

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 17, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2016
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2180

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting

February 18, 2016

An act to amend Sections 65950 and 65952 of the Government Code, relating to land use.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2180, as amended, Ting. Land use: development project review. The Permit Streamlining Act within the Planning and Zoning Law requires the lead agency that has the principal responsibility for approving a development project, as defined, to approve or disapprove the project within 180 days from the date of certification of an environmental impact report. Existing law requires approval or disapproval within 90 days from the date of certification if at least 49% of the units within the development project are affordable to very low or low-income households. Existing law also requires approval or disapproval within 60 days from the date of the adoption of a negative declaration, or the determination by the lead agency that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

This bill would require approval or disapproval within 120 days from the date of certification of an environmental impact report when the development project consists of either residential units only or mixed use development in which the nonresidential uses are less than 50% of the total square footage of the development, among other conditions.

The Planning and Zoning Law requires any public agency that is a responsible agency for a development project to approve or disapprove a development project that has been approved by the lead agency within the longer of 180 days from the date on which the lead agency has approved the project or within 180 days of the date on which the completed application for the development project has been accepted as complete by that responsible agency.

This bill ~~would~~ *would, for a public agency other than the California Coastal Commission*, reduce each time period to within 90 days when the development project consists of either residential units only or mixed use development in which the nonresidential uses are less than 50% of the total square footage of the development and other conditions are met.

By increasing the duties of local officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 65950 of the Government Code is
 2 amended to read:
 3 65950. (a) ~~Any~~A public agency that is the lead agency for a
 4 development project shall approve or disapprove the project within
 5 whichever of the following periods is applicable:
 6 (1) One hundred eighty days from the date of certification by
 7 the lead agency of the environmental impact report, if an
 8 environmental impact report is prepared pursuant to Section 21100
 9 or 21151 of the Public Resources Code for the development project.
 10 (2) One hundred twenty days from the date of certification by
 11 the lead agency of the environmental impact report, if an
 12 environmental impact report is prepared pursuant to Section 21100
 13 or 21151 of the Public Resources Code for a development project
 14 defined in subdivision (c).

1 (3) Ninety days from the date of certification by the lead agency
2 of the environmental impact report, if an environmental impact
3 report is prepared pursuant to Section 21100 or 21151 of the Public
4 Resources Code for a development project defined in subdivision
5 (c) and all of the following conditions are met:

6 (A) At least 49 percent of the units in the development project
7 are affordable to very low or low-income households, as defined
8 by Sections 50105 and 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code,
9 respectively. Rents for the lower income units shall be set at an
10 affordable rent, as that term is defined in Section 50053 of the
11 Health and Safety Code, for at least 30 years. Owner-occupied
12 units shall be available at an affordable housing cost, as that term
13 is defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

14 (B) Prior to the application being deemed complete for the
15 development project pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with
16 Section 65940), the lead agency received written notice from the
17 project applicant that an application has been made or will be made
18 for an allocation or commitment of financing, tax credits, bond
19 authority, or other financial assistance from a public agency or
20 federal agency, and the notice specifies the financial assistance
21 that has been applied for or will be applied for and the deadline
22 for application for that assistance, the requirement that one of the
23 approvals of the development project by the lead agency is a
24 prerequisite to the application for or approval of the application
25 for financial assistance, and that the financial assistance is
26 necessary for the project to be affordable as required pursuant to
27 subparagraph (A).

28 (C) There is confirmation that the application has been made
29 to the public agency or federal agency prior to certification of the
30 environmental impact report.

31 (4) Sixty days from the date of adoption by the lead agency of
32 the negative declaration, if a negative declaration is completed and
33 adopted for the development project.

34 (5) Sixty days from the determination by the lead agency that
35 the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality
36 Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public
37 Resources Code), if the project is exempt from that act.

38 (b) This section does not preclude a project applicant and a
39 public agency from mutually agreeing in writing to an extension

1 of any time limit provided by this section pursuant to Section
 2 65957.

3 (c) For purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a)
 4 and Section 65952, “development project” means a use consisting
 5 of either of the following:

- 6 (1) Residential units only.
- 7 (2) Mixed-use developments consisting of residential and
 8 nonresidential uses in which the nonresidential uses are less than
 9 50 percent of the total square footage of the development and are
 10 limited to neighborhood commercial uses and to the first floor of
 11 buildings that are two or more stories. As used in this paragraph,
 12 “neighborhood commercial” means small-scale general or specialty
 13 stores that furnish goods and services primarily to residents of the
 14 neighborhood.

15 (d) For purposes of this section, “lead agency” and “negative
 16 declaration” have the same meaning as defined in Sections 21067
 17 and 21064 of the Public Resources Code, respectively.

18 SEC. 2. Section 65952 of the Government Code is amended
 19 to read:

20 65952. (a) ~~A~~ *Except as provided in subdivision (b), a public*
 21 *agency that is a responsible agency for a development project that*
 22 *has been approved by the lead agency shall approve or disapprove*
 23 *the development project within whichever of the following periods*
 24 *of time is longer:*

- 25 (1) Within 180 days from the date on which the lead agency
 26 has approved the project.
- 27 (2) Within 180 days of the date on which the completed
 28 application for the development project has been received and
 29 accepted as complete by that responsible agency.

30 (b) ~~A public agency~~ *agency other than the California Coastal*
 31 *Commission that is a responsible agency for a development project*
 32 *described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (a) of Section*
 33 *65950 that has been approved by the lead agency shall approve or*
 34 *disapprove the development project within whichever of the*
 35 *following periods of time is longer:*

- 36 (1) Within 90 days from the date on which the lead agency has
 37 approved the project.
- 38 (2) Within 90 days of the date on which the completed
 39 application for the development project has been received and
 40 accepted as complete by that responsible agency.

1 (c) At the time a decision by a lead agency to disapprove a
2 development project becomes final, applications for that project
3 which are filed with responsible agencies shall be deemed
4 withdrawn.

5 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
6 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
7 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service
8 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or
9 level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section
10 17556 of the Government Code.

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