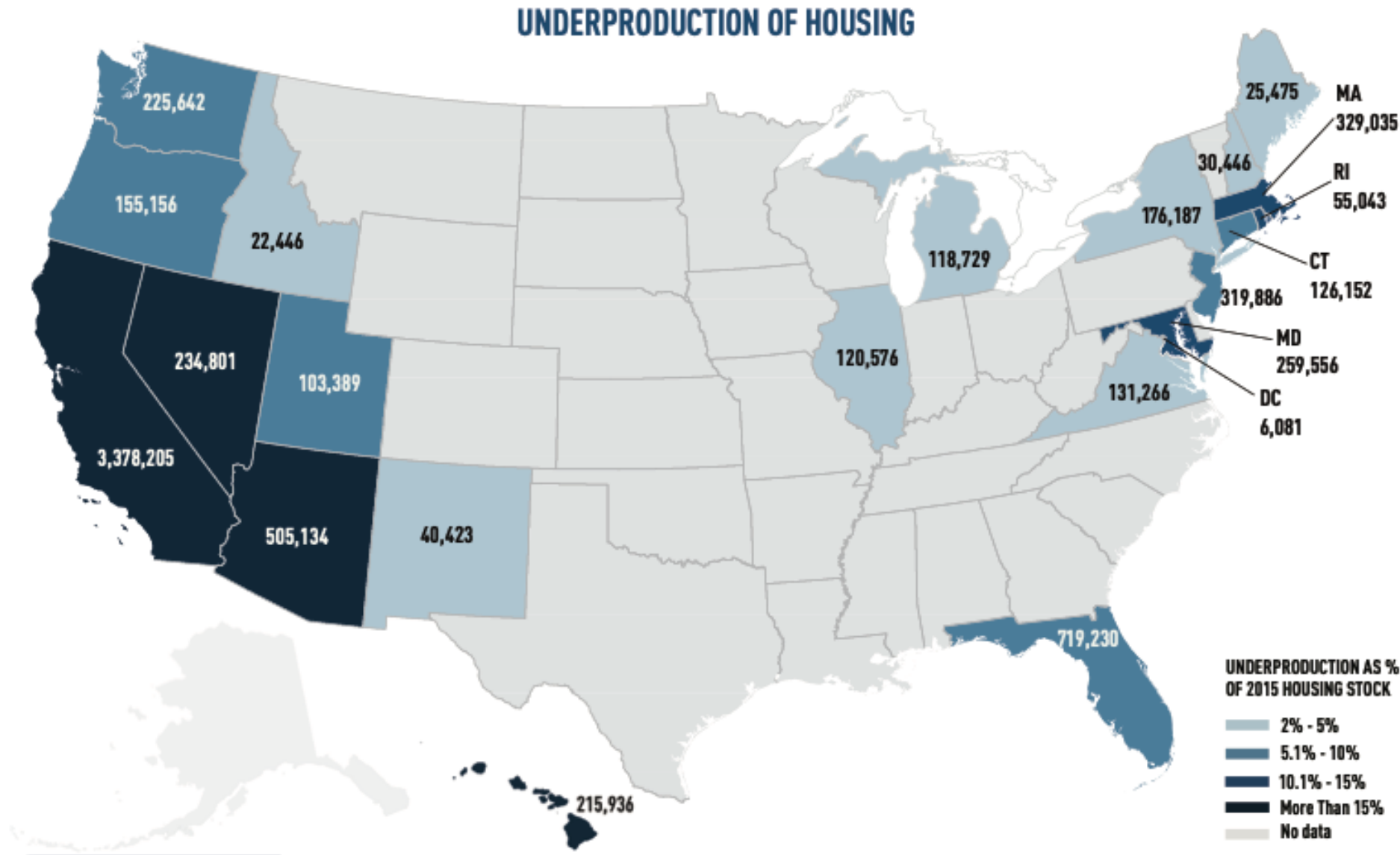
Task 1) Quantify underproduction of housing

Task 2) Model growth scenarios

Task 3) Quantify economic, fiscal, and environmental impacts



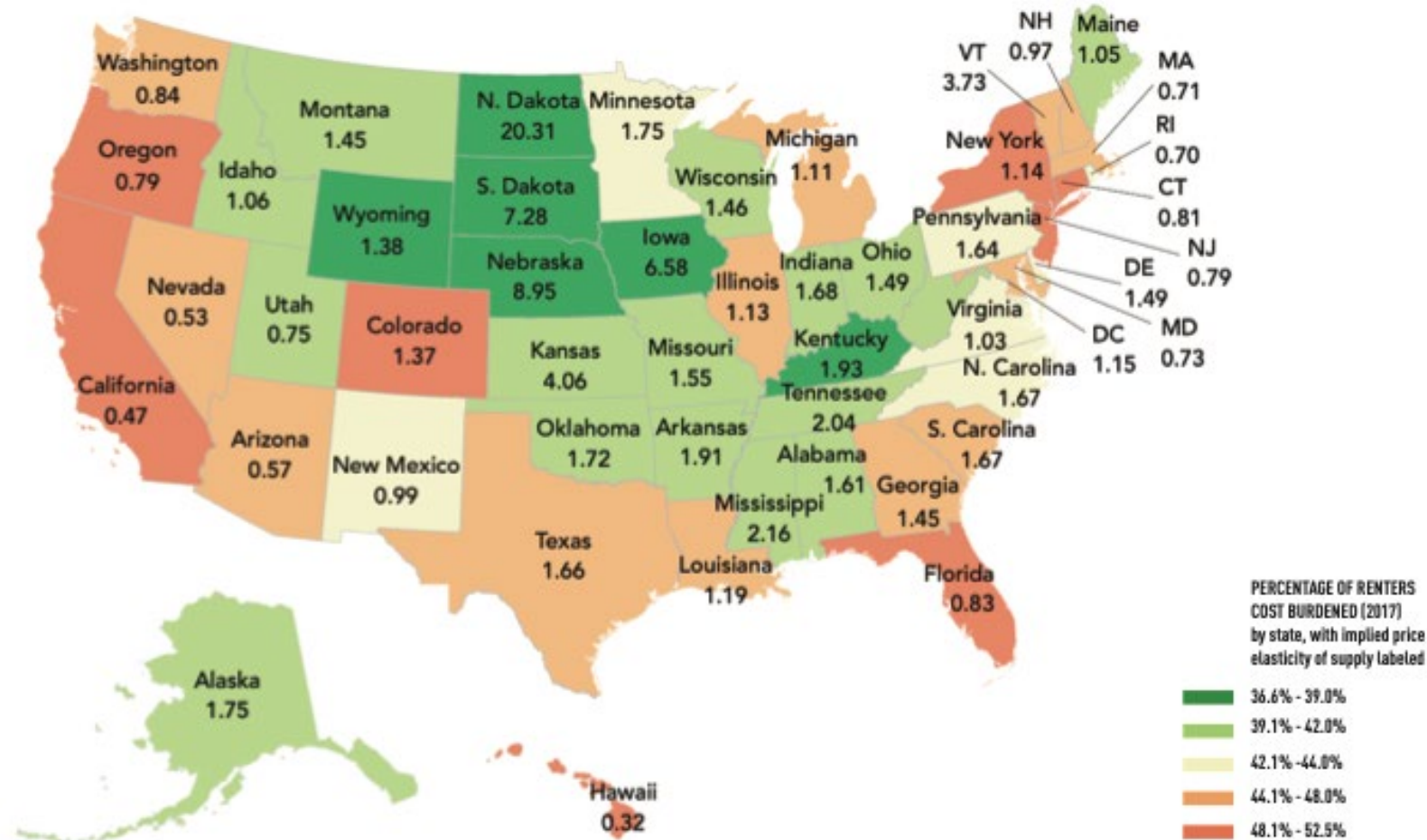
# 23 STATES UNDERPRODUCED 7.3 MILLION UNITS FROM 2000 TO 2015





# OBSERVE LOW SUPPLY ELASTICITY IN STATES WITH HIGHER COST BURDENING

A STATE'S SUPPLY ELASTICITY MEASURES THE HOUSING MARKET'S RESPONSIVENESS TO PRICE  
(LOWER = LESS RESPONSIVE), AND IT IS CORRELATED TO THE LEVEL OF RENTER COST BURDENING (CORR = -0.48)



Source: ECONorthwest Calculations, U.S. Census Bureau



Task 1) Quantify Underproduction of Housing

Task 2) Model growth scenarios

Task 3) Quantify economic, fiscal, and environmental impacts



# HOW AND WHERE HOUSING UNITS ARE DEVELOPED

How = Housing Prototypes



Where = Growth Scenarios



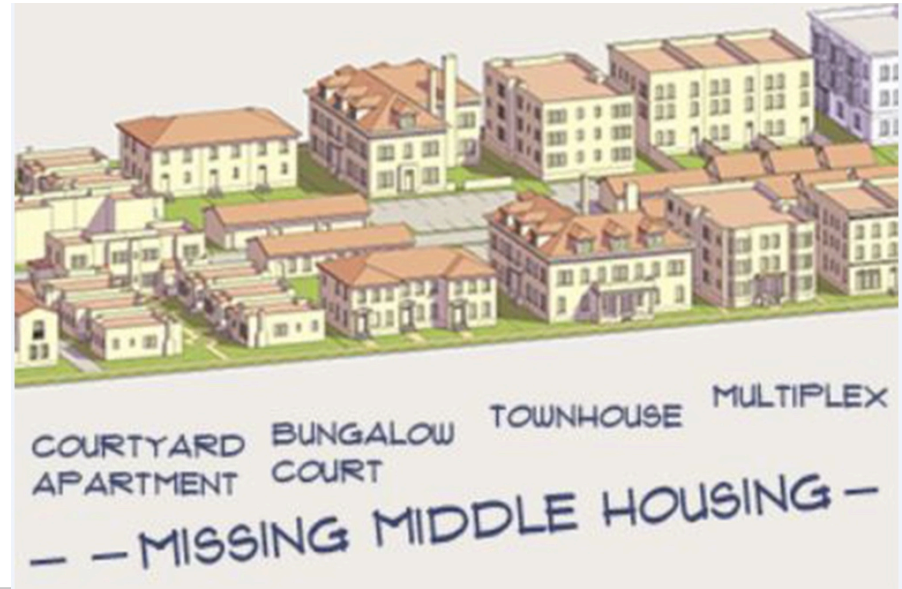
# HOUSING PROTOTYPES

Units are distributed as 3 prototypes:

Single Family  
5 Units per Acre



Medium Density  
Up to 5 stories  
120 Units per Acre



Tower  
High Rise 6+ stories  
240 Units per Acre



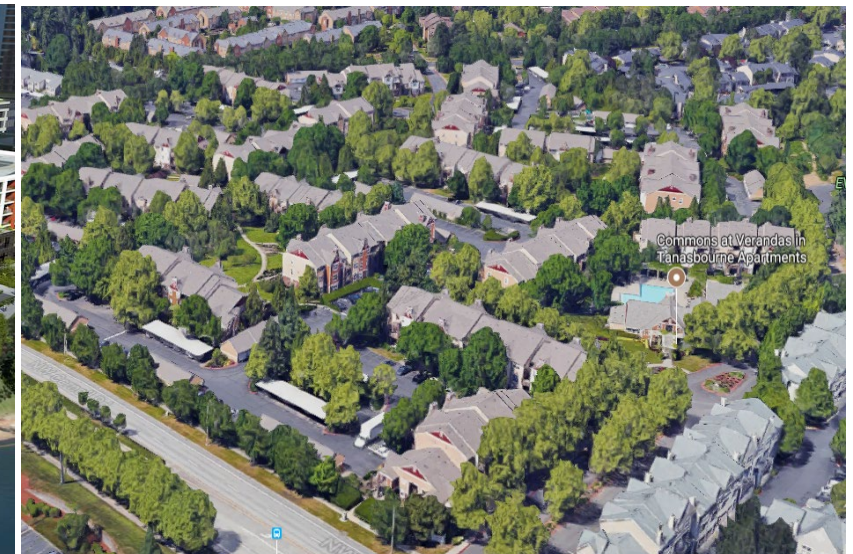
# GROWTH SCENARIOS – WHERE TO ADD DENSITY



DUA= 150  
Belltown Seattle  
100% Tower



DUA= 30  
South Waterfront Portland  
75% Podium / 25% Tower

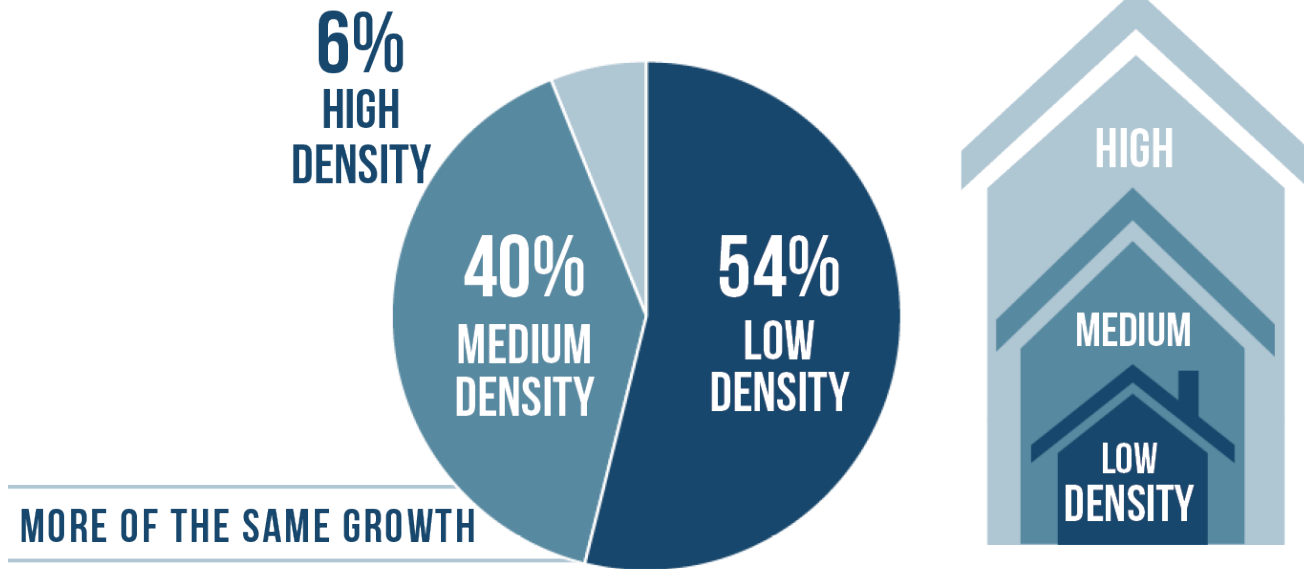


DUA= 12  
Generic Suburbia  
100% Medium Density



# 23 STATE HOUSING PRODUCTION: TWO ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS

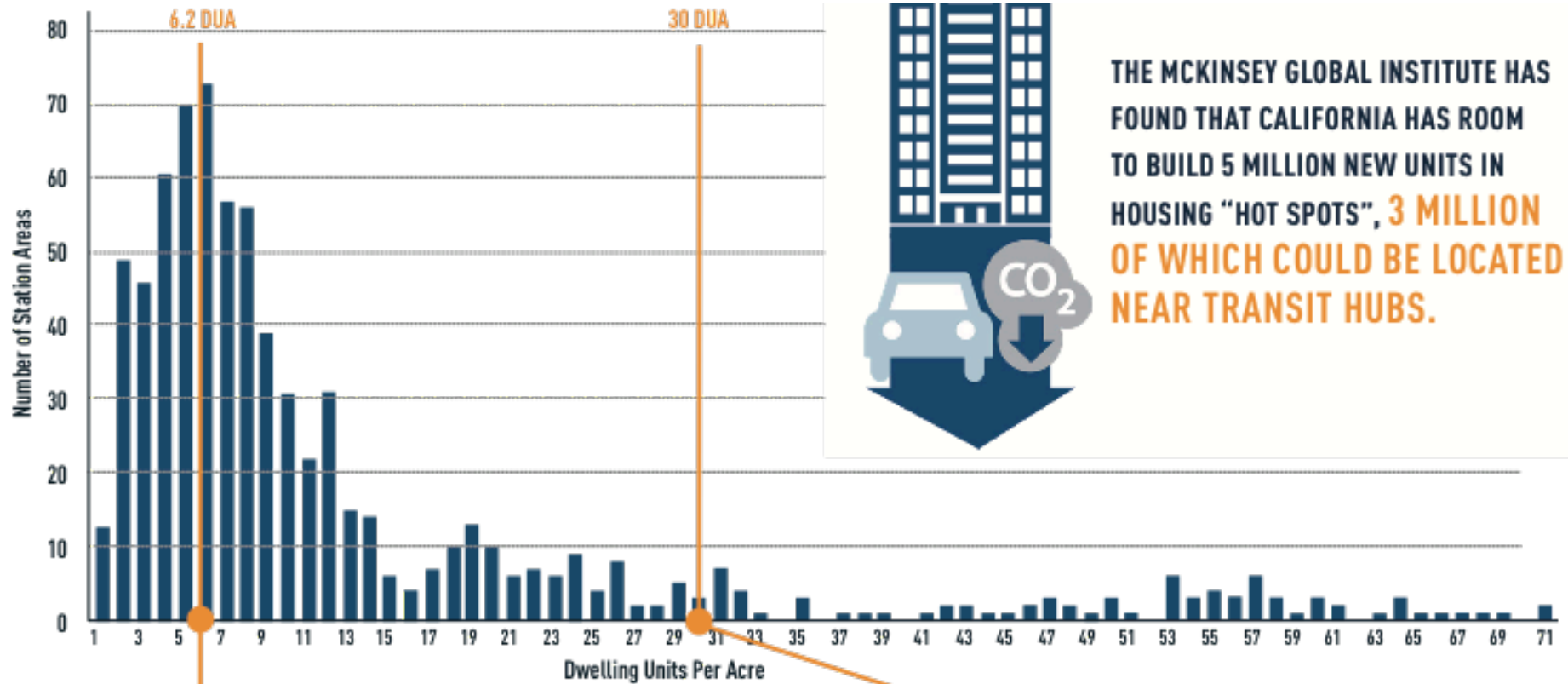
## More of the Same



Assumes same growth pattern will continue



# TRANSIT CORRIDORS ARE UNDERUTILIZED IN CALIFORNIA



Land around CA transit stations is currently underdeveloped: current median unit density is 6.2 dwelling units per acre.

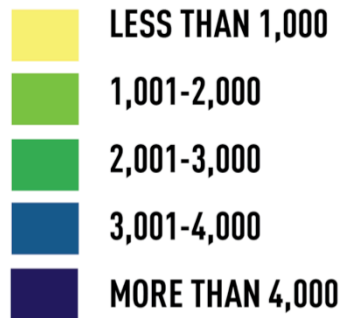


The Vertical Housing Program can increase median unit density around transit stations to 30 dwelling units per acre, which would effectively address the existing housing shortfall.



# SMART GROWTH SCENARIOS IN THE BAY AREA AND LOS ANGELES

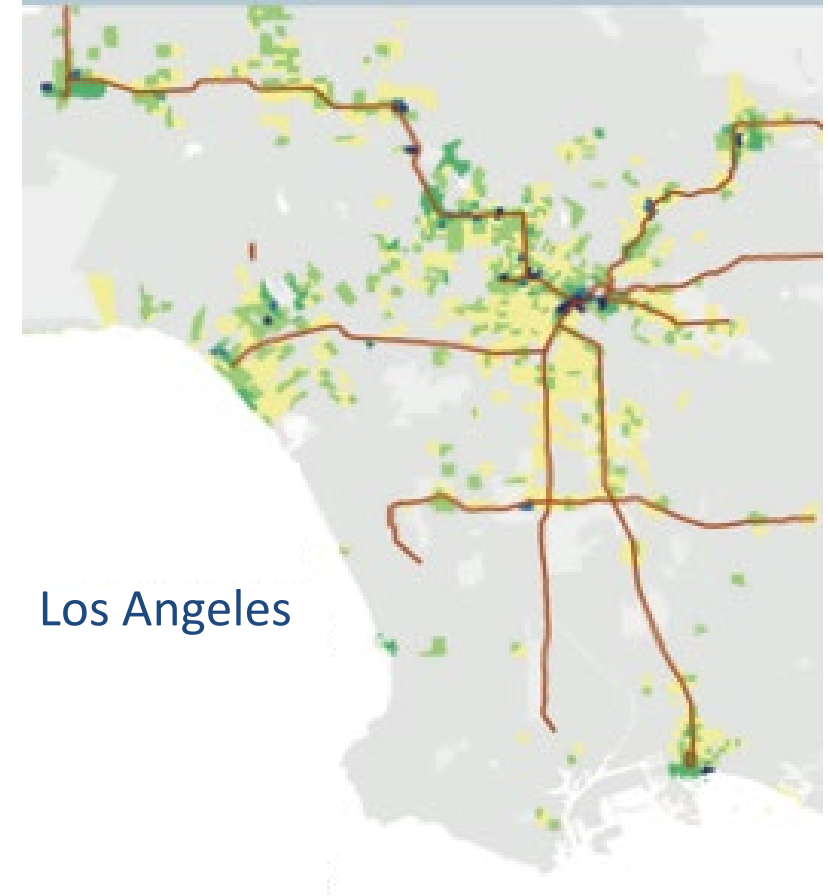
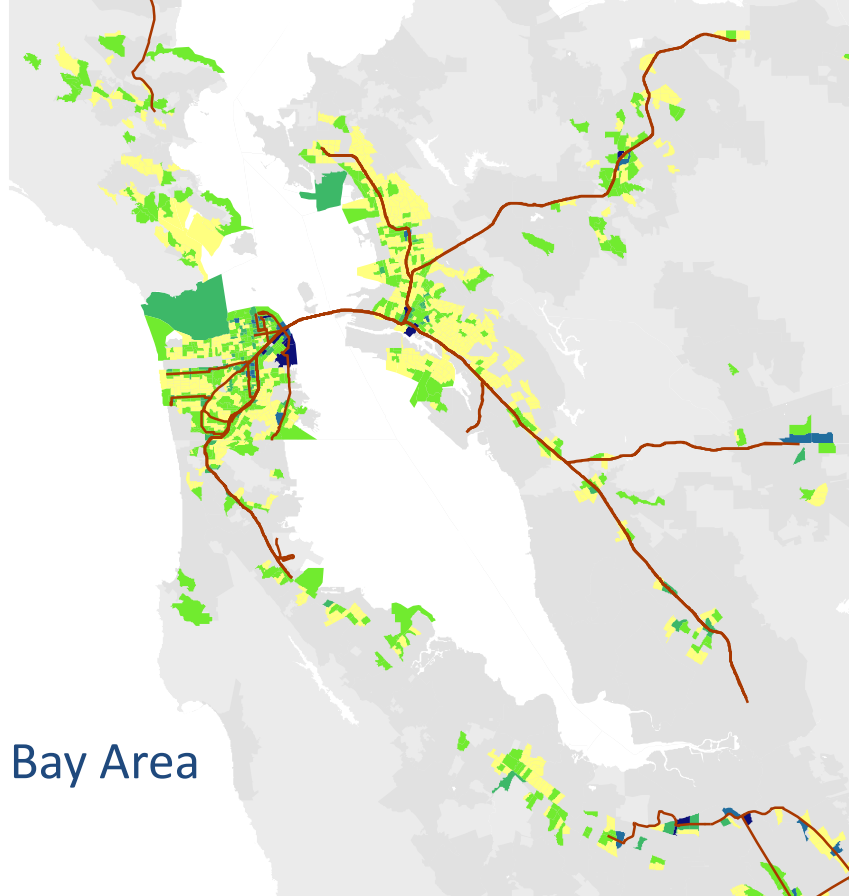
## SMART GROWTH TOTAL UNITS ADDED



## SMART GROWTH

300% INCREASE IN DENSITY UP TO 150 UPA  
WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF TRANSIT STATIONS

200% INCREASE IN DENSITY UP TO 120 UPA  
FROM 1/4 TO 1/2 MILE OF TRANSIT STATIONS



Current stock of 5+ units in California is only 23%  
Since 2010, 50% of units built in California were multifamily (5+ units)

Source: ECONorthwest Calculations



Task 1) Quantify Underproduction of Housing

Task 2) Model growth scenarios

Task 3) Quantify economic, fiscal, and environmental impacts

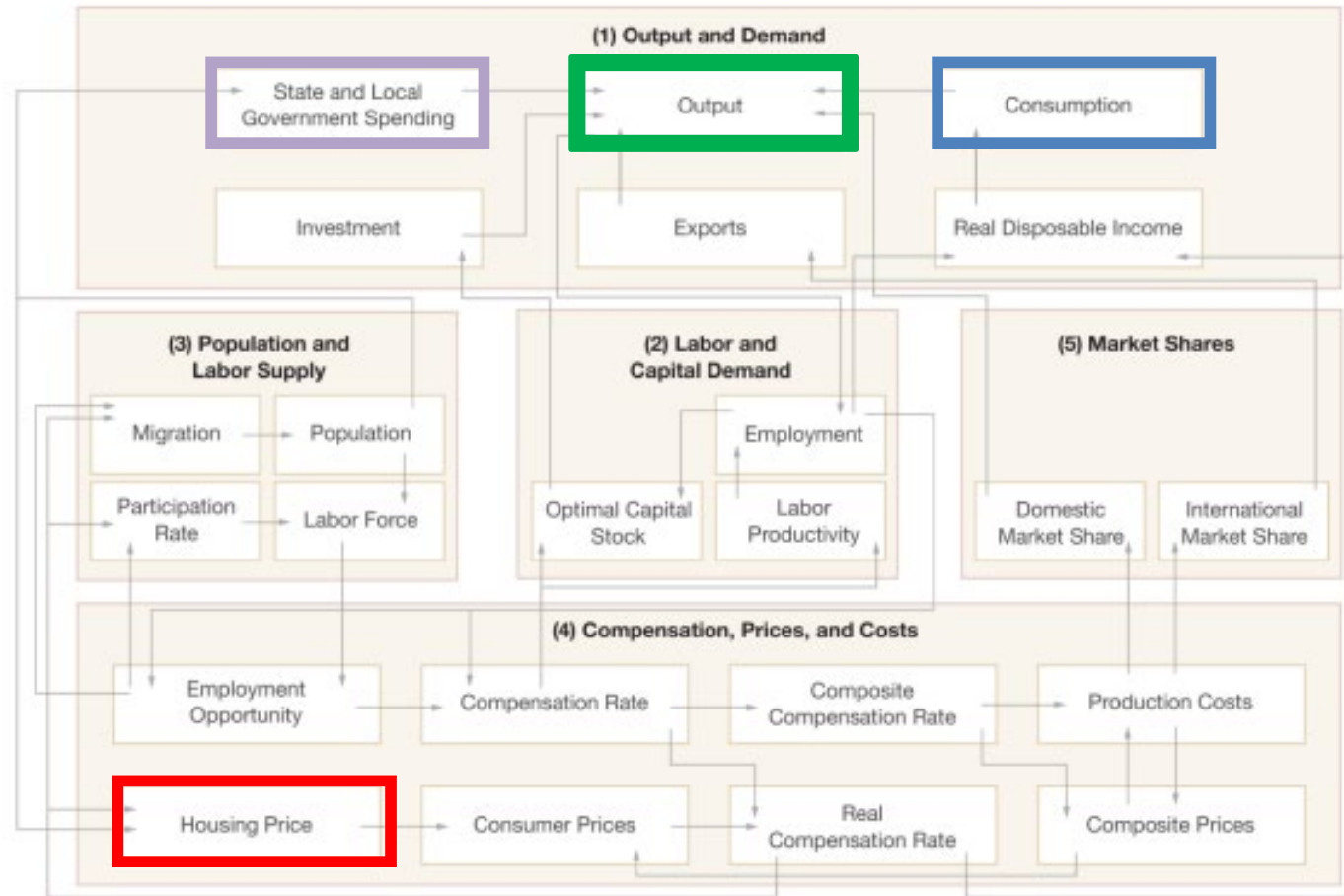


- If additional housing were built in each scenario (task 2) to meet underproduction amounts (task 1), what economic, fiscal, and environmental impacts would be supported?
- Use REMI PI+ model to estimate impacts related to increased housing production
- Produced national VMT model at the census tract to estimate environmental impacts



# WHAT IS THE REMI PI+ MODEL?

REMI Model Linkages (Excluding Economic Geography Linkages)

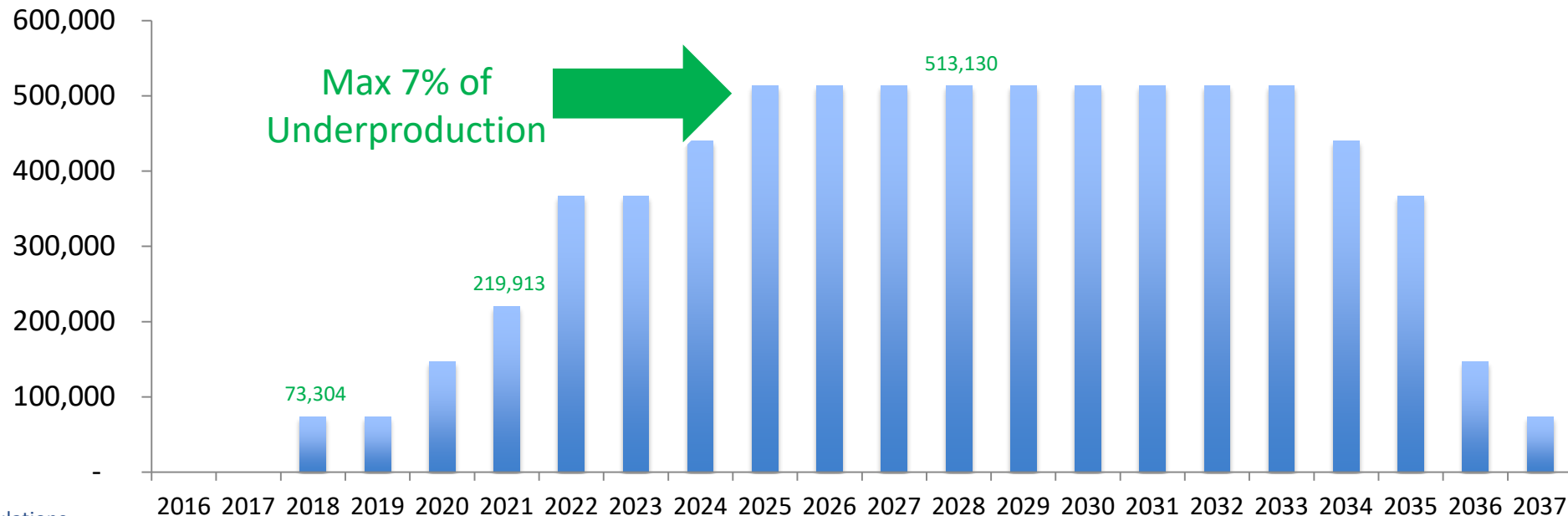




# HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO PRODUCE 7.3 MILLION UNITS?

- 1.04 Million Starts in 2018, 1.15 million average last 5 years
- Industry needs time to train labor to ramp up production
- Created 20 year production function
  - 1/20<sup>th</sup> of total underproduction is 366,000 units
  - Represents a 26% increase in current unit production

## Additional Housing Production Per Year



Source: ECONorthwest Calculations



# HOW DOES INCREASING PRODUCTION OVER 20 YEARS IMPACT PRICES

Price Elasticity  
of Supply 
$$= \frac{(\% \text{ change in supply})}{(\% \text{ change in price})}$$



• 0.47

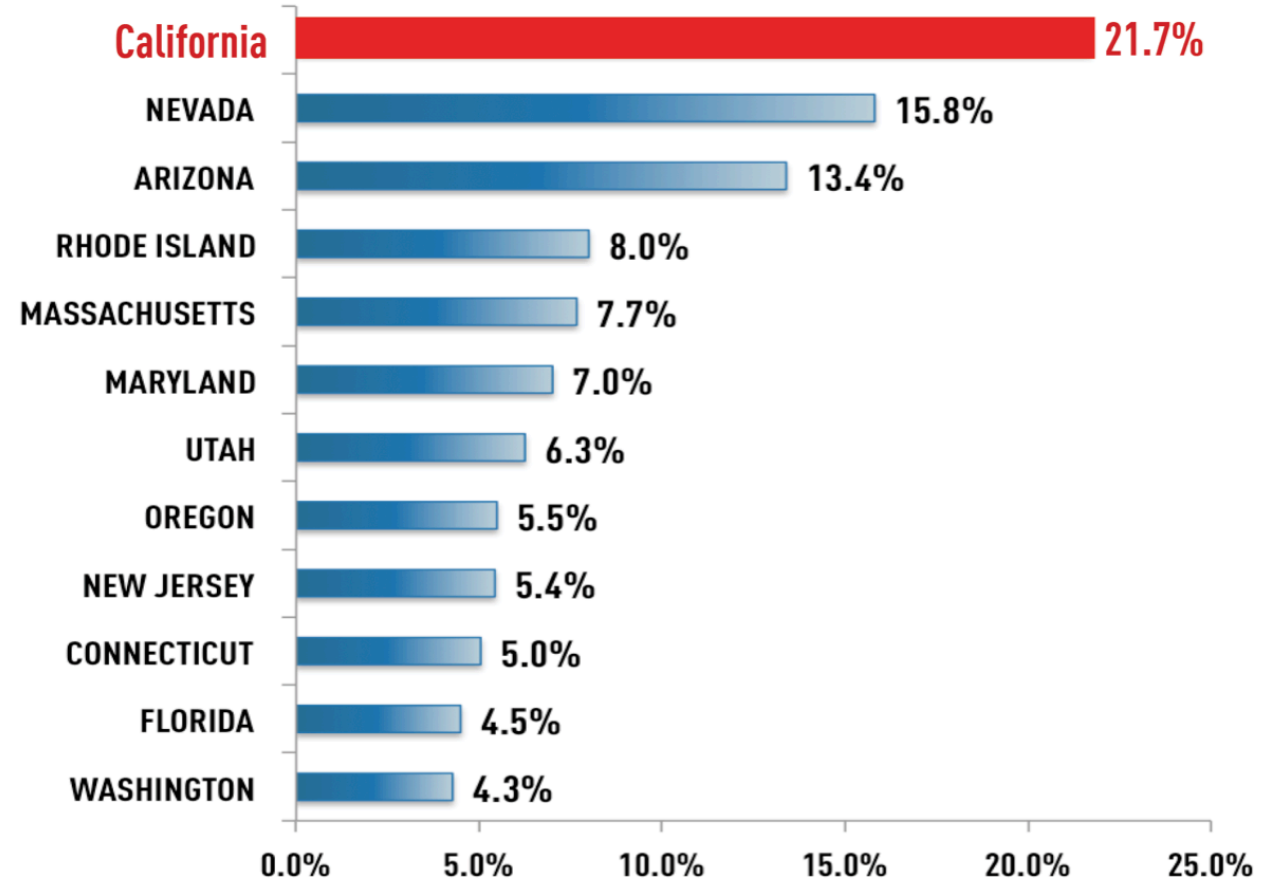


• 0.77



• 0.84

## ESTIMATED REDUCTION IN STATEWIDE HOME PRICES IF ALL UNITS WERE PRODUCED OVER 20 YEARS



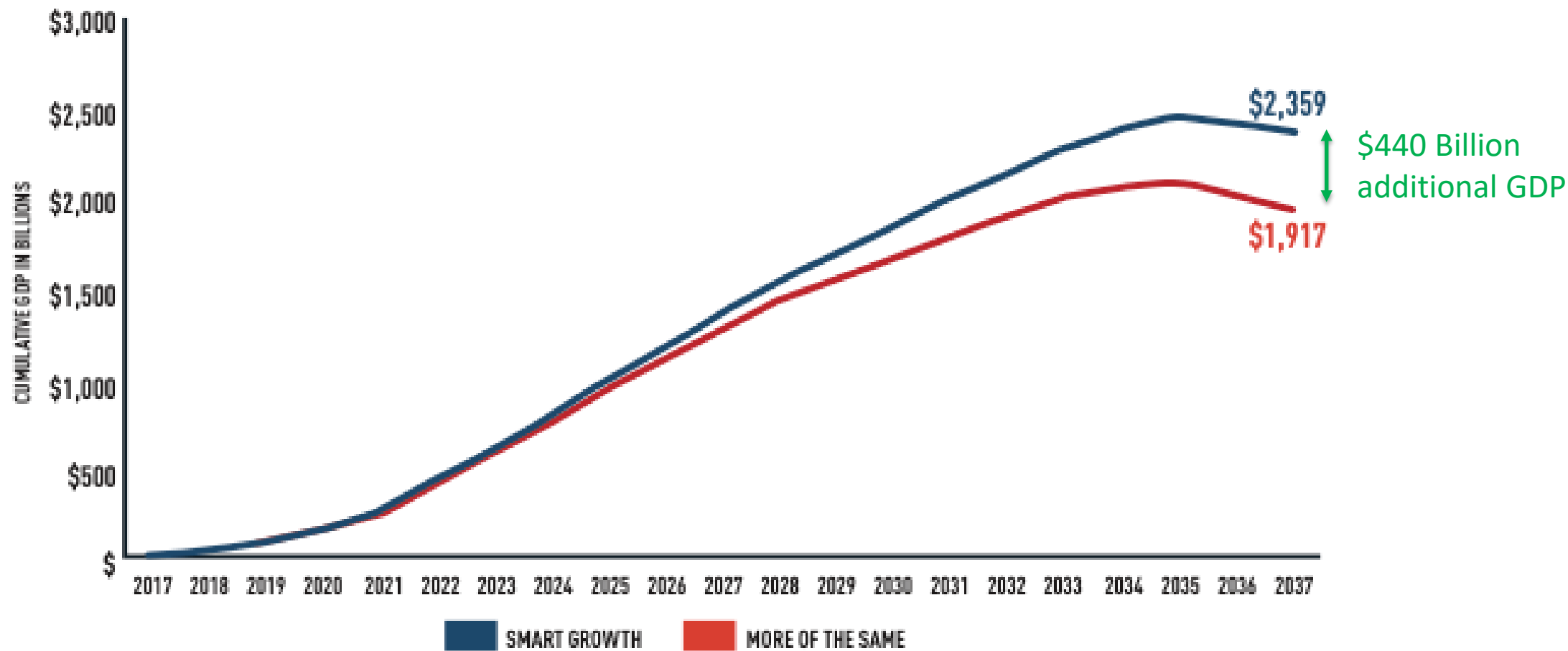
Source: ECONorthwest Calculations



# SMART GROWTH PRODUCES \$440 BILLION ADDITIONAL GDP OVER 20 YEARS



## U.S. CUMULATIVE GDP BY SCENARIO 20-YEAR PRODUCTION PERIOD COMPARED TO BASELINE



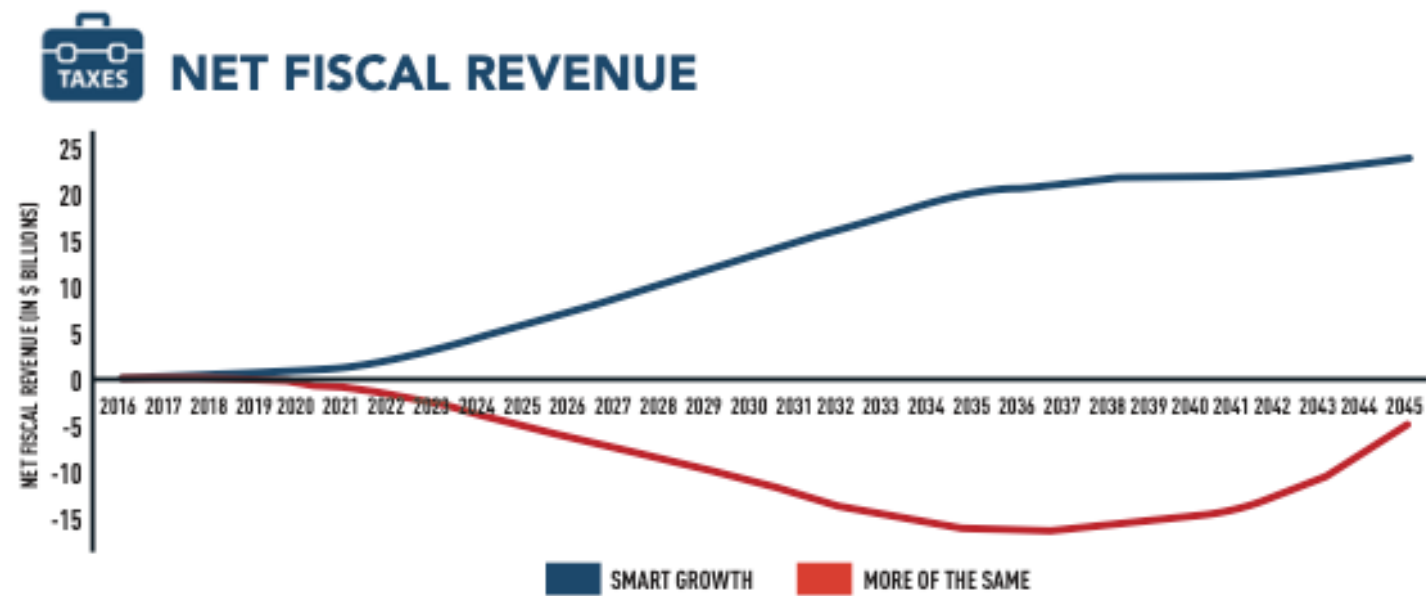
Source: ECONorthwest Calculations



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# FISCAL IMPACTS- NET POSITIVE REVENUE FOR SMART GROWTH



	GROWTH SCENARIO	MORE OF THE SAME	SMART GROWTH	% OF TOTAL DIFFERENCE
GOVERNMENT REVENUES	Total Impact Fees	\$54B	\$40B	-26%
	Property Tax Revenue (20 Yrs)	\$204B	\$225B	10%
	TOTAL	\$258B	\$265B	3%
GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES	Total Infrastructure Spend	\$612B	\$85B	-86%
	Total O&M Spend	\$14B	\$4B	-71%
	TOTAL	\$626B	\$89B	-86%
NET REVENUE (REVENUES – EXPENDITURES)		(\$368)B	\$177B	N/A

Source: ECONorthwest Calculations

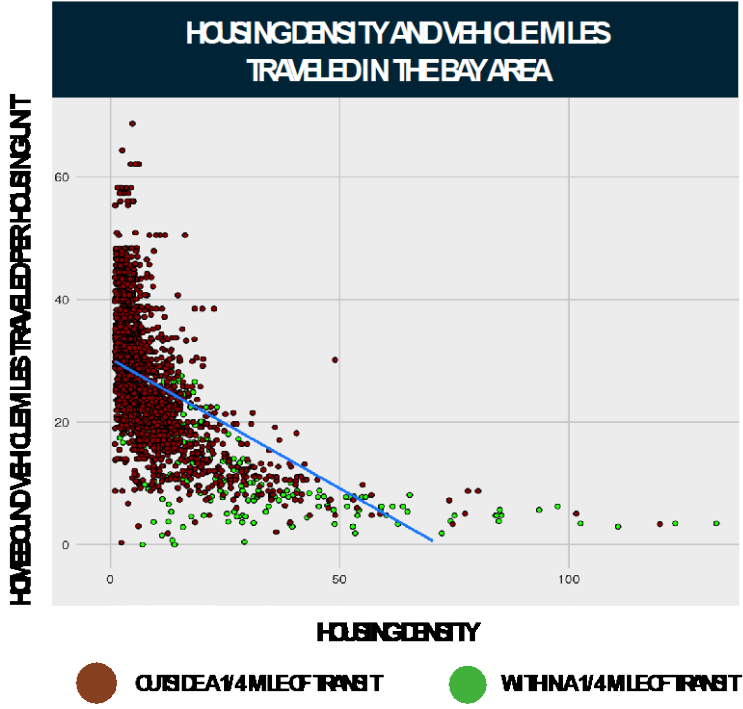
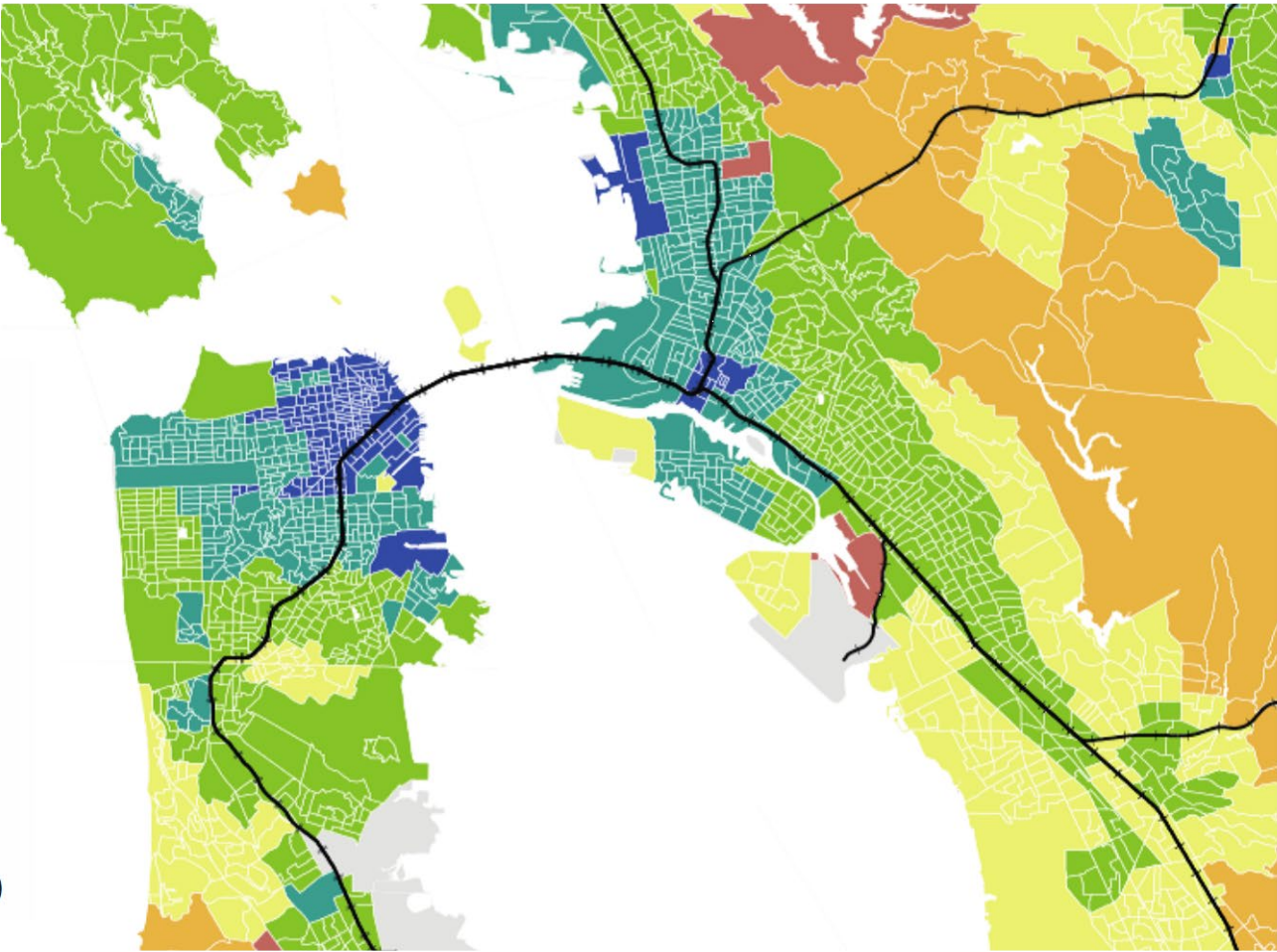


# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF SMARTER GROWTH: LOWER VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED



## HOME BASED VMT PER HOUSING UNIT

- Less Than 10
- 10-20
- 20-30
- 30-40
- 40-50
- Greater Than 50

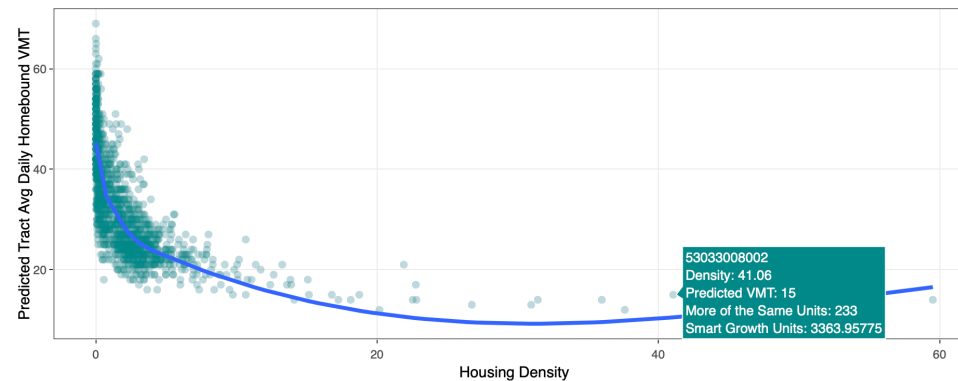
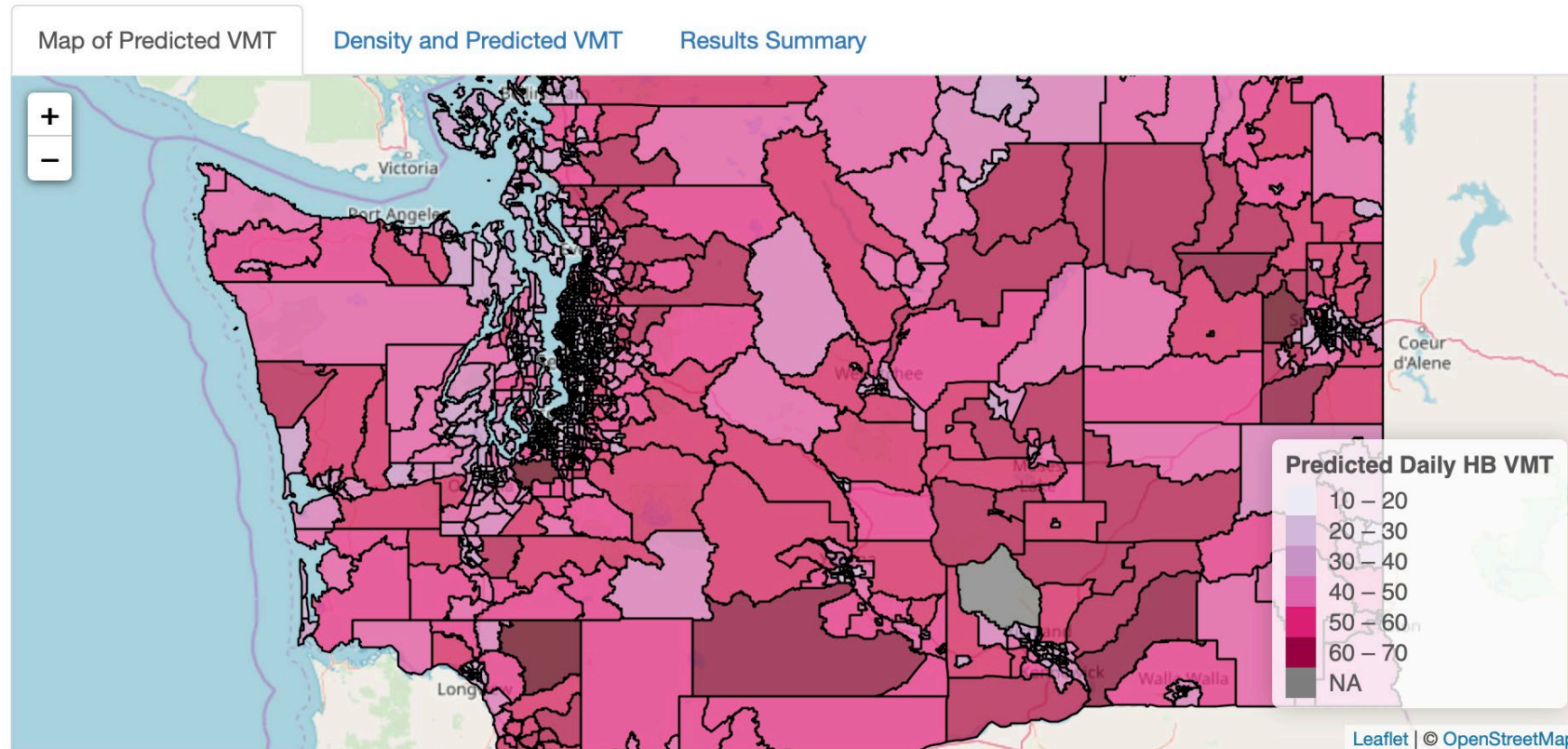


IN THE BAY AREA		
	MEDIAN HOUSING DENSITY	99TH % HOUSING DENSITY
TRANSIT CORRIDOR	12	125
NON-TRANSIT CORRIDOR	5	43
	MEDIAN VMT	99TH % VMT
TRANSIT CORRIDOR	18	44
NON-TRANSIT CORRIDOR	28	57

Source: ECONorthwest Calculations



# CREATED NATIONAL CENSUS TRACT VMT MODEL TO ESTIMATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



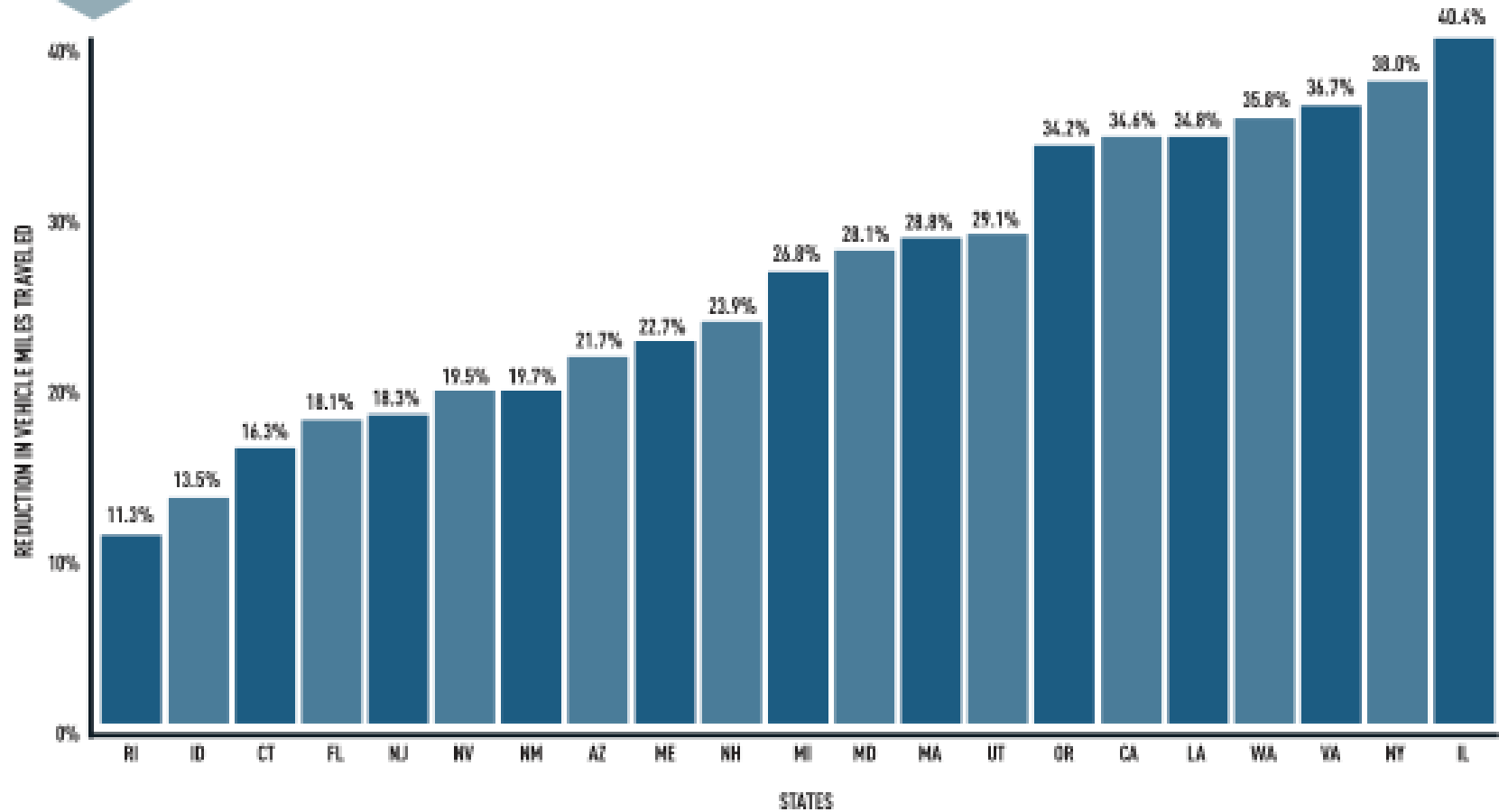
Source: ECONorthwest Calculations



# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS: REDUCED CO2 AND CARS ON THE ROAD



## VMT REDUCTION WHEN SHIFTING FROM MORE OF THE SAME TO SMART GROWTH



## SMART GROWTH BENEFITS

### 7.3 MILLION UNITS UNDERPRODUCED NATIONALLY

	VMT PER DAY	CARS PER YEAR
MORE OF THE SAME	222 M	6.0 M
SMART GROWTH	156 M	4.2 M
DIFFERENCE	66 M	1.8 M

NATIONALLY		
	MEDIAN HOUSING DENSITY	99TH % HOUSING DENSITY
TRANSIT CORRIDOR	26.8	185
NON-TRANSIT CORRIDOR	2.8	45
	MEDIAN VMT	99TH % VMT
TRANSIT CORRIDOR	23.1	40.0
NON-TRANSIT CORRIDOR	31.0	60.2

Source: ECONorthwest Calculations



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# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS





# STATE LEGISLATION ENABLING HIGHER DENSITY DEVELOPMENT

## California

- More Homes Act
- SB 50
- Upzone in job rich areas and transit corridors
- Excludes areas vulnerable to displacement

## Oregon

- HB 2001
- Eliminates single family exclusionary zoning allowing missing middle up to cottage clusters
- SB 10
- Upzoning in transit corridors

## Washington

- SB 5769
- Minimum Density standards
- 6 unit per acre minimum
- Upzoning in Transit corridors
- Exempt from SEPA



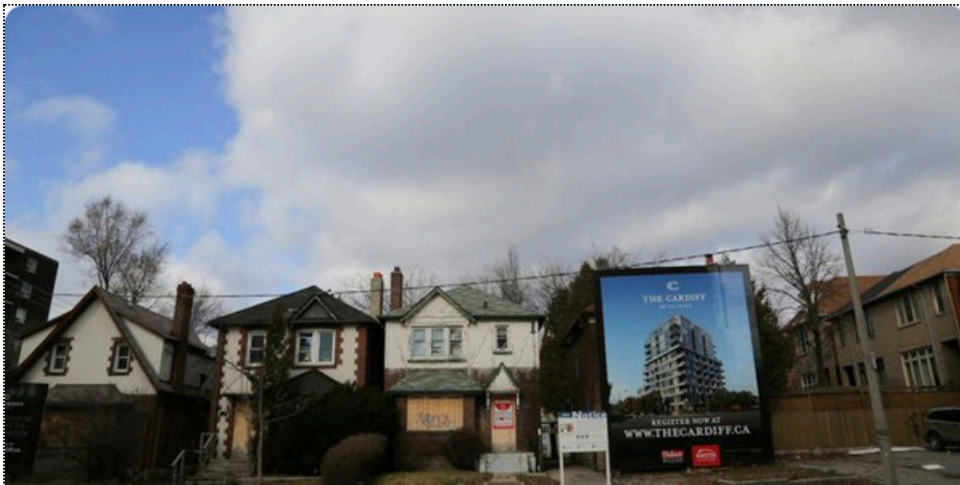
# FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDED



**Richard Florida** ✓  
@Richard\_Florida

Follow

Upzoning Will Not Solve the Housing Crisis -  
My @CityLab take on the important new  
@yfreemark study:



**Does Upzoning Boost the Housing Supply and Lower Prices? Maybe Not.**

A new study of zoning changes in Chicago finds that they led to higher, not lower, local home prices, while having no discernible impact on local housing supply.

citylab.com



**Yonah Freemark** ✓  
@yfreemark



Replying to @yfreemark @UrbanAffairsRev

Before I get barraged w/ critiques, four points: a) I didn't expect nor "want" this conclusion. b) 5 yrs may not be enough time for full upzoning effects. c) Upzonings are still probably good for affordability @ metro scale. d) We need to approach neighborhood rezoning carefully.

♥ 83 9:14 AM - Jan 29, 2019



💬 22 people are talking about this



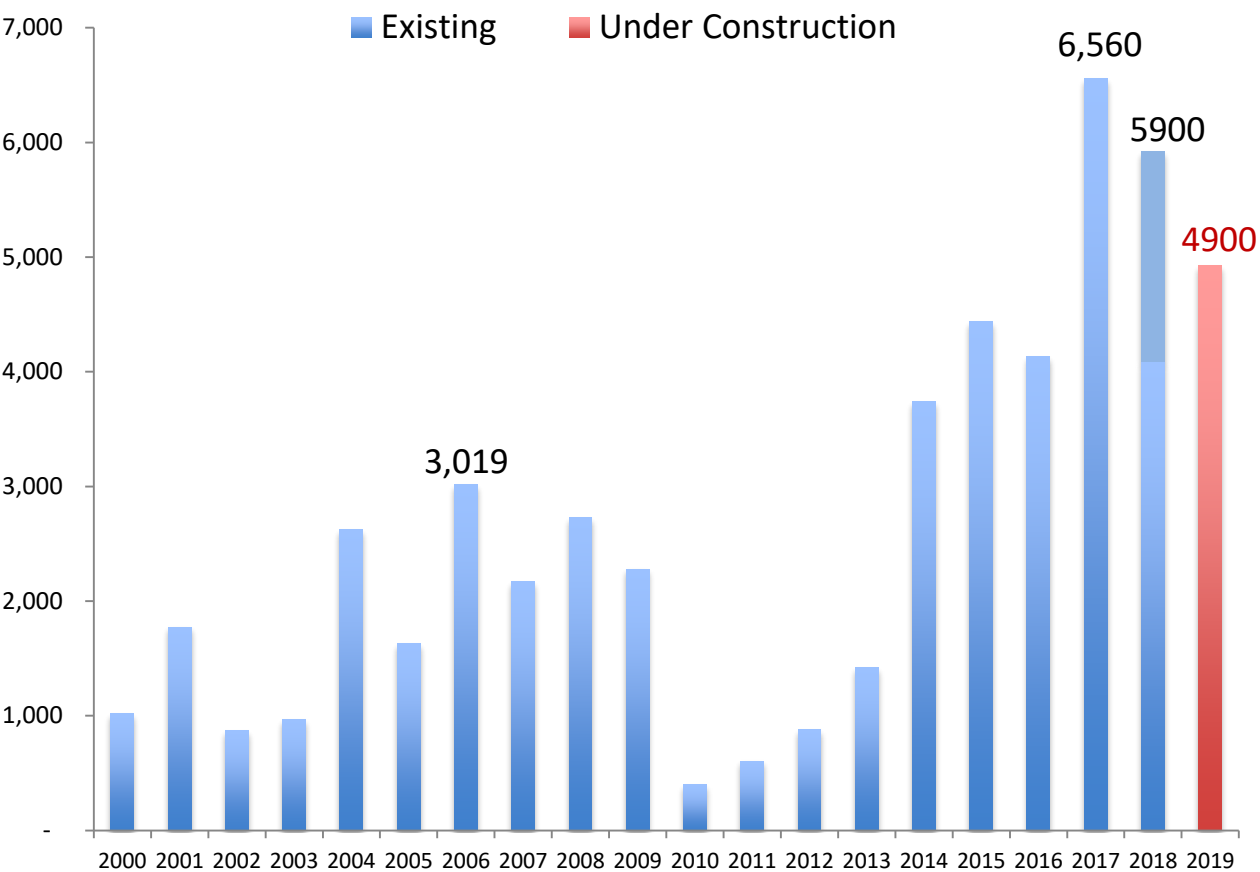
*(my thoughts, not Freemark, to be clear)*

- e) Land transactions occurring at a higher price isn't indicative of less development occurring, it could be a positive outcome
- f) 0.5 FAR increase in entitlements isn't impactful upzoning
- g) Elimination of a parking ratio could be more impactful on project feasibility than 0.5 additional FAR (not reflected in studies findings)

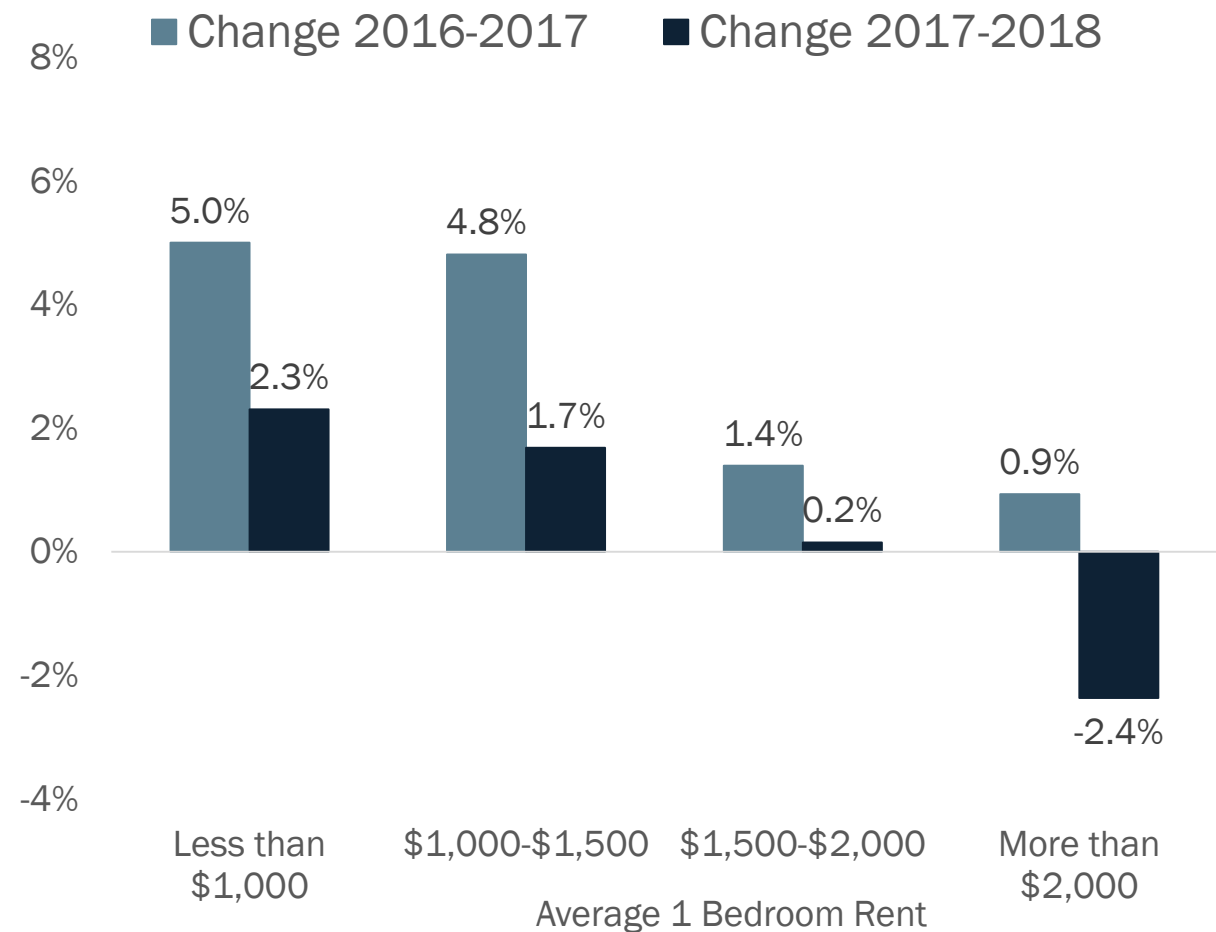


# DOES INCREASED APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION REDUCE RENT GROWTH?

City of Portland Multifamily Units



Building Level Year over Year 1 Bedroom Change



Source: ECONorthwest, Metro RLIS, CoStar, Axiometrics





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APARTMENT LEADERSHIP RESIDES HERE™

## Housing Underproduction and How to Make It Up Discussion, David Barker

2019 NMHC Research Forum  
**April 2-3, 2019**



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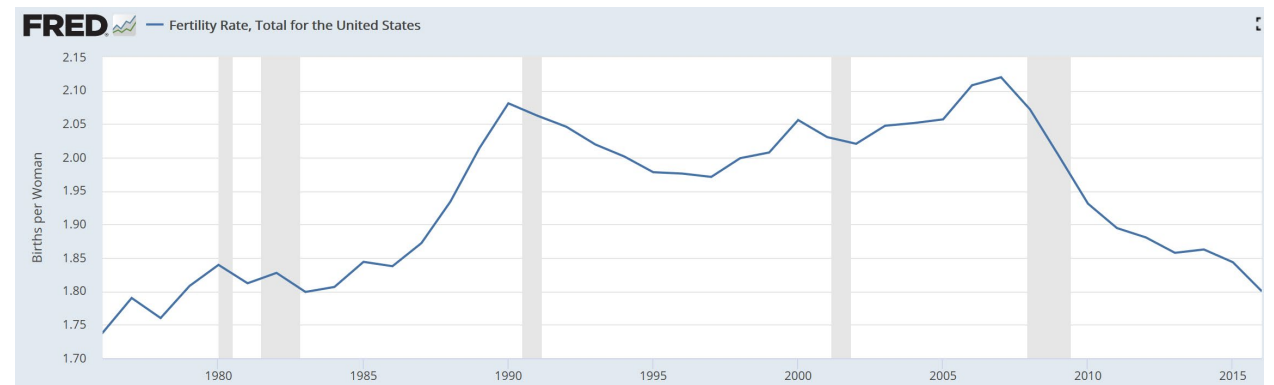
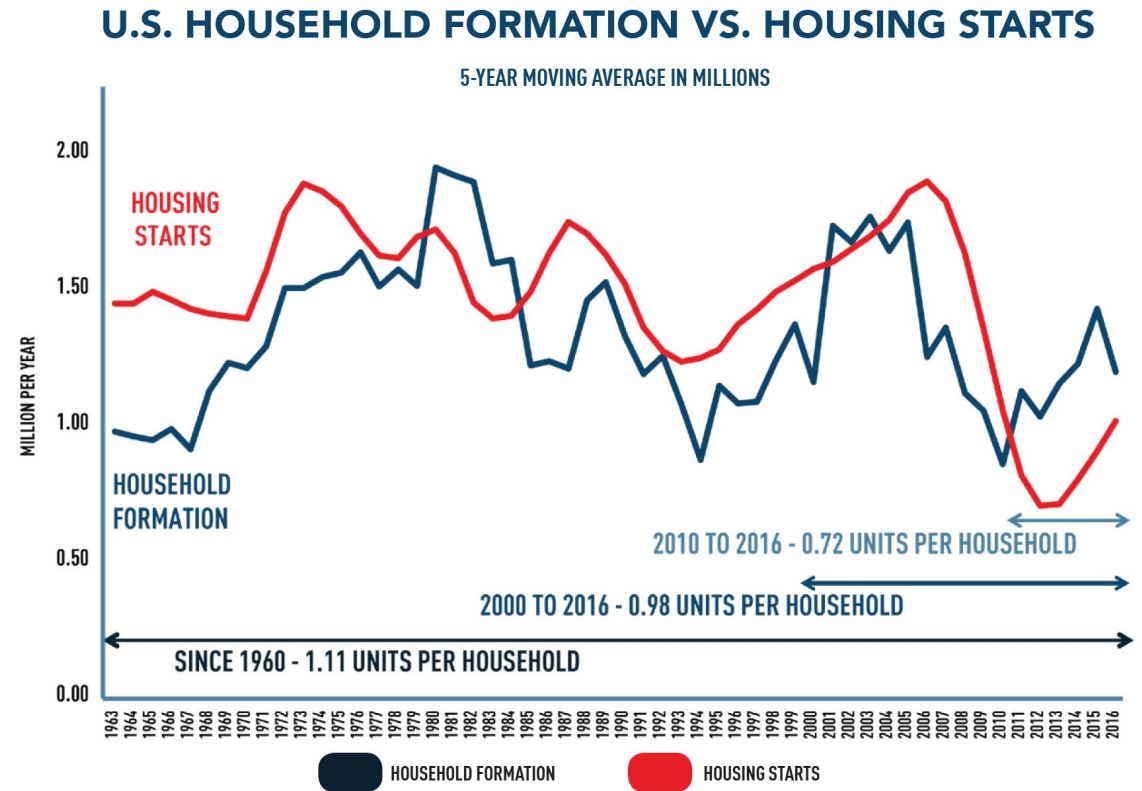
# SUMMARY

- Too few housing units are being built
- New housing could be distributed:
  - Same as current housing stock
  - With highest density possible
  - Based on density and public transportation – “smart”
- “Smart” distribution better for environment and public finances
- Incentives for “smart” growth are needed
  - Zoning
  - Impact fees
  - Tax abatement
  - Funding



# TOO FEW UNITS?

- 2010-2016 starts < formation
  - compensating for 2003-2010?
- Demographics
  - Show need for more housing?
  - fertility is declining, immigration controversial
  - 2000 baseline might not be appropriate now





# PUBLIC FINANCE IMPACT

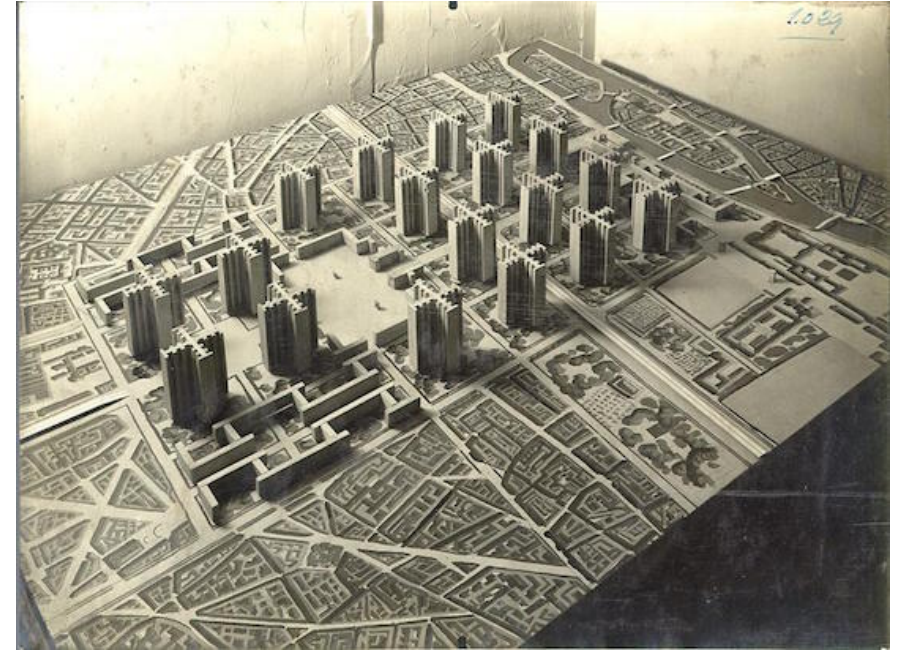


- REMI – does the model take account of:
  - Diversion of investment from other projects?
  - Cost of acquiring demolished buildings?
  - Cost of public transit?
    - US vs France subway station cost: 6.5 times higher
    - See <https://pedestrianobservations.com/2019/03/03/why-american-costs-are-so-high-work-in-progress/>
- Does revenue model include:
  - Education as infrastructure cost? Unfair to low density
  - Sales tax? Residential generates, models often overlook
  - Incentives that are being proposed?



# DENSITY

- Objections:
  - Change neighborhood character
  - Replace historic buildings
  - Affordability
    - Housing costs overall lower
    - But units built are higher value
- Strengths
  - Less land use
    - Protect scenic, agriculture, recreation, quiet residential uses
  - Agglomeration economies
  - Better use of infrastructure





# POLITICS



- Freshmen Democrats: future of politics?
- AOC's Democrat opponent supported Queens project
  - He pushed for low-income set asides
  - AOC said wasn't enough, was a corrupt deal
- After her win, politicians withdrew support
  - Project is going forward –
  - but without low income set asides
- Any REMI model would show Amazon having positive impact
  - Opposed, defeated by many local politicians

