

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

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

Policy Committee: Local Government

Vote: 8 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill 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 for consideration by state, regional, and local governments in land use and infrastructure plans.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires, by July 1, 2027, LCI to compile, standardize, maintain, and make publicly available through a consolidated online platform (portal) a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets, which must include hazard risk data, natural resource sensitivity data, and agricultural value data, as specified, and to update the datasets no less than every three years.
- 2) Requires, by January 1, 2028, LCI to develop and provide guidance for agencies on using and integrating standardized spatial planning datasets in regional planning processes and products.
- 3) Authorizes, but does not require, state, regional, and local governments to consider use of the standardized planning datasets in the development and production of land use and infrastructure plans, including general plans, regional transportation plans and sustainable communities strategies, regional housing needs allocations, and climate action plans.
- 4) Requires LCI to provide technical assistance, upon request, for use of the data.
- 5) Provides that nothing in this bill restricts an agency from using more precise or current data available at the regional or local level or creates new regulatory requirements, regulates land use or zoning, establishes land use designations, or preempts the local land use authority of cities and counties.

FISCAL EFFECT:

LCI estimates General Fund (GF) costs of \$282,000 annually for the first two years, including \$187,000 annually for two years for one limited-term research data specialist position to manage and organize existing and any needed datasets for implementation, and approximately \$75,000 annually for two years for contracts for data federation and data management.

Additionally, LCI estimates ongoing GF costs of approximately \$222,000 annually, including \$20,000 annually starting in year one for software licensing, and \$202,000 annually starting in year two for one permanent research data specialist position to provide technical assistance and support to users.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

For too long, our planning agencies have relied on outdated or fragmented geographic information. [This bill] 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.

2) **Background.** The Planning and Zoning Law requires every county and city to adopt a general plan that must include specified elements, including a housing element that establishes the location and density of housing, and a land use element that describes the general categories of uses 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.

LCI, in the Governor's office, provides long-range planning and research and serves as the state's comprehensive planning agency. LCI assists in shaping long-range land use policies, administering state planning grants, developing and maintaining local general plan guidelines, collecting general plan annual progress reports from local jurisdictions, and providing technical assistance to cities and counties preparing general plans.

This bill requires LCI to develop and make publicly available a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets to support voluntary data-informed planning across state, regional, and local agencies.

3) **Support and Opposition.** This bill is sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League and supported by numerous environmental and conservation groups, who collectively assert:

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.

This bill is opposed by the California Building Industry Association and the California Apartment Association who assert:

[This bill] 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. [This bill also] focuses on including hazard risk, but hazards and risks are very different things. In doing so, [this bill] does not recognize that development in any of the areas specified in the bill can occur with mitigation.

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