



- 4) Allows the plans and ordinances in 2) above to include the authority and proposed establishment of a LRA with powers parallel to those of a community redevelopment agency, except as specified.
- 5) Authorizes local governments to take actions that are necessary to assure the orderly transition from declared emergencies to a systematic program of short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction, including such specified activities as activating ordinances and plans, coordinating actions, identifying damages areas, recommending modifications, and determining appropriate methods of financing activities.
- 6) Permits local governments to take the actions described in 5) above separately or jointly through formal cooperative arrangements made with other local entities.

This bill:

- 1) Specifies that a disaster recovery plan (DRP) adopted pursuant to the DRRA may include a contingency plan of action and organization for intermediate, in addition to short-term and long-term, recovery and reconstruction to be instituted after a disaster, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) Operational structure.
  - b) Roles and responsibilities for leadership and coordination.
  - c) Recovery priorities.
  - d) Mitigation strategies.
  - e) Identification of programs, resources, and funding mechanisms to be utilized within each phase of recovery.
  - f) Procedures to guide post-disaster decision-making and resource allocation.
  - g) Strategies to coordinate with entities involved in recovery, as specified, and programs that provide recovery-related resources.
- 2) Provides that a DRP adopted pursuant to the DRRA may include procedures for integration with state and federal recovery frameworks.
- 3) Expands the types of formal cooperative arrangements allowed pursuant to 6) above, as specified.
- 4) Provides that a local government may amend its general plan to ensure consistency with the DRP as specified.
- 5) Requires the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) to consult with Cal OES and appropriate regional agencies to develop model ordinance

language, as specified, to assist local jurisdictions preparing DRPs.

- 6) Directs Cal OES, in consultation with LCI, to prepare guidance on DRPs using specified relevant factors.
- 7) Provides that if a local government adopts a DRP under DRRA that includes the authority to establish an LRA, the local government may adopt an ordinance to establish the LRA to coordinate disaster recovery efforts in disaster-impacted areas.
- 8) Requires the ordinance in 7) above to include procedures for determining the boundaries of a local reconstruction area, as defined, in which the LRA will operate following a disaster.
- 9) Includes numerous provisions related to the authorities, activities and governance of the LRA, as specified.

## Background

*Author's statement.* According to the author, "In the immediate aftermath of a wildfire, flood, or earthquake, first responders and community members rise to the challenge in the face of devastation. But after the crisis subsides, in the months and years following a disaster, people are often left navigating a complex web of insurance companies, disaster response agencies, and financial lenders. AB 2385 will provide local governments with a legal framework that they can modify to fit their needs that helps them prepare for the inevitable disaster. Communities recover best when they plan for recovery before disaster strikes."

*The DRRA.* The DRRA is intended to authorize, guide, and otherwise enable cities, counties, and other entities to prepare in advance of a disaster for the expeditious and orderly recovery and reconstruction of impacted communities or regions. A local government may prepare plans and ordinances facilitating the expeditious and orderly recovery and reconstruction of areas under its jurisdiction, should a disaster occur. These plans and ordinances may include items such as an evaluation of the vulnerability of specific areas, a contingency plan of action, and an ordinance that can be invoked soon after an event. Local governments are further authorized under the DRRA to take necessary actions to ensure the orderly transition from a declared emergency to a systematic program of short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction, including such activities as activating plans and ordinances, coordinating actions with other entities, identifying damage areas, and determining appropriate methods of financing recovery activities.

*California Disaster Recovery Framework.* As the state's lead emergency response agency, Cal OES operationalizes the California Disaster Recovery Framework (CDRF) to guide federal, state, local, private and nonprofit entities in effectively supporting disaster-impacted jurisdictions to address gaps and rebuild resiliently. The CDRF is designed to help jurisdictions identify gaps to effectively rebuild with equity and resilience; integrate response activities to better support local recovery efforts; leverage multi-agency partnerships to amplify resource sharing; and, engage in a whole-community approach to capture the best interests of all community stakeholders. While not all local jurisdictions have the capability or capacity to develop a formal recovery structure consistent with the CDRF, Cal OES recommends all local governments at least undertake basic recovery planning steps.

LCI also advances the CDRF in partnership with Cal OES and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist communities affected by catastrophic wildfires and other disasters. Specifically, LCI supports community capacity building, knowledge sharing, and planning initiatives; identifies long term recovery solutions and leverages resources after disasters to address unmet community needs; ensures the state's long term recovery efforts build proactive community resilience before disasters strike; and improves recovery outcomes for the impacted community through the empowerment of local leaders and stakeholders.

*Blue Ribbon Commission.* In the aftermath of two of the most destructive wildfires in state history that tore through the Los Angeles region in early January 2025, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Climate Action and Fire Safe Recovery in February 2025 to carry out the following objectives:

- a) Help residents, neighborhoods, and the region rebuild single family homes, multi-family housing, schools, places of worship, community buildings, commercial buildings, and infrastructure in a more resilient, sustainable manner to better ensure long-term survivability and insurability;
- b) Help retrofit existing homes, businesses, and infrastructure in at-risk communities, while supporting the well-being of residents, workers, and community members; and
- c) Advance regionwide climate mitigation and resilience measures and investments to reduce risks from other climate shocks and disasters.

In June 2025, the BRC released its final recommendations and action plans. One of its recommendations was to update the DRRA to encourage and enable local jurisdictions to plan for effective recovery before a disaster by creating a

“reconstruction authority” that can be activated when disaster strikes.

The provisions in this bill are consistent with the BRC’s recommendation to create reconstruction agencies in the event of a disaster.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

**SUPPORT:**

California Contract Cities Association  
City of Thousand Oaks  
Earthquake Engineering Research Institute  
League of California Cities  
Town of Truckee

**OPPOSITION:**

None on file

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** In support of this bill, the California Contract Cities Association writes that, “Wildfires are no longer confined to a single season - they have become a year-round threat in many parts of California. As a result, it is essential that cities have access to resources that allow them to best prepare for, and respond to, wildfires and other emergency events. By allowing cities to establish local reconstruction agencies, AB 2385 offers a new suite of tools cities can tap into to boost their resilience before disasters occur. Should a local jurisdiction choose to establish a local reconstruction agency, they will be able to issue bonds, accept financial assistance from various stakeholders, and acquire property in an effort to coordinate disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts.”

**DUAL REFERRAL:** Senate Local Government Committee and Senate Emergency Management Committee