

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 14, 2013
AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 8, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 28, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2013
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2013
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 976

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Stone)
(Coauthor: Senator Jackson)

February 22, 2013

An act to add and repeal Section 30821 of the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 976, as amended, Atkins. Coastal resources: California Coastal Act of 1976: enforcement: penalties.

The California Coastal Act of 1976 requires a person undertaking development in the coastal zone to obtain a coastal development permit in accordance with prescribed procedures. Existing law authorizes the superior court to impose civil liability on a person who performs or undertakes development that is in violation of the act or that is inconsistent with a previously issued coastal development permit, and on a person who violates the act in any other manner.

This bill would authorize, until January 1, ~~2017~~ 2019, the California Coastal Commission to impose upon a person who violates the act an administrative civil penalty by a majority vote of the commissioners, upon consideration of various factors, and in an amount not to exceed 75% of the maximum civil penalty that may be imposed in the superior court, as specified.

This bill would prohibit a person, as defined, from being subject to both this monetary civil liability imposed by the commission and a monetary civil liability imposed by the superior court for the same act or failure to act. The bill, in the event that a person who is assessed a penalty by the commission fails to pay the penalty, fails to comply with a restoration or cease and desist order, or challenges any of these actions in a court of law, would authorize the commission to maintain an action or otherwise engage in judicial proceedings to enforce those requirements and would authorize the court to grant relief, as specified. This bill would also allow the commission to record a lien on the property of a violator in the amount of the penalty assessed by the commission if the violator fails to pay the penalty. The bill would prohibit the assessment of administrative penalties if the homeowner corrects the violations, as specified.

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 30821 is added to the Public Resources
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 30821. (a) In addition to any other penalties imposed pursuant
- 4 to this division, a person, including a landowner, who is in violation
- 5 of a provision of this division is subject to an administrative civil
- 6 penalty that may be imposed by the commission in an amount not
- 7 to exceed 75 percent of the amount of the maximum penalty
- 8 authorized pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 30820 for each
- 9 violation.
- 10 (b) All penalties imposed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be
- 11 imposed by majority vote of the commissioners present in a duly
- 12 noticed public hearing in compliance with the requirements of
- 13 Section 30810, 30811, or 30812.

1 (c) In determining the amount of civil liability, the commission
2 shall take into account the factors set forth in subdivision (c) of
3 Section 30820.

4 (d) A person shall not be subject to both monetary civil liability
5 imposed under this section and monetary civil liability imposed
6 by the superior court for the same act or failure to act. In the event
7 that a person who is assessed a penalty under this section fails to
8 pay the administrative penalty, otherwise fails to comply with a
9 restoration or cease and desist order issued by the commission in
10 connection with the penalty action, or challenges any of these
11 actions by the commission in a court of law, the commission may
12 maintain an action or otherwise engage in judicial proceedings to
13 enforce those requirements and the court may grant any relief as
14 provided under this chapter.

15 (e) If a person fails to pay a penalty imposed by the commission
16 pursuant to this section, the commission may record a lien on the
17 property in the amount of the penalty assessed by the commission.
18 This lien shall have the force, effect, and priority of a judgment
19 lien.

20 (f) In enacting this section, it is the intent of the Legislature to
21 ensure that unintentional, minor violations of this division that
22 only cause de minimis harm will not lead to the imposition of civil
23 penalties if the violator has acted expeditiously to correct the
24 violation.

25 (g) “Person,” for the purpose of this section, does not include
26 a local government, a special district, or an agency thereof when
27 acting in a legislative or adjudicative capacity.

28 (h) Administrative penalties pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
29 not be assessed if the property owner corrects the violation
30 consistent with this division within 30 days of receiving written
31 notification from the commission regarding the notification, and
32 if the alleged violator can correct the violation without undertaking
33 additional development that requires a permit under this division.
34 This subdivision shall not apply to violations of previous permit
35 conditions.

36 (i) The commission shall prepare and submit, pursuant to Section
37 9795 of the Government Code, a report to the Legislature by
38 January 15, ~~2016~~, 2018, that includes all of the following:

- 1 (1) The number of new violations reported annually to the
2 commission from January 1, 2014, to December 31, ~~2015~~, 2017,
3 inclusive.
- 4 (2) The number of violations resolved from January 1, 2014, to
5 December 31, ~~2015~~, 2017, inclusive.
- 6 (3) The number of administrative penalties issued pursuant to
7 this section, the dollar amount of the penalties, and a description
8 of the violations from January 1, 2014, to December 31, ~~2015~~,
9 2017, inclusive.
- 10 (j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2017~~
11 2019, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
12 that is enacted before January 1, ~~2017~~ 2019, deletes or extends
13 that date.