
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT
Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: SB 954 **Hearing Date:** April 22, 2026
Author: Blakespear
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Consultant: Emma Bruce

SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act: advanced manufacturing facilities:
exemption

KEY ISSUE

This bill makes several changes to existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions, including extending specified labor standards to the CEQA exemption for “advanced manufacturing facility projects.”

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes within the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement under the direction of the Labor Commissioner (LC) and empowers the LC to ensure a just day’s pay in every workplace and to promote justice through robust enforcement of labor laws. (Labor Code §79-107)
- 2) Defines “public works” as, among other things, construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid for, in whole or in part, out of public funds. (Labor Code §1720(a))
- 3) Requires the body awarding any contract for public work, or otherwise undertaking any public work, to obtain the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general rate for holiday and overtime work in the locality in which the public work is to be performed for each craft, classification, or type of worker needed to execute the contract from the Director of DIR. (Labor Code §1773)
- 4) Requires each contractor and subcontractor to keep accurate payroll records, showing the name, address, social security number, work classification, straight time and overtime hours worked each day and week, and the actual per diem wages paid to each journeyman, apprentice, worker, or other employee employed by the contractor or subcontractor in connection with the public work. These payroll records shall be certified (CPRs) and made available for inspection, as specified. (Labor Code §1776 (a))
- 5) Requires the LC to, with reasonable promptness, issue a civil wage and penalty assessment to the contractor or subcontractor, or both, if the LC or their designee determines after an investigation that there has been a violation of public works law. (Labor Code §1741(a))
- 6) Authorizes a joint labor-management committee (JLMC) to bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction against an employer that fails to pay the prevailing wage to its

employees or that fails to provide certified payroll records, as specified. (Labor Code §1771.2)

- 7) Defines a “skilled and trained” workforce (STW) as a workforce that meets both of the following conditions:
 - a) All the workers performing work in an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades are either skilled journeypersons or apprentices registered in an apprenticeship program approved by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards.
 - b) At least 60% of the skilled journeypersons employed to perform work on the contract or project by every contractor and each of its subcontractors at every tier are graduates of an apprenticeship program for the applicable occupation, as specified.
(Public Contract Code §2601)
- 8) Requires a contractor, bidder, or other entity to provide to the public entity or other awarding body, on a monthly basis while the project or contract is being performed, a report demonstrating compliance with skilled and trained workforce requirements. (Public Contract Code §2602)
- 9) Defines “project labor agreement” (PLA) as a prehire collective bargaining agreement that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project or projects and is an agreement described in Section 158(f) of Title 29 of the United States Code. (Public Contract Code §2500(b)(1))
- 10) Defines “high road” as a set of economic and workforce development strategies to achieve economic growth, economic equity, shared prosperity and a clean environment.
(Unemployment Insurance Code §14005(r))
- 11) Establishes a CEQA exemption for advanced manufacturing facilities, as specified, if the project is located on a site zoned exclusively for industrial uses. (Public Resources Code §21080.69(a)(4))
- 12) Defines “advanced manufacturing” as:
 - a) Manufacturing processes that improve existing or create entirely new materials, products, and processes through the use of science, engineering, or information technologies, high-precision tools and methods, a high-performance workforce, and innovative business or organizational models utilizing any of the following technology areas:
 - i. Microelectronics and nanoelectronics, including semiconductors.
 - ii. Advanced materials.
 - iii. Integrated computational materials engineering.
 - iv. Nanotechnology.
 - v. Additive manufacturing.
 - vi. Industrial biotechnology.
 - b) “Advanced manufacturing” includes any of the following:
 - i. Systems that result from substantive advancement, whether incremental or breakthrough, beyond the current industry standard, in the production of materials and products. These advancements include improvements in manufacturing processes and systems that are often referred to as “smart” or “intelligent” manufacturing systems, which integrate computational predictability and operational efficiency.

- ii. Sustainable manufacturing systems and manufacturing technologies that minimize the use of resources while maintaining or improving cost and performance, as specified.

(Public Resources Code §26003(a))

This bill:

- 1) Expands the definition of daycare facilities and changes the CEQA exemption for daycare facilities to include residential areas, but to simultaneously exclude industrial zones or areas within 3,200 feet of a facility that actively extracts or refines oil or natural gas.
- 2) Adds “habitat for protected species” as defined, to the list of “natural and protected lands” (lands where the dozen newly created CEQA exemptions in SB 131 do not apply).
- 3) Adds additional conditions to the advanced manufacturing CEQA exemption to require an “advanced manufacturing facility project” be certified by the Governor, as specified, and meet all of the following criteria:
 - a) The project is located on a site zoned exclusively for heavy industrial uses as of January 1, 2026.
 - b) The project is not located within 1,600 feet of a sensitive receptor.
 - c) The project is not located within 1,000 feet of a disadvantaged community, as specified.
 - d) The project does not exceed specified operational or construction emissions limits.
 - e) The project is compliant with a quality community risk reduction plan or demonstrates an increased cancer risk of no more than 10 in one million and an increase in noncancer risk of less than 1.0 on the hazard index for both chronic and acute exposure for receptors within 1,000 feet radius of the fence of the advanced manufacturing facility.
 - f) The project does not cause significant adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources unless there is a documented enforceable agreement, as specified.
 - g) The project is not located on natural and protected lands.
 - h) The project uses zero-emission backup generation.
 - i) The lead agency completes specified tasks, described in 5).
- 4) Provides that an advanced manufacturing project is eligible for certification by the Governor if the project meets both of the following:
 - a) The advanced manufacturing facility is certified as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold or better by the United States Green Building Council.
 - b) The applicant demonstrates that the project has significant improvements over the current industry standards for energy and water consumption, water quality impacts, specifically including reducing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances effluent as compared to industry baselines, and air quality impacts.
- 5) Requires the lead agency, before determining that a project is exempt from CEQA, to do all of the following:
 - a) Hold at least one public hearing on the project.
 - b) Ensure that the applicant demonstrates high road employment standards and enters into a community benefits agreement (CBA), as specified in 6).

- c) Ensure that the applicant complies with prevailing wage and STW requirements, as specified in 7).
- 6) Requires an applicant of a project that is exempt from CEQA under these provisions to meet both of the following requirements:
- a) The applicant shall demonstrate high road employment standards and shall certify to the lead agency that it will maintain those standards in the operation of the facility.
 - i. The California Energy Commission shall develop and make available to lead agencies guidelines for evaluating whether a project applicant demonstrates high road employment standards.
 - b) The applicant shall enter into a bona fide CBA that includes enforceable commitments to provide local environmental mitigation, high road employment standards, and job access within the community in which the project is located.
 - i. The specific terms of the bona fide CBA shall include funding for, or direct implementation of, specific community improvements or amenities.
- 7) Requires, for a project that is exempt from CEQA under these provisions, the applicant to comply with either of the following requirements with respect to the *initial construction of the facility and subsequent maintenance* that is contracted out to a contractor in the construction industry:
- a) **For a project undertaken by a public agency**, the following apply:
 - i. The project is a public work for which prevailing wages shall be paid, as specified.
 - ii. An entity shall not be prequalified or shortlisted or awarded a contract by the public agency to perform any portion of the project unless the entity provides an enforceable commitment to the public agency that the entity and its contractors and subcontractors at every tier will use a STW to perform all work on the project or contract, as specified.
 - iii. The STW requirement does not apply if the project will be covered by a PLA that will bind all contractors and subcontractors at every tier performing work on the project to use a STW and provide for enforcement of that obligation through an arbitration procedure.
 - b) **For a project undertaken by a private entity**, the applicant shall do all of the following:
 - i. Certify to the lead agency that either of the following is true:
 - A. The entirety of the project is a public work, as specified.
 - B. If the project is not in its entirety a public work, all construction workers employed on the project will be paid at least the general prevailing rate of per diem wages, as specified. If the project is subject to this provision, then for the portions of the project that are not a public work, all of the following shall apply:
 - 1. The project applicant shall ensure that the prevailing wage requirement is included in all contracts for the performance of all construction and maintenance work.
 - 2. All contractors and subcontractors shall pay to all construction workers employed in the execution of the work on the project or

- contract at least the general prevailing rate of per diem wages, as specified.
3. All contractors shall maintain and verify payroll records and make those records available for inspection and copying, as specified.
 4. The obligation of the contractors and subcontractors to pay prevailing wages may be enforced by the LC through a CWPA, or by an underpaid worker through an administrative complaint or civil action, or by a JLMC through a civil action, as specified.
 5. The payroll records requirement (3) and enforcement provisions (4) do not apply if all contractors and subcontractors at every tier performing work on the project are subject to a PLA that requires the payment of prevailing wages, as specified, and provides for enforcement of that obligation through an arbitration procedure.
 6. The requirement that employer payments not reduce the obligation to pay the hourly straight time or overtime wages found to be prevailing shall not apply if otherwise provided in a bona fide collective bargaining agreement covering the worker. The requirement to pay at least the general prevailing rate of per diem wages does not preclude use of an alternative workweek schedule, as specified.
- ii. Certify to the lead agency that a STW will be used to perform all construction work on the project. All of the following requirements shall apply to the project:
- A. The project applicant shall require in all contracts for the performance of work that every contractor and subcontractor at every tier will individually use a STW to *construct and maintain* the project.
 - B. Every contractor and subcontractor at every tier shall use a STW to *construct and maintain* the project.
 - C. The project shall provide to the lead agency, on a monthly basis, a report demonstrating compliance with STW requirements, as specified.
 1. A monthly report shall be a public record under the Public Records Act and shall be open to public inspection.
 2. A project applicant that fails to provide a monthly report demonstrating compliance shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 per month for each month for which the report has not been provided.
 3. Any contractor or subcontractor that fails to use a STW shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$200 per day for each worker employed in contravention of the STW requirement.
 4. Penalties may be assessed by the LC within 18 months of completion of the project using the same procedures for issuance of a CWPA, as specified. Penalties shall be paid to the State Public Works Enforcement Fund.
 - D. The monthly reporting requirement and penalties (C) shall not apply if all contractors and subcontractors at every tier performing work on the project are subject to a PLA that requires compliance with STW requirements and provides for enforcement of that obligation through an arbitration procedure.

- iii. Certify to the lead agency that it has entered into a labor peace agreement. This applies only if the state has a proprietary interest in the project or the state is providing direct financial assistance to the project, tax credits, or tax preferences in excess of \$2,500,000.

8) Defines several terms, including:

- a) “Advanced manufacturing facility” means a facility used for advanced manufacturing, as defined in Section 26003 of the Public Resources Code, and is used exclusively for final tier manufacturing of any of the following:
 - i. ____.
 - ii. ____.
 - iii. ____.
- b) “Advanced manufacturing facility project” or “project” means a project for the construction and operation of an advanced manufacturing facility.
- c) “Applicant” means a person, or a public entity or private entity or its affiliates, and its successors, heirs, or assignees, who undertakes or proposes an advanced manufacturing facility project.
- d) “Final tier manufacturing” means the stage of manufacturing that does any of the following:
 - i. Performs the final assembly of components, subassembly, or materials into a completed, market-ready product.
 - ii. Integrates hardware or software, or other financial systems necessary for the product’s intended use.
 - iii. Conducts final quality control testing, inspection, certification, or validation required for sale or distribution.
 - iv. Packages or otherwise prepares the completed product for sale or distribution.
- e) “Final tier manufacturing does not include either of the following:
 - i. The production of raw materials.
 - ii. The manufacture of intermediate components or subassembly of intermediate components that are not sold or distributed as complete, end-use products.
- f) “Community benefits agreement” means a private agreement between the applicant and independent stakeholders from the surrounding communities, and that is informed by meaningful engagement and outreach to residents of the surrounding communities. Stakeholders that receive financial remuneration from a project applicant shall not be considered independent.
- g) “Enforceable commitments” means specific mechanisms, such as binding arbitration, built into agreements that ensure that the parties remedies to resolve disputes.
- h) “High road employment standards” means employment practices and standards that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 - i. Provisions of comparatively good wages and benefits, relative to the industry, occupation, and labor market in which participating workers are employed.
 - ii. Payment of workers at or above local or regional living wage standards as well as payment at or above regional prevailing wage standards where those standards exist for the occupations in question.
 - iii. Commitment to investing in employee training, growth, and development, including comprehensive workforce training programs or apprenticeship programs.
 - iv. Adoption of mechanisms to include worker voice and agency in the workplace.
 - v. Safe and healthy working conditions.

- vi. Consistent compliance with workplace laws and regulations, including proactive efforts to remedy past problems.
 - i) “Labor peace agreement” means an agreement between the applicant and any bona fide labor organization that, at a minimum, prohibits labor organizations and members from engaging in picketing, work stoppages, boycotts, and any other economic interferences with the project applicant’s business. As a part of the agreement, the applicant agrees not to disrupt efforts by the bona fide labor organization to communicate with, and attempt to organize and represent, the applicant’s employees. The agreement shall provide a bona fide labor organization access at reasonable times to areas in which the applicant’s employees work for the purpose of meeting with employees to discuss their right to representation, employment rights under state law, and terms and conditions of employment. The agreement shall not mandate a particular method of election or certification of the bona fide labor organization.
- 9) Establishes the intent of the Legislature to narrow the existing CEQA exemption or “advanced manufacturing” by further identifying final tier “advanced manufacturing” facilities that would be eligible for the “advanced manufacturing” CEQA exemption.

COMMENTS

1. Background:

This analysis is limited to the bill’s labor standards provisions. Please see the Senate Environmental Quality Committee’s analysis for background on CEQA, advanced manufacturing, and SB 131 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025).

Putting California on the High Road

High road workforce standards are policies designed to ensure that public investments and programs generate the best economic and equity outcomes possible. In practice, this means creating and sustaining good jobs locally, ensuring jobs pay family-supporting wages and benefits, offering robust training, supporting collective bargaining, and increasing environmental sustainability. The high road framework is built into the state’s workforce development system to ensure that employers have a skilled workforce and employees have ample economic opportunity. Supporting good job quality and equitable job access outcomes requires strong standards on mechanisms that create demand for work, such as public investments and regulatory frameworks.

SB 954 would require all project applicants that receive a CEQA exemption for an advanced manufacturing facility project to 1) demonstrate high road employment standards, 2) certify to the lead agency that it will maintain those standards in the operation of the facility, and 3) enter into a bona fide CBA that includes enforceable commitments to provide local environmental mitigation, high road employment standards, and job access within the community in which the project is located. A CBA is a private agreement between the applicant and independent stakeholders from the surrounding communities that is informed by meaningful engagement and outreach. The high road employment standards defined in the bill are modeled after the workforce development system’s high road training partnership initiative.

Public Works Requirements

All contractors and subcontractors working on “public works” projects are required to abide by a set of laws that ensure the responsible use of public funds. When enforced consistently and accurately, California’s public works laws prevent worker exploitation and promote the creation of a skilled workforce. SB 954 would extend specified public works requirements to privately funded advanced manufacturing facility projects that receive a CEQA exemption. The project applicant would be required to meet these requirements for both the *initial construction* of the facility *and subsequent maintenance*. Publicly funded advanced manufacturing facility projects are already considered public works, because they are paid for out of public funds. Below is a brief overview of the public works requirements that would be applicable to privately funded projects.

Contractors would be required to pay each construction worker employed to work on the project, at minimum, the general prevailing rate of per diem wages. The prevailing wage rate is the basic hourly rate paid on public works projects to a majority of workers engaged in a particular craft, classification or type of work within the locality and in the nearest labor market area. The Director of DIR issues wage determinations semiannually, on February 22 and August 22. In determining the rates, the Director ascertains and considers the applicable wage rates established by collective bargaining agreements and the rates that may have been predetermined for federal public works. Under SB 954, the LC, an underpaid construction worker, or a JLMC would enforce the prevailing wage requirement.

Contractors performing work on the project would also be required to maintain payroll records and make them available for inspection and copying, as specified. Records must contain the name, address, social security number, work classification, straight time, and overtime hours worked each day and week, and the actual per diem wages paid to each journeyman, apprentice, worker, or other employee employed by the contractor or subcontractor in connection with the work. Access to payroll records varies depending on the requesting entity. These records are an essential tool for combatting wage theft.

If all contractors and subcontractors performing work on the project are subject to a PLA that requires the payment of prevailing wages and provides for the enforcement of that obligation through an arbitration procedure, then the enforcement provisions and payroll records described above would not apply.

What is a Skilled and Trained Workforce (STW)?

A “skilled and trained” workforce is one in which all workers performing work in an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades are either skilled journeypersons¹ or apprentices registered in a DAS-approved apprenticeship program. Additionally, at least 60% of the skilled journeypersons employed to perform work on the contract or project are graduates of either an in-state, DAS-approved apprenticeship program or an out-of-state, federally-approved apprenticeship program. Individuals who qualify as skilled journeypersons based on their on-the-job experience do not count towards the 60% minimum graduation requirement. STW requirements ensure high-quality construction

¹ A “skilled journeyman” means a worker who either 1) graduated from an in-state apprenticeship program approved by DAS or an out-of-state apprenticeship program, approved by the federal Secretary of Labor or 2) has at least as many hours of on-the-job experience as would be required to graduate from the applicable DAS-approved apprenticeship program.

projects and invest in the state's apprenticeship programs by increasing demand for graduates.

A public entity can be required, by statute or regulation, to obtain an enforceable commitment that a bidder, contractor, or other entity will use a STW to complete a contract or project. Even in the absence of a statute or regulation, a public entity can mandate the use of a STW. When a contractor is required to use a STW, they commit to doing so in an enforceable agreement with the public entity or awarding body. As part of this agreement, a contractor submits monthly reports to the public entity or other awarding body that demonstrate their compliance and their subcontractors' compliance at every tier. Reports include the full name of each worker and the name, location, and graduation date of their completed apprenticeship program.

This bill would require the use of a STW for both publicly funded and privately funded projects. The STW requirements outlined for privately funded differ slightly from those for publicly funded ones. For example, on privately funded projects the project applicant, not the contractor, would be tasked with completing monthly reports. Furthermore, failure to submit a monthly report would also result in a \$10,000 civil penalty, typically the penalty is \$5,000 for initial violations.

Publicly funded and privately funded projects covered by a PLA that requires the use of a STW and provides for the enforcement of that obligation through an arbitration procedure are exempt from specified monthly reporting requirements and penalties.

2. Need for this bill?

According to the author:

“In 2026, the Legislature passed SB 131, which created numerous changes to CEQA, including a dozen new CEQA exemptions that span daycares, high speed rail facilities, and most significantly, advanced manufacturing’ ...

SB 954 builds off the CEQA exemptions in SB 131, while also strengthening protections for habitats for sensitive species, expanding a CEQA exemption for daycare facilities, and adding strong environmental and labor guardrails to the CEQA exemption for advanced manufacturing. SB 954 specifies the intent of the Legislature to further narrow the definition of ‘advanced manufacturing’ to key manufacturing types, allowing room for stakeholders and the Legislature to thoughtfully consider what manufacturing types should be CEQA exempt.”

3. Committee Comments:

Last year, the Legislature approved SB 131 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025) which made numerous changes to CEQA, including creating an exemption for advanced manufacturing. This bill seeks to build on last year's CEQA changes by, among other things, declaring the intent of the Legislature to narrow the definition of advanced manufacturing and attaching specified labor standards to advanced manufacturing facility projects. The committee notes the following:

- Prevailing wages and STW requirements typically apply to publicly funded projects, not privately funded ones. Recently, the Legislature has extended these requirements to certain privately funded projects to prevent worker exploitation and promote the creation of a skilled workforce. SB 954 would continue this practice by requiring privately funded advanced manufacturing facility projects to pay prevailing wages and use a STW.
- SB 954 would require prevailing wages and a STW for both the initial construction of the facility and subsequent maintenance. Essentially, this would require applicants for privately funded projects to commit to both requirements in perpetuity. Given the health risks associated with advanced manufacturing and that chemicals of concern would not be evaluated during the CEQA process, this continuous commitment is meant to ensure workers are well compensated and remain safe.

4. Proponent Arguments:

The Teamsters support the measure, arguing:

“Teamsters' members include tens of thousands of workers in construction, warehouses, and numerous other key industries where CEQA remains critical in protecting worker safety.

SB 954 addresses key issues resulting from the unintended consequences of SB 131's broad CEQA exemptions, particularly for advanced manufacturing. SB 954 will strengthen key worker protections by ensuring industries that remain dangerous for the environment and workers are not exempt from the CEQA process.”

Unite Here supports the measure, arguing:

“SB 954 provides that the existing CEQA exemption for rezoning to implement an approved housing element does not apply to rezoning that would allow for the construction of a tourism facility. Under the bill, a ‘tourism facility’ includes a hotel, resort, or other transient lodging facility, as well as an event center that is at least 100,000 square feet or has a seating capacity of at least 10,000 seats. These are substantial, high-impact commercial developments that generate significant traffic, noise, and infrastructure demands. Exempting them from environmental review -under a provision designed to accelerate housing production -would harm workers, surrounding communities, and the integrity of housing policy alike.”

5. Opponent Arguments:

The Western Electrical Contractors Association opposes the measure, arguing:

“[SB 954] imposes a new web of restrictive conditions—including expanded setback requirements, mandatory community benefit agreements, zero-emission backup generation mandates regardless of feasibility, stringent air emissions thresholds, LEED Gold certification requirements, and even gubernatorial certification before a project may qualify. Each of these requirements adds uncertainty, delay, and cost. Collectively, they make the exemption functionally unattainable for many projects that California should be welcoming.

Most troubling are the labor-related provisions that compound these barriers and create a

double standard that disadvantages merit shop contractors and their employees:

1. State Skilled and Trained Workforce Mandates Tied to CEQA Relief

SB 954 requires projects seeking relief under last year's CEQA reforms to comply with Skilled and Trained Workforce mandates unless they are covered by a project labor agreement (PLA). This effectively coerces developers into PLAs as the only practical path to compliance, regardless of whether a PLA is appropriate for the project.

2. Unequal Treatment of State-Approved Apprenticeship Programs

California has many state-approved apprenticeship programs that produce highly trained workers, including those jointly administered outside the traditional union system. Yet these provisions privilege one labor model over another, excluding qualified contractors and skilled workers who are fully capable of performing this work safely and effectively.

3. Suspension of Labor Commissioner Enforcement on PLA Projects

The bill again advances the troubling precedent of barring the California Labor Commissioner from enforcing wage-and-hour laws on PLA-covered projects. No employer, union, or contractor should be insulated from independent state oversight. Removing public enforcement authority undermines transparency, accountability, and worker protections.”

6. Dual Referral:

The Senate Rules Committee referred this bill to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, where it passed on a 5-2 vote, and the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee.

7. “Support in Concept” Position:

Except for the Teamsters and Unite Here, the organizations listed under “Support” have a “support in concept” position. Specifically:

“The undersigned organizations support the goals of these provisions [SB 954], provided they are accompanied by a narrowing of the range of facilities eligible for this exemption to a limited, clearly-defined set of projects that support state goals and are unlikely to generate significant environmental impacts.”²

8. Prior Legislation:

SB 299 (Cabaldon, 2026) would create an exemption from CEQA for family daycare homes for residential day care facilities, as specified. *SB 299 is pending hearing in the Assembly.*

SB 909 (Smallwood-Cuevas, 2026) would 1) require the Director of DIR to annually adjust contractor registration and renewal fees based on the increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price index, as specified; 2) increase penalties for various public works violations; and 3) direct 50% of penalties recovered through a civil wage and penalty assessment to the State Public Works Enforcement Fund. *SB 909 is pending hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

² Quote sourced from the “Support in Concept” coalition letter, dated April 15, 2026.

SB 958 (Weber Pierson, 2026) would create a CEQA exemption for the Midway Rising redevelopment project in the City of San Diego. Among other requirements, the project would need to create high-wage, highly skilled jobs that pay prevailing wages and employ a STW, as specified. *SB 958 is pending hearing in the Senate Local Government Committee.*

SB 978 (Perez, 2026) would, among other things, require a contractor who enters a contract to perform work on a data center facility to abide by specified public works requirements and use a STW. *SB 978 is pending hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

SB 1185 (Cortese, 2026) would require an owner, operator, or developer of a facility that will be used for the research, development, or production of pharmaceutical products to, when contracting for the performance of initial and subsequent construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair, or maintenance work on the facility, require that its contractors and any subcontractors use a STW to perform all onsite work within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades. *SB 1185 is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

SB 1241 (Smallwood-Cuevas, 2026) would, among other things, 1) expand the circumstances under which a public entity can be required to obtain an enforceable commitment to use a STW; 2) define “substantial compliance plan” and “material misrepresentation;” 3) modify the criteria the LC uses to assess penalties for STW violations; and 4) require the LC to impose the maximum allowable penalty for a contractor’s failure to submit a monthly report or continued failure to use a STW after notice of a violation, as specified. *SB 1241 is pending hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

SB 131 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025), makes numerous changes to CEQA, including creating CEQA exemptions for advanced manufacturing, stations for high-speed rail, an exemption for rezoning of housing elements, and day care facilities among others.

SUPPORT

350 Bay Area Action
350 Contra Costa Action
350 South Bay Los Angeles
350 Southland Legislative Alliance
1000 Friends Protecting Historic Benicia
2100iff Strategies
Alta Peak Chapter, California Native Plant Society
APEN Action
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy
Atrium 916
Ballona Wetlands Institute
Bluegreen Alliance
Brentwood Alliance of Canyons & Hillsides
California Coastal Protection Network
California Environmental Justice Alliance Action
California Environmental Voters
California Federation of Labor Unions
California Interfaith Power & Light

California Land Watch
California Native Plant Society
California River Watch
California Wildlife Foundation
Californians Against Waste
CalWild
Canyon Back Alliance
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Food Safety
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
Central Valley Partnership
Chaparral Lands Conservancy, The
Chips Communities United
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife
Citizens for the Preservation of Parks & Beaches
Citizens' Climate Lobby Monterey Bay
Clean Water Action
Cleaneearth4kids.org
Climate Action California
Climate Action Campaign at the Humboldt UU Fellowship
Climate Health Now Action Fund
Climate Reality Contra Costa County Policy Action Squad
Climate Reality Project Bay Area Chapter
Climate Reality Project Orange County
Coalition for a Beautiful Los Angeles
Coalition for Clean Air
Coast Action Group
Coastal Corridor Alliance
Coastal Lands Action Network
Committees for Land, Air, Water and Species
Communities for a Better Environment
Courage California
Defend Ballona Wetlands
Earthjustice
Elders Climate Action Northern CA Chapter
Elders Climate Action Southern CA Chapter
Endangered Habitats League
Environment California
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Environmental Council of Sacramento
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Protection Information Center
Escondido Creek Conservancy
Facts Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety
Forest Unlimited
Forests Forever
Fossil Free California

Friends of Griffith Park
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Friends of Rose Canyon
Friends of Rose Creek
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Los Angeles River
Friends of the Lost Coast
Friends of the River
Good Neighbor Steering Committee
Green Foothills
Greenfield Walking Group
GreenLA Coalition
GreenLatinos
Habitat 2020
Hills for Everyone
Hillside Federation
Humboldt Waterkeeper
Interfaith Climate Action Network of Contra Costa County
LA Waterkeeper
Laguna Greenbelt INC.
Last Plastic Straw, The
Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust
Mercury Press
Morongo Basin Conservation Association
Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
Napa Solano Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
No Data Center MPK
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center
Oswit Land Trust
Pacific Forest Trust
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles
Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco Bay
Planning and Conservation League
Preserve Calavera
Progressive Democrats of Benicia
Protect Monterey County
Protect San Benito County
Resource Renewal Institute
Restore the Delta
River Otter Ecology Project, The
Russian Riverkeeper
San Diego Bird Alliance
San Francisco Baykeeper
SanDiego350
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance

Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Save Temescal Valley
Save the Bay
Save the Park
Save the Sonoma Coast
Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Sierra Club California
Sierra Watch
SoCal350 Climate Action
Solano County Orderly Growth Committee
Sonoma County Climate Activist Network
Sonoma Land Trust
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
Sunflower Alliance
Surfrider Foundation
Sustainable Mill Valley
Teamsters California
Third ACT Bay Area
UAW Region 6
Unite Here International Union
Valley Improvement Projects
We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
Western Watersheds Project
Yosemite Rivers Alliance

OPPOSITION

Bay Area Council
California Association for Labor Economic Development
California Business Properties Association
California Business Roundtable
California Cement Manufacturers Environmental Coalition
California Chamber of Commerce
California Construction & Industrial Materials Association
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
California Manufacturing Technology Association
California Retailers Association
Chemical Industry Council of California
Commercial Reasons Estate Development Association SoCal Chapter
East Bay Leadership Council
Greater Sacramento Economic Council
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
New California Coalition
North Bay Leadership Council
Orchard Partners
Reach Central Coast
San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance
San Mateo County Economic Development Association

Southern California Leadership Council
Supply Chain Federation
Western Electrical Contractors Association

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