

Date of Hearing: April 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Isaac G. Bryan, Chair
AB 2152 (Mark González) – As Introduced February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: fire stations

SUMMARY: Establishes a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for public agency fire station projects, provided the project is not located on specific sensitive sites and construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance work is covered by a project labor agreement.

EXISTING LAW, CEQA, requires lead agencies with the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed project to prepare a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report (EIR) for this action, unless the project is exempt from CEQA. (Public Resources Code (PRC) 21000 *et seq.*)

THIS BILL:

- 1) Exempts public agency fire stations projects from CEQA, provided the project is not located in any of the following sites:
 - a) Prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, or unique farmland as designated by the Department of Conservation.
 - b) Wetlands, as defined in Section 328.3 of Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
 - c) A hazardous waste site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
 - d) A floodplain, as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, unless the project includes adequate flood protection as determined by the lead agency.
 - e) Within a delineated earthquake fault zone, as determined by the State Geologist, in any official maps published by the State Geologist, unless the development complies with applicable seismic protection building code standards adopted by the California Building Standards Commission.
 - f) Lands identified for conservation in an adopted natural community conservation plan, a habitat conservation plan, or other adopted natural resource protection plan.
 - g) Habitat for protected species identified as candidate, sensitive, or species of special status by state or federal agencies, fully protected species, or species protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, or the Native Plant Protection Act.
 - h) Lands under conservation easement.
- 2) Requires all construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance contracts in excess of \$50,000 for the project are covered by a project labor agreement.

- 3) Requires the lead agency to determine, based upon substantial evidence in the record, that the project satisfies the criteria above.
- 4) Authorizes the lead agency may rely on publicly available maps and data from state or federal agencies, in lieu of preparing biological surveys, geotechnical studies, or other technical analyses.
- 5) Requires the lead agency to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

1) **Author's statement:**

Across our state, localities struggle to construct new fire stations due to rising costs, procedural delays, and, at times, CEQA litigation. Los Angeles is a prime example of what could happen across this state. In *Tiara Group vs. City of Los Angeles*, a group of residents successfully delayed a fire station from being built for over 2 years – placing lives on the line and wasting nearly \$2 million of valuable taxpayer dollars.

With the International Association of Fire Fighters determining that LAFD needs 62 new Fire Stations and 4,000 additional Firefighters, and the last attempted fire station built in LAFD being sued twice under frivolous lawsuits, now is the time to ensure our fire departments across the state have the streamlined process they need to bolster fire infrastructure.

- 2) **Suggested amendments.** Rather than an unlimited, statewide and permanent CEQA exemption, *the author and the committee may wish to consider* amending this bill to provide CEQA process streamlining tailored to local fire station projects, including expedited the administrative process with concurrent preparation of the administrative record and expedited the judicial review process for projects that are challenged in court, with a 365 day deadline for the courts to resolve a lawsuit.
- 3) **Double referral.** This bill has been double-referred to the Emergency Management Committee.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Professional Firefighters (co-sponsor)
United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (co-sponsor)
California Business Roundtable
City of Redondo Beach
State Building and Construction Trades Council

Opposition

Associated General Contractors, California Chapters

Defenders of Wildlife

Sonoma Land Trust

Western Electrical Contractors Association

Analysis Prepared by: Lawrence Lingbloom / NAT. RES. /