



Home	Bill Information	California Law	Publications	Other Resources	My Subscriptions	My Favorites
------	------------------	----------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------

SB-1333 Planning and zoning: general plan: zoning regulations: charter cities. (2017-2018)

SHARE THIS:  

Date Published: 09/27/2018 09:00 PM

Senate Bill No. 1333

CHAPTER 856

An act to amend Sections 65356, 65700, 65852.150, 65852.25, 65860, 65863, 65863.4, 65863.6, 65863.8, 65866, 65867.5, and 65869.5 of the Government Code, relating to land use.

[Approved by Governor September 27, 2018. Filed with Secretary of State September 27, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1333, Wieckowski. Planning and zoning: general plan: zoning regulations: charter cities.

The Planning and Zoning Law requires each county and city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the county or city, and of certain land outside its boundaries, and requires the general plan to contain specified mandatory elements, including a housing element. That law sets forth various procedures and requirements with respect to the preparation and adoption of the general plan and housing element, including requiring the legislative body to adopt or amend a general plan by resolution by a majority vote of the total membership of the legislative body. Existing law deems the adoption of the general plan to be reviewable, provides for the preparation of specific plans for the systematic implementation of the general plan, and prohibits the approval of local public works projects and tentative or parcel maps, as specified, as well as the adoption or amendment of a zoning ordinance within an area covered by a specific plan, unless it is consistent with the adopted specific plan. Existing law prohibits the adoption or amendment of a transit village plan unless the plan or amendment is consistent with the general plan. Existing law specifies that these provisions of the Planning and Zoning Law relating to general plans and housing elements generally do not apply to charter cities, but requires a charter city to adopt, by resolution of the legislative body of the charter city or, if the charter so provides, the planning commission, a general plan that contains the mandatory elements required by that law and to comply with specified additional requirements relating to reporting to the Department of Housing and Community Development and low- and moderate-income housing in the coastal zone.

This bill would specify that these provisions of the Planning and Zoning Law regarding general plans, specific plans, and the adoption and review of housing elements apply to charter cities. The bill would also make a nonsubstantive change with respect to the requirement that a charter city adopt a general plan by resolution.

The Planning and Zoning Law additionally authorizes the legislative body to adopt ordinances that, among other things, regulate the use of buildings, structures, and land as between industry, business, residences, and other uses in accordance with specified procedures. Existing law requires each county and city to consider the effects of these ordinances on the housing needs of the region in which the local jurisdiction is situated and balance these needs against the public service needs of its residents and available fiscal and environmental resources. Existing law prohibits a local agency from enacting or enforcing an ordinance that would prohibit the reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding of a multifamily dwelling that is involuntarily damaged or destroyed, as specified, unless certain determinations are made. Existing law requires county or city zoning ordinances, including certain ordinances of a charter city with a population of 2,000,000 or more, to be consistent with the general plan, as specified. Existing law requires each city, county, or city and county to ensure that its housing element inventory or its housing element program, as

specified, can accommodate its remaining unmet share of the allocated regional housing need. Existing law authorizes a city, county, or city and county to enter into a development agreement with any person having a legal or equitable interest in real property for the development of the property, and requires such an agreement to be modified or suspended as necessary to comply with subsequent state or federal law. Existing law specifies that these provisions of the Planning and Zoning Law generally do not apply to charter cities.

This bill would, instead, specify that various provisions of the Planning and Zoning Law regarding ordinances, regional housing need, mobilehome parks, and certain development agreements apply to charter cities.

The bill would include findings that the changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities.

By adding to the duties of planning officials and legislative bodies of charter cities with respect to adopting and amending general plans and zoning ordinances, 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 Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. In amending Sections 65356, 65852.150, 65852.25, 65860, 65863, 65863.4, 65863.6, 65863.8, 65866, 65867.5, and 65869.5 of the Government Code to extend the applicability of those sections to charter cities, and in amending Section 65700 of the Government Code to extend the applicability of Sections 65300.5, 65301.5, 65359, 65450, 65454, 65455, 65460.8, 65590, and 65590.1 of, and Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of, the Government Code, to charter cities, the Legislature hereby finds and declares that it does so to address the lack of affordable housing in the state, which is of vital statewide importance, and that ensuring the location, development, approval, and access to housing for all income levels in all jurisdictions in the state is a matter of statewide concern.

SEC. 2. Section 65356 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65356. (a) The legislative body shall adopt or amend a general plan by resolution, which resolution shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the total membership of the legislative body. The legislative body may approve, modify, or disapprove the recommendation of the planning commission, if any. However, any substantial modification proposed by the legislative body not previously considered by the commission during its hearings, shall first be referred to the planning commission for its recommendation. The failure of the commission to report within 45 calendar days after the reference, or within the time set by the legislative body, shall be deemed a recommendation for approval.

(b) A general plan of a charter city shall be adopted by resolution of the legislative body of the city, or the planning commission if the charter so provides.

SEC. 3. Section 65700 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65700. (a) This chapter shall not apply to a charter city, except to the extent that the same may be adopted by charter or ordinance of the city and except that charter cities shall adopt general plans in any case. General plans of a charter city shall be adopted by resolution of the legislative body of the city, or the planning commission if the charter so provides. These general plans shall contain the mandatory elements required by Article 5 (commencing with Section 65300) of Chapter 3 of this title.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65400, Sections 65300.5, 65301.5, 65359, 65450, 65454, 65455, 65460.8, 65590, and 65590.1, and Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) shall be applicable to charter cities.

SEC. 4. Section 65852.150 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65852.150. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Accessory dwelling units are a valuable form of housing in California.

(2) Accessory dwelling units provide housing for family members, students, the elderly, in-home health care providers, the disabled, and others, at below market prices within existing neighborhoods.

(3) Homeowners who create accessory dwelling units benefit from added income, and an increased sense of security.

(4) Allowing accessory dwelling units in single-family or multifamily residential zones provides additional rental housing stock in California.

(5) California faces a severe housing crisis.

(6) The state is falling far short of meeting current and future housing demand with serious consequences for the state's economy, our ability to build green infill consistent with state greenhouse gas reduction goals, and the well-being of our citizens, particularly lower and middle-income earners.

(7) Accessory dwelling units offer lower cost housing to meet the needs of existing and future residents within existing neighborhoods, while respecting architectural character.

(8) Accessory dwelling units are, therefore, an essential component of California's housing supply.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that an accessory dwelling unit ordinance adopted by a local agency has the effect of providing for the creation of accessory dwelling units and that provisions in this ordinance relating to matters including unit size, parking, fees, and other requirements, are not so arbitrary, excessive, or burdensome so as to unreasonably restrict the ability of homeowners to create accessory dwelling units in zones in which they are authorized by local ordinance.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 5. Section 65852.25 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65852.25. (a) No local agency shall enact or enforce any ordinance, regulation, or resolution that would prohibit the reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding of a multifamily dwelling that is involuntarily damaged or destroyed by fire, other catastrophic event, or the public enemy.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a local agency may prohibit the reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding of a multifamily dwelling that is involuntarily damaged or destroyed by fire, other catastrophic event, or the public enemy, if the local agency determines that:

(1) The reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding will be detrimental or injurious to the health, safety, or general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood, or will be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood.

(2) The existing nonconforming use of the building or structure would be more appropriately moved to a zone in which the use is permitted, or that there no longer exists a zone in which the existing nonconforming use is permitted.

(c) The dwelling may be reconstructed, restored, or rebuilt up to its predamaged size and number of dwelling units, and its nonconforming use, if any, may be resumed.

(d) Any reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding undertaken pursuant to this section shall conform to all of the following:

(1) The California Building Standards Code as that code was in effect at the time of reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding.

(2) Any more restrictive local building standards authorized pursuant to Sections 13869.7, 17958.7, and 18941.5 of the Health and Safety Code, as those standards were in effect at the time of reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding.

(3) The State Historical Building Code (Part 2.7 (commencing with Section 18950) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code) for work on qualified historical buildings or structures.

(4) Local zoning ordinances, so long as the predamage size and number of dwelling units are maintained.

(5) Architectural regulations and standards, so long as the predamage size and number of dwelling units are maintained.

(6) A building permit which shall be obtained within two years after the date of the damage or destruction.

(e) A local agency may enact or enforce an ordinance, regulation, or resolution that grants greater or more permissive rights to restore, reconstruct, or rebuild a multifamily dwelling.

(f) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a local agency may prohibit the reconstruction, restoration, or rebuilding of a multifamily dwelling that is involuntarily damaged or destroyed by fire, other catastrophic event, or by the public enemy, if the building is located in an industrial zone.

(g) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

(h) For purposes of this section, "multifamily dwelling" is defined as any structure designed for human habitation that is divided into two or more independent living quarters.

SEC. 6. Section 65860 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65860. (a) County or city zoning ordinances shall be consistent with the general plan of the county or city by January 1, 1974. A zoning ordinance shall be consistent with a city or county general plan only if both of the following conditions are met:

(1) The city or county has officially adopted such a plan.

(2) The various land uses authorized by the ordinance are compatible with the objectives, policies, general land uses, and programs specified in the plan.

(b) Any resident or property owner within a city or a county, as the case may be, may bring an action or proceeding in the superior court to enforce compliance with subdivision (a). Any such action or proceeding shall be governed by Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1084) of Title 1 of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure. No action or proceeding shall be maintained pursuant to this section by any person unless the action or proceeding is commenced and service is made on the legislative body within 90 days of the enactment of any new zoning ordinance or the amendment of any existing zoning ordinance.

(c) In the event that a zoning ordinance becomes inconsistent with a general plan by reason of amendment to the plan, or to any element of the plan, the zoning ordinance shall be amended within a reasonable time so that it is consistent with the general plan as amended.

(d) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 7. Section 65863 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65863. (a) Each city, county, or city and county shall ensure that its housing element inventory described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583 or its housing element program to make sites available pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583 can accommodate, at all times throughout the planning period, its remaining unmet share of the regional housing need allocated pursuant to Section 65584, except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c). At no time, except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c), shall a city, county, or city and county by administrative, quasi-judicial, legislative, or other action permit or cause its inventory of sites identified in the housing element to be insufficient to meet its remaining unmet share of the regional housing need for lower and moderate-income households.

(b) (1) No city, county, or city and county shall, by administrative, quasi-judicial, legislative, or other action, reduce, or require or permit the reduction of, the residential density for any parcel to, or allow development of any parcel at, a lower residential density, as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (g), unless the city, county, or city and county makes written findings supported by substantial evidence of both of the following:

(A) The reduction is consistent with the adopted general plan, including the housing element.

(B) The remaining sites identified in the housing element are adequate to meet the requirements of Section 65583.2 and to accommodate the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584. The finding shall include a quantification of the remaining unmet need for the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need at each income level and the remaining capacity of sites identified in the housing element to accommodate that need by income level.

(2) If a city, county, or city and county, by administrative, quasi-judicial, legislative, or other action, allows development of any parcel with fewer units by income category than identified in the jurisdiction's housing element for that parcel, the city, county, or city and county shall make a written finding supported by substantial evidence as to whether or not remaining sites identified in the housing element are adequate to meet the requirements of Section 65583.2 and to accommodate the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584. The finding shall include a quantification of the remaining unmet need for the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need at each income level and the remaining capacity of sites identified in the housing element to accommodate that need by income level.

(c) (1) If a reduction in residential density for any parcel would result in the remaining sites in the housing element not being adequate to meet the requirements of Section 65583.2 and to accommodate the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584, the jurisdiction may reduce the density on that parcel if it identifies sufficient additional, adequate, and available sites with an equal or greater residential density in the jurisdiction so that there is no net loss of residential unit capacity.

(2) If the approval of a development project results in fewer units by income category than identified in the jurisdiction's housing element for that parcel and the jurisdiction does not find that the remaining sites in the housing element are adequate to accommodate the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need by income level, the jurisdiction shall within 180 days identify and make available additional adequate sites to accommodate the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need by

income level. Nothing in this section shall authorize a city, county, or city and county to disapprove a housing development project on the basis that approval of the housing project would require compliance with this paragraph.

(d) The requirements of this section shall be in addition to any other law that may restrict or limit the reduction of residential density.

(e) This section requires that a city, county, or city and county be solely responsible for compliance with this section, unless a project applicant requests in his or her initial application, as submitted, a density that would result in the remaining sites in the housing element not being adequate to accommodate the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584. In that case, the city, county, or city and county may require the project applicant to comply with this section. The submission of an application for purposes of this subdivision does not depend on the application being deemed complete or being accepted by the city, county, or city and county.

(f) This section shall not be construed to apply to parcels that, prior to January 1, 2003, were either (1) subject to a development agreement, or (2) parcels for which an application for a subdivision map had been submitted.

(g) (1) If the local jurisdiction has adopted a housing element for the current planning period that is in substantial compliance with Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3, for purposes of this section, "lower residential density" means the following:

(A) For sites on which the zoning designation permits residential use and that are identified in the local jurisdiction's housing element inventory described in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583, fewer units on the site than were projected by the jurisdiction to be accommodated on the site pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 65583.2.

(B) For sites that have been or will be rezoned pursuant to the local jurisdiction's housing element program described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583, fewer units for the site than were projected to be developed on the site in the housing element program.

(2) (A) If the local jurisdiction has not adopted a housing element for the current planning period within 90 days of the deadline established by Section 65588 or the adopted housing element is not in substantial compliance with Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 within 180 days of the deadline established by Section 65588, "lower residential density" means any of the following:

(i) For residentially zoned sites, a density that is lower than 80 percent of the maximum allowable residential density for that parcel or 80 percent of the maximum density required by paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.2, whichever is greater.

(ii) For sites on which residential and nonresidential uses are permitted, a use that would result in the development of fewer than 80 percent of the number of residential units that would be allowed under the maximum residential density for the site parcel or 80 percent of the maximum density required by paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.2, whichever is greater.

(B) If the council of governments fails to complete a final housing need allocation pursuant to the deadlines established by Section 65584.05, then for purposes of this paragraph, the deadline pursuant to Section 65588 shall be extended by a time period equal to the number of days of delay incurred by the council of governments in completing the final housing need allocation.

(h) An action that obligates a jurisdiction to identify and make available additional adequate sites for residential development pursuant to this section creates no obligation under the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code) to identify, analyze, or mitigate the environmental impacts of that subsequent action to identify and make available additional adequate sites as a reasonably foreseeable consequence of that action. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as a determination as to whether or not the subsequent action by a city, county, or city and county to identify and make available additional adequate sites is a "project" for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code).

(i) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 8. Section 65863.4 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65863.4. (a) Prior to noticing a public hearing on a proposed zoning ordinance or amendment to a zoning ordinance reducing the density permitted on property authorized for multifamily dwelling uses, the planning commission and legislative body shall approve a nonconforming use ordinance for multifamily dwellings that are involuntarily damaged or destroyed, which may be conditioned on the approval of an ordinance or amendment to a zoning ordinance reducing the density permitted on property authorized for multifamily dwelling uses.

(b) The planning commission and legislative body shall hold a public hearing on the proposed nonconforming use ordinance. Notice of the public hearing shall be given pursuant to Section 65090. If this hearing is held at the same time as a hearing under Section 65353 or 65854, notice for the hearings may be combined.

(c) A nonconforming multifamily dwelling ordinance need not apply to multifamily dwellings which have been abandoned for a specified period prior to being involuntarily damaged or destroyed, or to multifamily dwellings constituting a public nuisance prior to being involuntarily damaged or destroyed.

(d) For purposes of this section, "multifamily dwelling" means any structure designed for human habitation that has been divided into two or more legally created independent living quarters.

(e) This section shall not apply to either of the following:

(1) A city, county, or city and county that has adopted a nonconforming use ordinance that applies to multifamily dwellings that are involuntarily damaged or destroyed.

(2) A proposed zoning ordinance or amendment to a zoning ordinance reducing the density permitted on property authorized for multifamily dwelling uses, that has been requested by the owner of the property authorized for multifamily dwelling uses.

(f) Notwithstanding Section 65803, and except as provided in subdivision (e), this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 9. Section 65863.6 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65863.6. (a) In carrying out this chapter, each county and city shall consider the effect of ordinances adopted pursuant to this chapter on the housing needs of the region in which the local jurisdiction is situated and balance these needs against the public service needs of its residents and available fiscal and environmental resources. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this chapter which, by its terms, limits the number of housing units which may be constructed on an annual basis shall contain findings as to the public health, safety, and welfare of the city or county to be promoted by the adoption of the ordinance which justify reducing the housing opportunities of the region.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 10. Section 65863.8 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65863.8. (a) A local agency to which application has been made for the conversion of a mobilehome park to another use shall, at least 30 days prior to a hearing or any other action on the application, inform the applicant in writing of the provisions of Section 798.56 of the Civil Code and all applicable local requirements which impose upon the applicant a duty to notify residents and mobilehome owners of the mobilehome park of the proposed change in use, and shall specify therein the manner in which the applicant shall verify that residents and mobilehome owners of the mobilehome park have been notified of the proposed change in use. Neither a hearing on the application, nor any other action thereon, shall be taken by the local agency before the applicant has satisfactorily verified that the residents and mobilehome owners have been so notified, in the manner prescribed by law or local regulation.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 11. Section 65866 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65866. (a) Unless otherwise provided by the development agreement, rules, regulations, and official policies governing permitted uses of the land, governing density, and governing design, improvement, and construction standards and specifications, applicable to development of the property subject to a development agreement, shall be those rules, regulations, and official policies in force at the time of execution of the agreement. A development agreement shall not prevent a city, county, or city and county, in subsequent actions applicable to the property, from applying new rules, regulations, and policies which do not conflict with those rules, regulations, and policies applicable to the property as set forth herein, nor shall a development agreement prevent a city, county, or city and county from denying or conditionally approving any subsequent development project application on the basis of these existing or new rules, regulations, and policies.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 12. Section 65867.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65867.5. (a) A development agreement is a legislative act that shall be approved by ordinance and is subject to referendum.

(b) A development agreement shall not be approved unless the legislative body finds that the provisions of the agreement are consistent with the general plan and any applicable specific plan.

(c) A development agreement that includes a subdivision, as defined in Section 66473.7, shall not be approved unless the agreement provides that any tentative map prepared for the subdivision will comply with Section 66473.7.

(d) Notwithstanding Section 65803, this section shall also apply to a charter city.

SEC. 13. Section 65869.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65869.5. (a) If state or federal laws or regulations, enacted after a development agreement has been entered into, prevent or preclude compliance with one or more provisions of the development agreement, those provisions of the agreement shall be modified or suspended as may be necessary to comply with those state or federal laws or regulations.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 65803, a development agreement entered into by a charter city before July 1, 2018, shall not be required to comply with this article.

SEC. 14. The Legislature finds and declares that the serious shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary housing for low- and moderate-income households that was first identified in 1979 continues and that ensuring the location, development, approval, and access to housing for all income levels in all jurisdictions in California is a matter of statewide concern and not exclusively a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution. This situation requires the amendment of the charter city exemptions provided in Sections 65700 and 65803 of the Government Code as inconsistent with Section 1 of Article IV and Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution.

SEC. 15. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.