

Date of Hearing: July 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Juan Carrillo, Chair

SB 1423 (Stern) – As Amended June 22, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 29-9

SUBJECT: Regional planning: standardized spatial planning datasets

SUMMARY: Requires the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) to create a consolidated online platform to make publicly available a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets that include specified categories of information for consideration in state, regional, and local land use and infrastructure plans. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Finds and declares the following:
 - a) Climate change is intensifying wildfire, flood, drought, and sea level rise risks across California. Sound land use planning that accounts for these risks is essential to protect the lives, property, and fiscal health of Californians.
 - b) California has invested substantially in publicly available spatial data and planning tools to support land use decision making. LCI, in coordination with state agencies, maintains datasets and mapping tools that provide critical information on hazards, environmental resources, infrastructure, and land use conditions.
 - c) Standardizing statewide spatial planning data will make planning decisions and their outcomes more consistent with the state’s planning priorities, as specified, promote transparency and consistency across plans and documents, reduce costs, promote efficiencies, and support more resilient and equitable communities.
 - d) Standardized spatial planning datasets are intended as tools to inform and guide future planning decisions and to support voluntary data-informed planning across state, regional, and local agencies.
- 2) Defines the following terms:
 - a) “Consolidated online platform” means a publicly accessible online portal maintained or designated by the office that provides access to standardized spatial planning datasets as a decision support tool.
 - b) “Standardized spatial planning dataset” means geospatial data layers that have been compiled, standardized, and published by the office pursuant to this bill.
- 3) Requires, on or before July 1, 2027, LCI to compile, standardize, maintain, and make publicly available through a consolidated online platform a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets.
- 4) Requires the standardized spatial planning dataset to include the following categories of information:

- a) Hazard risk data, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - i) State and local responsibility area high and very high fire hazard severity zones as determined by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
 - ii) One-hundred-year and 500-year flood plains as designated by relevant state and federal agencies.
 - iii) Coastal and inland areas subject to sea level rise inundation risk as identified by the Ocean Protection Council.
 - b) Natural resource sensitivity data, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
 - i) Wetlands and riparian areas as mapped by relevant state and federal agencies.
 - ii) Biological resource areas that contain, support, or are necessary to sustain important biological or ecological resources, including species biodiversity, significant habitats and wildlife corridors as determined by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Natural Resources Agency.
 - iii) Legally protected lands and lands under a conservation easement.
 - c) Agricultural value data, including, but not limited to, both of the following:
 - i) Prime and unique farmlands and farmland of statewide and local importance as classified by the Department of Conservation.
 - ii) Lands subject to Williamson Act contracts pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 51200) of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5.
- 5) Requires, on or before January 1, 2028, LCI to develop and provide guidance for agencies to inform them on how to use and integrate standardized spatial planning datasets in regional planning processes and products.
 - 6) Requires LCI to update the standardized spatial planning datasets as new or revised data becomes available from the originating state or federal source agencies, but no less frequently than every three years.
 - 7) Allows state, regional, and local governments to consider use of the standardized planning datasets published by LCI in the development and production of land use and infrastructure plans, including, but not limited to:
 - a) General plans, as specified.
 - b) Regional transportation plans and sustainable communities strategies, as specified.
 - c) Regional housing need allocation processes, as specified.
 - d) Climate action plans.

- 8) Provides that nothing in the bill shall restrict agencies from using more precise or current data that are available at the regional or local level, including data developed through natural community conservation plans or other regional conservation initiatives, to inform and refine planning processes or decisions.
- 9) Provides that nothing in the bill creates new regulatory requirements, regulates land use or zoning, establishes land use designations, or preempts the local land use authority of cities and counties.
- 10) Requires LCI to provide technical assistance for use of data, pursuant to this bill, upon request.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, or LCI, [Government Code (GOV) § 65025 *et seq.*], which among other provisions includes:
 - a) Finds that decisions involving the future growth of the state, most of which are made and will continue to be made at the local level, should be guided by an effective planning process, including the local general plan, and should proceed within the framework of officially approved statewide goals and policies directed to land use, population growth and distribution, development, open space, resource preservation and utilization, air and water quality, and other related physical, social and economic development factors. (GOV § 65030.1)
 - b) Finds that it is necessary to have one agency at the state level that is responsible for developing state land use policies, coordinating planning of all state agencies, and assisting and monitoring local and regional planning. Provides that the Legislature recognizes the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, in the office of the Governor, as the most appropriate state agency to carry out this statewide land use planning function. It is not the intent of the Legislature to vest in the office any direct operating or regulatory powers over land use, public works, or other state, regional, or local projects or programs. (GOV § 65035)
 - c) Requires LCI, in developing a land use policy for the state, to cooperate with the Department of Transportation and other federal, state, regional, and local agencies in their development of a viable, feasible, and attainable long-range master plan for aviation that will provide a framework for discussions, a program of accomplishments, and a means to resolve the complex problems of air transportation in California. Such policy and plan shall be guided by the environmental goals and policies of the State Environmental Goals and Policy Report.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill is keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Bill Summary.** This bill requires LCI, on or before July 1, 2027, to compile, standardize, maintain, and make publicly available a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets through a consolidated online platform. The bill requires the datasets to include specified categories of information, including hazardous risk data, natural resource sensitivity

data, and agricultural value data, as provided. The bill also requires the office, on or before January 1, 2028, to develop and provide guidance for agencies to inform them how to use and integrate the datasets in regional planning processes and products. The bill requires the office to update those datasets at least every 3 years, as provided.

This bill permits, but does not require, any state, regional, and local agency to consider use of the standardized spatial planning datasets published by LCI in the development and production of land use and infrastructure plans. The bill requires LCI to provide technical assistance, upon request, for use of the data pursuant to this bill.

This bill also specifies that the bill does not create new regulatory requirements, regulate land use or zoning, establish land use designations, or preempt the local land use authority of cities and counties.

This bill is sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League.

- 2) **Author’s Statement.** According to the author, “Senate Bill 1423 equips California’s local and regional planning agencies with standardized spatial datasets. By providing comprehensive, statewide mapping tools, this legislation ensures that planners can make informed, equitable decisions regarding climate resilience, land use, and ecosystem protection. For too long, our planning agencies have relied on outdated or fragmented geographic information. SB 1423 changes this by establishing a centralized, state-supported repository of spatial data. This ensures that every community, regardless of resources, has access to the high-quality environmental, infrastructural, and demographic mapping needed to drive smart, sustainable development.”
- 3) **Planning and Zoning Law.** State law provides additional powers and duties for cities and counties regarding land use. The Planning and Zoning Law require every county and city to adopt a general plan that sets out planned uses for all of the area covered by the plan. A general plan must include specified mandatory “elements,” including a housing element that establishes the locations and densities of housing, and a land use element that describes the general categories of uses (such as multifamily residential, single family residential, retail commercial, and open space) that are allowed in specific portions of a jurisdiction. Cities and counties’ major land use decisions—including zoning ordinances and other aspects of development permitting—must be consistent with their general plans. General plans also include policies, standards, and mitigation measures that developments must comply with, to protect against flood hazards, fire hazards, and climate change, and to further environmental justice, among other state goals.

Local governments use their police power to enact zoning ordinances that establish the types of land uses that are allowed or authorized in an area. Zoning ordinances also contain provisions to physically shape development and impose other requirements, such as setting maximum heights and densities for housing units, minimum numbers of required parking spaces, setbacks, and lot coverage ratios. These ordinances can also include conditions on development to address aesthetics, community impacts, or other particular site-specific considerations.

- 4) **The Governor’s Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation.** The California Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) serves as the state’s comprehensive planning agency. LCI plays a critical role in shaping long-range land use policies,

administering state planning grants, developing and maintaining the General Plan Guidelines (GPG), collecting General Plan Annual Progress Reports (APRs) from local jurisdictions, and providing technical assistance to cities and counties preparing general plans.

The GPG serve as an essential “how to” resource for local governments drafting or updating their general plans. It details statutory requirements for both mandatory and optional elements, offers LCI-recommended policy language, and provides links to examples from existing general plans. Additionally, the GPG provides guidance for community engagement and outreach. The most recent edition, released in 2017, focused on four key policy themes: climate change, economics, healthy communities, and equitable opportunities. The 2017 GPG also introduced a General Plan Mapping Tool, allowing jurisdictions to integrate local, regional, and statewide data into their planning efforts at no cost. In 2020, LCI released further guidance on incorporating the Environmental Justice element into general plans [SB 1000 (Leyva), Chapter 587, Statutes of 2016].

Each year, by April 1, all jurisdictions must submit separate General Plan and Housing Element APRs to LCI and the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The General Plan APR provides an overview of the jurisdiction’s progress in implementing its general plan over the previous year. LCI uses these reports to update the Directory of California Planning.

- 5) **General Plan Database Mapping Tool.** LCI, in partnership with the University of California, Davis, began collecting land use element data beginning late 2021 and finished compiling this data in late 2022.¹ LCI combined data from 532 individual jurisdictions (of California’s 539 jurisdictions) to create one statewide dataset. An effort was made to contact each jurisdiction in the state and request general plan data in whatever form available. In the event that general plan maps were not available in a GIS format, those maps were converted from PDF or image maps using geo-referencing techniques and then transposing map information to parcel geometries sourced from county assessor data.
- 6) **Related Legislation.** AB 1599 (Ahrens) requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to create the California Transit Stop Registry and requires transit operators to use a unique identifier that conforms with the registry when publishing any dataset with stop information. This bill is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2728 (Soria) would have required the Department of Water Resources to make certain data on fish hatchery production, release, and escapement available on the statewide integrated water data platform by August 1, 2027. The bill was gutted and amended to address a different policy issue.

- 7) **Previous Legislation.** AB 734 (Schultz) of 2025 would have required the California Energy Commission (CEC) to make biological resources data it receives during the permitting processes for energy and renewable energy projects available to the public unless disclosure of the data would put species at risk. AB 734 was vetoed by the Governor.

SB 364 (Bryan, 2023) would have, among other things, required Caltrans to develop a database of street furniture and integrate said data into GTFS data across the state. This bill was held in the Senate Transportation Committee.

¹ Aniket Banginwar, Dexter Antonio, Mirthala Lopez, Lindsay Poirier, Sujoy Ghosh, Makena Dettmann, & Catherine Brinkley. (2023, January 6). General Plan Database Mapping Tool (v3.0). Zenodo.

8) **Arguments in Support.** The Planning and Conservation League, the sponsor of the bill, writes in support, “California has made significant investments in high-quality data on wildfire hazard, flood risk, sea level rise, natural resources, and agricultural lands. However, these datasets are often fragmented across agencies, difficult to access, and not easily used together in planning processes. As a result, public agencies frequently rely on inconsistent or incomplete information when making decisions about growth, infrastructure, and long-term investment.

“SB 1423 addresses this gap by directing the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation to compile, standardize, and maintain a core set of statewide datasets and make them publicly available through a consolidated, accessible platform. This approach will improve coordination across planning efforts and ensure that agencies have access to a shared, reliable foundation of information.

“Importantly, SB 1423 is not regulatory. It does not impose new mandates, alter land use authority, or require specific planning outcomes. Instead, it provides a voluntary, flexible decision-support tool, allowing state, regional, and local governments to consider and use these datasets—while preserving the ability to rely on more precise or locally developed data.

“By making existing data more accessible and interoperable, SB 1423 will:

- Promote greater consistency and transparency across plans and planning processes
- Reduce duplicative data development and associated costs
- Support more efficient and informed decision-making
- Help align investments with California’s climate resilience, conservation, and infrastructure goals

“At a time when California faces increasing risks from wildfire, flooding, and other climate impacts, it is essential that planning decisions are based on the best available information. SB 1423 provides the tools to do so—without adding regulatory burden.”

9) **Arguments in Opposition.** The California Building Industry Association and the California Apartment Association write in opposition to the bill, “SB 1423 urges state, regional, and local governments to use out-of-date, inaccurate, and imprecise data when adopting general plans, regional transportation plans, sustainable communities strategies, regional housing needs allocations, and climate action plans. As a result, these planning documents will be more likely to misinform the public and make the planning documents more susceptible to legal challenge.

“While SB 1423 purports to make these decisions consistent with the state’s planning priorities specified in Government Code section 65041.1, it will actually undermine that outcome. SB 1423 focuses on including hazard risk [sic], but hazards and risks are very different things. In doing so, SB 1423 does not recognize that development in any of the areas specified in the bill can occur with mitigation.

“Among the data sets to be considered are 500-year floodplains. Downtown Sacramento – including the Capitol – and many neighboring developed and developing areas are in a 500-year floodplain. The state’s planning priorities call for promoting infill development and using land efficiently, building adjacent to existing developed areas. In spite of meeting these planning priorities, these areas will be excluded.

“Moreover, other categories in the bill are also contrary to some of the state’s planning priorities. Some agricultural land is in areas appropriately planned for growth. Similarly, for some natural resource areas, riparian areas, biological resource areas, and high and very high fire hazard severity zones, the same conflict arises. Master-planned communities may be built in fire hazard zones to protect existing communities and comply with all the latest science-based fire mitigation measures that have been proven to withstand fires without any structural damage or death. Master-planned communities in these fire hazard zones also reduce the fuel load for wildfires and their associated greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts. Yet these values are not recognized.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Planning and Conservation League - *SPONSOR*
California Wildlife Foundation
Center for Biological Diversity
Coastal Corridor Alliance
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Center of San Diego
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve
Hills for Everyone
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Nature Conservancy; the
Palomar Audubon Society
Pomona Valley Bird Alliance
Rural Canyons Conservation Fund
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
Stewards of the Arroyo Seco
The Escondido Creek Conservancy
Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Network

Opposition

California Apartment Association
California Building Industry Association

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