
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 954 (Blakespear) - California Environmental Quality Act: advanced manufacturing facilities: exemption

Version: April 16, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 2026

Policy Vote: E.Q. 5 - 2, L., P.E. & R. 4 - 1

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would make several changes to existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions, including extending specified labor standards to the CEQA exemption for “advanced manufacturing facility projects” and excluding ‘habitat for protected species’ from a number of CEQA exemptions introduced in SB 131 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2025).

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026**

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown but likely significant one-time costs, likely in the hundreds of thousands of dollars (General Fund) for the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) to establish draft guidelines, develop internal processes and procedures, begin accepting applications, and provide technical assistance and engagement regarding the addition of an advanced manufacturing category to judicial streamlining certification.
- Unknown but potentially significant one-time costs (Energy Resources Program Account [ERPA] or General Fund) for the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop and make available to lead agencies guidelines for evaluating whether a project applicant demonstrates high road employment standards.
- To the extent that projects qualify for judicial streamlining certification that otherwise would not have qualified absent this bill, it would result in potential cost pressure of an unknown amount (General Fund) to the state-funded court system to process and hear challenges to a project’s environmental review within the required timeframes.
- Unknown costs (various funds) for other state entities and lead agencies to implement the provisions of this bill.

Author Amendments: Author amendments would take out the framework currently in the bill to list out which specific facilities are eligible for the advanced manufacturing CEQA exemption and instead simply specify that ‘final tier manufacturing’ does not include fuels or recycling.

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