

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 995

Introduced by Assembly Member Cedillo

February 18, 2011

An act to amend Section 21159.9 of the Public Resources Code, relating to environmental quality.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 995, as introduced, Cedillo. Environmental quality: CEQA: public assistance and information program: recommendations: review of transit-oriented development.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA requires the Office of Planning and Research, using existing resources, to implement a public assistance and information program that includes the establishment of a public education and training program, a data base to assist in the preparation of environmental documents, and a central repository for the collection, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of specified CEQA notices. CEQA further requires that, commencing January 1, 2003, copies of any documents submitted in electronic form to the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to those provisions be furnished by the office to the California State Library.

This bill would additionally require the Office of Planning and Research, not later than July 1, 2012, to prepare and submit to the

Legislature a report containing recommendations for expedited environmental review for transit-oriented development.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 21159.9 of the Public Resources Code
2 is amended to read:

3 21159.9. The Office of Planning and Research shall implement,
4 utilizing existing resources, a public assistance and information
5 program, to ensure efficient and effective implementation of this
6 division, to do all of the following:

7 (a) Establish a public education and training program for
8 planners, developers, and other interested parties to assist them in
9 implementing this division.

10 (b) Establish and maintain a data base to assist in the preparation
11 of environmental documents.

12 (c) Establish and maintain a central repository for the collection,
13 storage, retrieval, and dissemination of notices of exemption,
14 notices of preparation, notices of determination, and notices of
15 completion provided to the office, and make the notices available
16 through the Internet. The office may coordinate with another state
17 agency for that agency to make the notices available through the
18 Internet.

19 (d) Commencing January 1, 2003, copies of any documents
20 submitted in electronic format to the Office of Planning and
21 Research pursuant to this division shall be furnished by the office
22 to the California State Library. The California State Library shall
23 be the repository for those electronic documents, which shall be
24 made available for viewing by the general public upon request.

25 (e) (1) *Not later than July 1, 2012, the Office of Planning and*
26 *Research shall prepare and submit to the Legislature a report*
27 *containing recommendations for expedited environmental review*
28 *for transit-oriented development.*

29 (2) (A) *The requirement for submitting a report imposed under*
30 *paragraph (1) is inoperative on July 1, 2016, pursuant to Section*
31 *10231.5 of the Government Code.*

1 *(B) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) of this*
2 *subdivision shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795*
3 *of the Government Code.*

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