# ASSEMBLY BILL No. 842

**Introduced by Assembly Member Jones**
**(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members DeSaulnier and Lieu)**

February 22, 2007

An act to amend Section 65009 of the Government Code, relating to local planning.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 842, as introduced, Jones. Regional plans: housing and traffic reduction.

The Planning and Zoning Law provides, among other things, that an action or proceeding to encourage or facilitate the development of housing that would increase the community's supply of housing affordable to persons and families with very low, low-, moderate-, or middle- income households must be commenced and the legislative body of the city, county, or city and county served within a year after accrual of the cause of action if it meets certain requirements.

This bill would delete an obsolete reference in these provisions and would also declare the Legislature's intent to enact legislation to create eligibility standards for the funds that will be made available from the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 and the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund of 2006, and to require, as one of those standards, that a project be located in a city or county where the council of governments or the county has adopted a regional plan to reduce the vehicle miles traveled per household and the city or county has amended its general plan to implement the regional plan's goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled per household by the percentage specified in the regional plan.

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

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

SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to create eligibility standards for the funds that will be made available from the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 and the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund of 2006, and to require, as one of those standards, that a project be located in a city or county where the council of governments or the county has adopted a regional plan to reduce the vehicle miles traveled per household and the city or county has amended its general plan to implement the regional plan's goal to reduce vehicle miles traveled per household by the percentage specified in the regional plan.

SEC. 2. Section 65009 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65009. (a) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that there currently is a housing crisis in California and it is essential to reduce delays and restraints upon expeditiously completing housing projects.

(2) The Legislature further finds and declares that a legal action or proceeding challenging a decision of a city, county, or city and county has a chilling effect on the confidence with which property owners and local governments can proceed with projects. Legal actions or proceedings filed to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul a decision of a city, county, or city and county pursuant to this division, including, but not limited to, the implementation of general plan goals and policies that provide incentives for affordable housing, open-space and recreational opportunities, and other related public benefits, can prevent the completion of needed developments even though the projects have received required governmental approvals.

(3) The purpose of this section is to provide certainty for property owners and local governments regarding decisions made pursuant to this division.

(b) (1) In an action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul a finding, determination, or decision of a public agency made pursuant to this title at a properly noticed public

hearing, the issues raised shall be limited to those raised in the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the public agency prior to, or at, the public hearing, except where the court finds either of the following:

(A) The issue could not have been raised at the public hearing by persons exercising reasonable diligence.

(B) The body conducting the public hearing prevented the issue from being raised at the public hearing.

(2) If a public agency desires the provisions of this subdivision to apply to a matter, it shall include in any public notice issued pursuant to this title a notice substantially stating all of the following: "If you challenge the (nature of the proposed action) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the (public entity conducting the hearing) at, or prior to, the public hearing."

(3) The application of this subdivision to causes of action brought pursuant to subdivision (d) applies only to the final action taken in response to the notice to the city or clerk of the board of supervisors. If no final action is taken, then the issue raised in the cause of action brought pursuant to subdivision (d) shall be limited to those matters presented at a properly noticed public hearing or to those matters specified in the notice given to the city or clerk of the board of supervisors pursuant to subdivision (d), or both.

(c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (d), no action or proceeding shall be maintained in any of the following cases by any person unless the action or proceeding is commenced and service is made on the legislative body within 90 days after the legislative body's decision:

(A) To attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the decision of a legislative body to adopt or amend a general or specific plan. This paragraph does not apply where an action is brought based upon the complete absence of a general plan or a mandatory element thereof, but does apply to an action attacking a general plan or mandatory element thereof on the basis that it is inadequate.

(B) To attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the decision of a legislative body to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance.

(C) To determine the reasonableness, legality, or validity of any decision to adopt or amend any regulation attached to a specific plan.

(D) To attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the decision of a legislative body to adopt, amend, or modify a development agreement. An action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void, or annul the decisions of a legislative body to adopt, amend, or modify a development agreement shall only extend to the specific portion of the development agreement that is the subject of the adoption, amendment, or modification. This paragraph applies to development agreements, amendments, and modifications adopted on or after January 1, 1996.

(E) To attack, review, set aside, void, or annul any decision on the matters listed in Sections 65901 and 65903, or to determine the reasonableness, legality, or validity of any condition attached to a variance, conditional use permit, or any other permit.

(F) Concerning any of the proceedings, acts, or determinations taken, done, or made prior to any of the decisions listed in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E).

(2) In the case of an action or proceeding challenging the adoption or revision of a housing element pursuant to this subdivision, the action or proceeding may, in addition, be maintained if it is commenced and service is made on the legislative body within 60 days following the date that the Department of Housing and Community Development reports its findings pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 65585.

(d) An action or proceeding shall be commenced and the legislative body served within one year after the accrual of the cause of action as provided in this subdivision, if the action or proceeding meets both of the following requirements:

(1) It is brought in support of or to encourage or facilitate the development of housing that would increase the community's supply of housing affordable to persons and families with low or moderate incomes, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or with very low incomes, as defined in Section 50105 of the Health and Safety Code, or middle-income households, as defined in Section 65008 of this code. This subdivision is not intended to require that the action or proceeding be brought in support of or to encourage or facilitate a specific housing development project.

(2) It is brought with respect to actions taken pursuant to Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of this

division, pursuant to Section 65589.5, 65863.6, 65915, or 66474.2 or pursuant to Chapter 4.2 (commencing with Section 65913).

A cause of action brought pursuant to this subdivision shall not be maintained until 60 days have expired following notice to the city or clerk of the board of supervisors by the party bringing the cause of action, or his or her representative, specifying the deficiencies of the general plan, specific plan, or zoning ordinance. A cause of action brought pursuant to this subdivision shall accrue 60 days after notice is filed or the legislative body takes a final action in response to the notice, whichever occurs first. A notice or cause of action brought by one party pursuant to this subdivision shall not bar filing of a notice and initiation of a cause of action by any other party.

(e) Upon the expiration of the time limits provided for in this section, all persons are barred from any further action or proceeding.

(f) Notwithstanding Sections 65700 and 65803, or any other provision of law, this section shall apply to charter cities.

(g) Except as provided in subdivision (d), this section shall not affect any law prescribing or authorizing a shorter period of limitation than that specified herein.

~~(h) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c), this section shall be applicable to those decisions of the legislative body of a city, county, or city and county made pursuant to this division on or after January 1, 1984.~~

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