

MONTEREY COUNTY WEEKLY DECEMBER 22-28, 2016

Letters to the Editor

Pacific Grove collects \$1 million annually from short-term rental transient occupancy taxes. This is enough to fund six police officers and enforce its rental ordinances. If Carmel allowed short-term rentals, they could similarly benefit by using the money to help the elderly and provide financial resources for desperately needed low-income housing.

Carmel's ban results in more empty houses. Empty houses do not support local businesses or their employees. Empty houses invite crime.

These Carmel homes will never be a viable solution to the shortage of affordable employee housing. Property taxes alone prevent that. The California Coastal Act supports sensible short-term rental policies because the coast is for all people - not just those lucky enough to own. Bans go in the wrong direction. Carmel should follow Pacific Grove's lead; they got it right!

Susan Bradley, Carmel Highlands

Editor's note: Bradley is founder of Monterey County Vacation Rental Alliance.