



S A C O G

SACOG Board of Directors

Item #06-3-10
Action

March 9, 2006

CEQA Reform AB 1387 (Jones)

Issue: What position should SACOG - which is involved in advocacy to provide local governments with greater flexibility in environmental review when increasing urban development density with supportive transportation infrastructure and accompanying land protections for agricultural lands and open space - take on AB 1387 (Dave Jones), a bill to provide a more streamlined CEQA process for urban infill housing projects?

Recommendation: The Legislation & Public Affairs Committee recommends to the SACOG Board of Directors a position of support in concept on AB 1387 (Jones) and direct staff to continue advocacy to broaden the impact of the bill.

Committee Action/Discussion:

AB 1387 exempts certain urban infill housing projects from CEQA provisions that require local agencies to make findings regarding the significant impacts projects may have on traffic congestion. To be eligible for the exemption from CEQA related traffic impacts, the urban infill housing project must be no larger than 100 units, have a minimum density of 20 units per acre, and be within one-half mile of a transit stop. The project must also comply with traffic, circulation and transportation policies of the jurisdiction's general plan and its ordinances. The bill disallows the exemption if the project is proposed more than five years after the most recent project area EIR is certified, if any major change has occurred within the project area after that certification, or if certification was conditioned with overriding considerations for traffic, circulation and local transportation policy.

AB 1387 is currently pending in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

On January 26, 2006, the bill passed the Assembly Floor by a vote of 79-0. The bill is sponsored by the Assembly member. There is no formal support listed in the Committee Analyses. There is no known opposition to the measure.

We continue to work on more far reaching CEQA reform, but this bill may be a necessary and useful insurance policy if the other negotiations fail. We think SACOG would be better positioned to influence amendments to this bill if we are on record in support.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:RS:ts
Attachment

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