



SB 575 (Steinberg)

Local Planning: Housing Element

Chamber Committee

Transportation & Goods Movement

Summary

SB 575 is clean up legislation for SB 375, which sets land-use/transportation planning rules. It addresses exemptions for transportation sales tax projects, rezoning requirements under housing element law, and housing element due dates. It also revises open meeting requirements for the Strategic Growth Council.

Background

Exemption for transportation sales tax projects:

SB 375 required the Air Resources Board to create greenhouse gas reduction targets for each metropolitan planning organization (MPO). MPOs are then required to include a sustainable communities strategy as a component in their regional transportation plans (RTP). It also required transportation funding programming to be internally consistent within the RTP, but that certain programming sources are exempted from this requirement.

This legislation would expand internal consistency requirement exemptions to projects funded solely by a local sales tax measure if they were listed in a ballot measure prior to December 31, 2008.

Needed clean-up

The Governor, in his signing message on SB 375, outlined four areas where the bill needed to be clarified or amended. Those not expressly addressed in SB 575 include permitting exemptions for voter-approved funding of transportation projects such as those in Prop. 1B and Measure R. While there is some regulatory relief in the bill, agencies would still have to complete environmental reviews for greenhouse gas impacts for individual projects instead of doing a program wide review as is traditional for voter approved spending programs.

In addition, the bill has an unfunded mandate requiring agencies and businesses to develop and comply with Sustainable Communities Strategies even while the state has dramatically cut transit funding for the next 5 years.

Status

Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee. To be heard May 18.

Proponents/Opponents

None listed