
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1423
Author: Stern (D)
Amended: 8/13/26
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/28/26

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 52-19, 8/27/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Regional planning: standardized spatial planning datasets

SOURCE: Planning and Conservation League

DIGEST: This bill requires the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) to create a consolidated online platform to make publicly available statewide standardized spatial planning datasets for use in local planning.

Assembly Amendments struck the contents of the bill and inserted the current provisions.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes LCI as the state's comprehensive planning agency.
- 2) Requires LCI to publish various documents that provide technical advice to cities and counties, including the General Plan Guidelines.

This bill:

- 1) Requires LCI, on or before July 1, 2028, to compile, standardize, maintain, and make publicly available through a consolidated online platform a core set of statewide standardized spatial planning datasets. These datasets must include:
 - a) Fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs), as specified;

- b) 100-year and 500-year flood plains;
 - c) Coastal and inland areas subject to sea level rise inundation;
 - d) Wetlands and riparian areas;
 - e) Biological resource areas that contain, support, or are necessary to sustain important biological or ecological resources, as specified;
 - f) Legally protected lands and lands under a conservation easement;
 - g) Prime and unique farmlands and farmland of statewide and local importance; and
 - h) Lands subject to Williamson Act contracts.
- 2) Requires LCI to update the datasets as new or revised data becomes available from the originating state or federal source agencies.
- 3) Requires LCI, on or before January 1, 2029, to develop and provide guidance for agencies to inform them on how to use and integrate these datasets in regional planning processes and products. It must also provide technical assistance for the use of the data.
- 4) Provides that state, regional, and local governments may consider use of the datasets in the development and production of land use and infrastructure plans.
- 5) States that this bill does not:
- a) Prevent agencies from using more precise or current data;
 - b) Create new regulatory requirements;
 - c) Regulate land use or zoning;
 - d) Establish land use designations; or
 - e) Preempt the local land use authority of cities or counties.

Background

LCI's Site Check tool. Among the tools that LCI has produced is its "Site Check" mapping tool. Site Check is a freely available interactive tool that allows the public to layer maps of various types of natural hazard zones, sensitive environmental sites, and other land use information to identify parcels that may be

suitable for development. It is intended to help users “quickly find parcels where housing projects may qualify for streamlining and exemptions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Developers and public agencies considering how CEQA may apply to a housing project can turn to Site Check as a ‘first step’ in their evaluations.” Among other layers, Site Check allows users to visualize the boundaries of:

- Urban areas;
- Zoning designations;
- Transit stops and vehicle miles traveled data;
- Special habitat areas;
- Prime farmlands or farmlands of statewide importance;
- Wetlands and riparian areas;
- Earthquake and fault zones;
- State Conservancy Boundaries;
- 100-year flood plains; and
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ).

Planning requirements. The Legislature has required cities and counties to take on dozens of additional planning responsibilities in recent years, including to adopt plans to mitigate flooding, fire hazards, habitat loss, climate hazards, environmental justice issues, extreme heat, traffic deaths, and impacts from warehouses, among others. Legislation has also reduced local discretion and eliminated project-specific environmental review pertaining to some kinds of housing projects, necessitating more upfront planning to ensure new development’s impacts are adequately addressed.

The Planning and Conservation League wants LCI to develop additional planning tools for local governments.

Comments

Purpose of the bill. 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.”

Spot the difference. LCI’s Site Check tool maps various hazards and other land use datasets. SB 1423 requires LCI to develop a new tool that uses many of the same datasets. Specifically, SB 1423 overlaps with Site Check by including similar, although not always identical, requirements to display FHSZs, flood plains, special habitat areas, farmland, and wetlands and riparian areas. SB 1423’s proposed tool includes certain coastal inundation zones, conservation easements, the 500-year flood plain, and other biological resources, but does not include other relevant information for planning such as infill areas that are included in Site Check. Additionally, the bill directs LCI to use datasets that are already available from state or federal agencies. Because similar information is already available, including in a publicly accessible map through Site Check, it is unclear whether the tool developed under SB 1423 will prove useful to planners.

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

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 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.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/28/26)

Planning and Conservation League (Sponsor)
Brentwood Alliance of Canyons & Hillsides

California Native Plant Society
California Wildlife Foundation
Canyon Back Alliance
Center for Biological Diversity
Coastal Corridor Alliance
Council of Infill Builders
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
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
Nature Conservancy; the
Palomar Audubon Society
Pomona Valley Bird Alliance
Rural Canyons Conservation Fund
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Diego Bird Alliance
State Alliance for Firesafe Road Regulations
Stewards of the Arroyo Seco
The Escondido Creek Conservancy
Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Network

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/28/26)

California Apartment Association
California Building Industry Association

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 52-19, 8/27/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Soria, Stefani, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Alanis, Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Johnson, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa, Wallis

NO VOTE RECORDED: Bains, Jackson, McKinnor, Nguyen, Pacheco, Michelle
Rodriguez, Solache, Valencia

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