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SB-50 Planning and zoning: housing development: streamlined approval: incentives. (2019-2020)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2019–2020 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 50

Introduced by Senator Wiener

(Coauthors: Senators Caballero, Hueso, McGuire, Moorlach, ~~Skinner, and Stone~~ **Roth, and Skinner**)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chu, Diep, Fong, Kalra, Kiley, Low, McCarty, **Quirk-Silva**, Robert Rivas, Ting, and Wicks)

December 03, 2018

An act to amend Section 65589.5 of, to add Sections 65913.5 and 65913.6 to, and to add Chapter 4.35 (commencing with Section 65918.50) to Division 1 of Title 7 of, the Government Code, relating to housing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 50, as amended, Wiener. Planning and zoning: housing development: streamlined approval: incentives.

(1) Existing law authorizes a development proponent to submit an application for a multifamily housing development that satisfies specified planning objective standards to be subject to a streamlined, ministerial approval process, as provided, and not subject to a conditional use permit.

This bill would authorize a development proponent of a neighborhood multifamily project located on an eligible parcel to submit an application for a streamlined, ministerial approval process that is not subject to a conditional use permit. The bill would define a "neighborhood multifamily project" to mean a project to construct a multifamily structure on vacant land, or to convert an existing structure that does not require substantial exterior alteration into a multifamily structure, consisting of up to 4 residential dwelling units and that meets local height, setback, and lot coverage zoning requirements as they existed on July 1, 2019. The bill would also define "eligible parcel" to mean a parcel that meets specified requirements, including requirements relating to the location of the parcel and restricting the demolition of certain housing development that may already exist on the site.

This bill would require a local agency to notify the development proponent in writing if the local agency determines that the development conflicts with any of the requirements provided for streamlined ministerial approval within 60 days of the submission of the development to the local agency. If the local agency does not notify the development proponent within this time period, the development would be deemed to comply with those requirements. The bill would limit the authority of a local agency to impose parking standards or requirements on a streamlined development approved pursuant to these provisions, as provided. The bill would provide that the approval of a project under these provisions expires automatically after 3 years, unless that project qualifies for a one-time, one-year extension of that approval. The bill would provide that approval pursuant to its provisions would remain valid for 3 years and remain valid thereafter, so long as vertical construction of the development has begun and is in progress, and would authorize a discretionary one-year extension, as provided. The bill would prohibit a local agency from adopting any requirement that applies to a project solely or partially on the basis that the project receives ministerial or streamlined approval pursuant to these provisions.

This bill would allow a local agency to exempt a project from the streamlined ministerial approval process described above by finding that the project will cause a specific adverse impact to public health and safety, and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA does not apply to the approval of ministerial projects.

This bill would establish a streamlined ministerial approval process for neighborhood multifamily projects, thereby exempting these projects from the CEQA approval process.

(2) Existing law, known as the density bonus law, requires, when an applicant proposes a housing development within the jurisdiction of a local government, that the city, county, or city and county provide the developer with a density bonus and other incentives or concessions for the production of lower income housing units or for the donation of land within the development if the developer, among other things, agrees to construct a specified percentage of units for very low, low-, or moderate-income households or qualifying residents.

This ~~bill~~ *bill, on or after January 1, 2023*, would require a *specified* city, county, or city and county to grant upon request an equitable communities incentive when a development proponent seeks and agrees to construct a residential development, as defined, that satisfies specified criteria, including, among other things, that the residential development is either a job-rich housing project or a transit-rich housing project, as those terms are defined; the site does not contain, or has not contained, housing occupied by tenants or accommodations withdrawn from rent or lease in accordance with specified law within specified time periods; and the residential development complies with specified additional requirements under existing law. The bill would impose additional requirements on a residential development located within a county with a population equal to or less than 600,000. The bill would require that a residential development within a county with a population greater than 600,000 that is eligible for an equitable communities incentive receive, upon request, waivers from maximum controls on density; minimum automobile parking requirements greater than 0.5 parking spots per unit; and specified additional waivers if the residential development is located within a $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile or $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile radius of a major transit stop, as defined. For a residential development within a county with a population equal to or less than 600,000, the bill would instead require that the incentive provide waivers from maximum controls on density, subject to certain limitations; maximum height limitations less than or equal to one story, or 15 feet, above the highest allowable height for mixed use or residential use; certain requirements governing the size of the parcel and the area that the building may occupy; and minimum automobile parking requirements, as provided. The bill would require a local government to grant an equitable communities incentive unless it makes a specified finding regarding the effects of the incentive on any real property or historic district that is listed on a federal or state register of historical resources. The bill would authorize a local government to modify or expand the terms of an equitable communities incentive, provided that the equitable communities incentive is consistent with these provisions.

The bill would delay implementation of these provisions in potentially sensitive communities, as defined, until July 1, 2023. The bill would further delay implementation of these provisions in sensitive communities, determined as provided, until January 1, 2026, unless the city or county in which the area is located votes to make these provisions applicable after a specified petition and public hearing process. On and after January 1, 2026, the bill would apply these provisions to a sensitive community unless the city or county adopts a community plan for the area that meets certain requirements.

The bill would also exempt from these provisions a local government that has a local flexibility plan that has been reviewed and certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development, as specified. The bill, on or before July 1, 2021, would require the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community

Development, to develop and publish on its internet website rules, regulations, or guidelines for the submission and approval of a local flexibility plan, as specified. The bill, on or after July 1, 2021, would authorize a local government to submit a local flexibility plan for review and approval by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to those rules, regulations, or guidelines.

The bill would include findings that the changes proposed by these provisions address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities. ~~The bill would also delay implementation of these provisions in potentially sensitive communities, as defined, until July 1, 2020. The bill would further delay implementation of these provisions in sensitive communities, determined as provided, until January 1, 2026, unless the city or county in which the area is located votes to make these provisions applicable after a specified petition and public hearing process. On and after January 1, 2026, the bill would apply these provisions to a sensitive community unless the city or county adopts a community plan for the area that meets certain requirements.~~

The Housing Accountability Act prohibits a local agency from disapproving, or conditioning approval in a manner that renders infeasible, a housing development project that complies with applicable, objective general plan, zoning, and subdivision standards and criteria in effect at the time the application for the project is deemed complete unless the local agency makes specified written findings based on a preponderance of the evidence in the record. That law provides that the receipt of a density bonus is not a valid basis on which to find a proposed housing development is inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in conformity with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision of that act.

This bill would additionally provide that the receipt of an equitable communities incentive is not a valid basis on which to find a proposed housing development is inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in conformity with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision of that act.

(3) By adding to the duties of local planning officials, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(4) 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. Section 65589.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:~~

~~65589.5. (a)(1) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:~~

~~(A) The lack of housing, including emergency shelters, is a critical problem that threatens the economic, environmental, and social quality of life in California.~~

~~(B) California housing has become the most expensive in the nation. The excessive cost of the state's housing supply is partially caused by activities and policies of many local governments that limit the approval of housing, increase the cost of land for housing, and require that high fees and exactions be paid by producers of housing.~~

~~(C) Among the consequences of these actions are discrimination against low-income and minority households, lack of housing to support employment growth, imbalance in jobs and housing, reduced mobility, urban sprawl, excessive commuting, and air quality deterioration.~~

~~(D) Many local governments do not give adequate attention to the economic, environmental, and social costs of decisions that result in disapproval of housing development projects, reduction in density of housing projects, and excessive standards for housing development projects.~~

~~(2) In enacting the amendments made to this section by the act adding this paragraph, the Legislature further finds and declares the following:~~

~~(A) California has a housing supply and affordability crisis of historic proportions. The consequences of failing to effectively and aggressively confront this crisis are hurting millions of Californians, robbing future generations of the chance to call California home, stifling economic opportunities for workers and businesses, worsening poverty and homelessness, and undermining the state's environmental and climate objectives.~~

~~(B) While the causes of this crisis are multiple and complex, the absence of meaningful and effective policy reforms to significantly enhance the approval and supply of housing affordable to Californians of all income levels is a key factor.~~

~~(C)The crisis has grown so acute in California that supply, demand, and affordability fundamentals are characterized in the negative: underserved demands, constrained supply, and protracted unaffordability.~~

~~(D)According to reports and data, California has accumulated an unmet housing backlog of nearly 2,000,000 units and must provide for at least 180,000 new units annually to keep pace with growth through 2025.~~

~~(E)California's overall homeownership rate is at its lowest level since the 1940s. The state ranks 49th out of the 50 states in homeownership rates as well as in the supply of housing per capita. Only one-half of California's households are able to afford the cost of housing in their local regions.~~

~~(F)Lack of supply and rising costs are compounding inequality and limiting advancement opportunities for many Californians.~~

~~(G)The majority of California renters, more than 3,000,000 households, pay more than 30 percent of their income toward rent and nearly one-third, more than 1,500,000 households, pay more than 50 percent of their income toward rent.~~

~~(H)When Californians have access to safe and affordable housing, they have more money for food and health care; they are less likely to become homeless and in need of government subsidized services; their children do better in school; and businesses have an easier time recruiting and retaining employees.~~

~~(I)An additional consequence of the state's cumulative housing shortage is a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions caused by the displacement and redirection of populations to states with greater housing opportunities, particularly working- and middle-class households. California's cumulative housing shortfall therefore has not only national but international environmental consequences.~~

~~(J)California's housing picture has reached a crisis of historic proportions despite the fact that, for decades, the Legislature has enacted numerous statutes intended to significantly increase the approval, development, and affordability of housing for all income levels, including this section.~~

~~(K)The Legislature's intent in enacting this section in 1982 and in expanding its provisions since then was to significantly increase the approval and construction of new housing for all economic segments of California's communities by meaningfully and effectively curbing the capability of local governments to deny, reduce the density for, or render infeasible housing development projects and emergency shelters. That intent has not been fulfilled.~~

~~(L)It is the policy of the state that this section should be interpreted and implemented in a manner to afford the fullest possible weight to the interest of, and the approval and provision of, housing.~~

~~(3)It is the intent of the Legislature that the conditions that would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health and safety, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (j), arise infrequently.~~

~~(b)It is the policy of the state that a local government not reject or make infeasible housing development projects, including emergency shelters, that contribute to meeting the need determined pursuant to this article without a thorough analysis of the economic, social, and environmental effects of the action and without complying with subdivision (d).~~

~~(c)The Legislature also recognizes that premature and unnecessary development of agricultural lands for urban uses continues to have adverse effects on the availability of those lands for food and fiber production and on the economy of the state. Furthermore, it is the policy of the state that development should be guided away from prime agricultural lands; therefore, in implementing this section, local jurisdictions should encourage, to the maximum extent practicable, in filling existing urban areas.~~

~~(d)A local agency shall not disapprove a housing development project, including farmworker housing as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 50199.7 of the Health and Safety Code, for very low, low-, or moderate-income households, or an emergency shelter, or condition approval in a manner that renders the housing development project infeasible for development for the use of very low, low-, or moderate-income households, or an emergency shelter, including through the use of design review standards, unless it makes written findings, based upon a preponderance of the evidence in the record, as to one of the following:~~

~~(1)The jurisdiction has adopted a housing element pursuant to this article that has been revised in accordance with Section 65588, is in substantial compliance with this article, and the jurisdiction has met or exceeded its share of the regional housing need allocation pursuant to Section 65584 for the planning period for the income category proposed for the housing development project, provided that any disapproval or conditional approval shall not be based on any of the reasons prohibited by Section 65008. If the housing development project includes a mix of income categories, and the jurisdiction has not met or exceeded its share of the regional housing need for one or more of those categories, then this paragraph shall not be used to disapprove or conditionally approve the housing development project. The share of the regional housing need met by the jurisdiction shall be calculated consistently with the forms and definitions that may be adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to Section 65400. In the case of an emergency shelter, the jurisdiction shall have met or exceeded the~~

~~need for emergency shelter, as identified pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583. Any disapproval or conditional approval pursuant to this paragraph shall be in accordance with applicable law, rule, or standards.~~

~~(2)The housing development project or emergency shelter as proposed would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety, and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact without rendering the development unaffordable to low- and moderate-income households or rendering the development of the emergency shelter financially infeasible. As used in this paragraph, a "specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete. Inconsistency with the zoning ordinance or general plan land use designation shall not constitute a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety.~~

~~(3)The denial of the housing development project or imposition of conditions is required in order to comply with specific state or federal law, and there is no feasible method to comply without rendering the development unaffordable to low- and moderate-income households or rendering the development of the emergency shelter financially infeasible.~~

~~(4)The housing development project or emergency shelter is proposed on land zoned for agriculture or resource preservation that is surrounded on at least two sides by land being used for agricultural or resource preservation purposes, or which does not have adequate water or wastewater facilities to serve the project.~~

~~(5)The housing development project or emergency shelter is inconsistent with both the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance and general plan land use designation as specified in any element of the general plan as it existed on the date the application was deemed complete, and the jurisdiction has adopted a revised housing element in accordance with Section 65588 that is in substantial compliance with this article. For purposes of this section, a change to the zoning ordinance or general plan land use designation subsequent to the date the application was deemed complete shall not constitute a valid basis to disapprove or condition approval of the housing development project or emergency shelter.~~

~~(A)This paragraph cannot be utilized to disapprove or conditionally approve a housing development project if the housing development project is proposed on a site that is identified as suitable or available for very low, low-, or moderate-income households in the jurisdiction's housing element, and consistent with the density specified in the housing element, even though it is inconsistent with both the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance and general plan land use designation.~~

~~(B)If the local agency has failed to identify in the inventory of land in its housing element sites that can be developed for housing within the planning period and are sufficient to provide for the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need for all income levels pursuant to Section 65584, then this paragraph shall not be utilized to disapprove or conditionally approve a housing development project proposed for a site designated in any element of the general plan for residential uses or designated in any element of the general plan for commercial uses if residential uses are permitted or conditionally permitted within commercial designations. In any action in court, the burden of proof shall be on the local agency to show that its housing element does identify adequate sites with appropriate zoning and development standards and with services and facilities to accommodate the local agency's share of the regional housing need for the very low, low-, and moderate-income categories.~~

~~(C)If the local agency has failed to identify a zone or zones where emergency shelters are allowed as a permitted use without a conditional use or other discretionary permit, has failed to demonstrate that the identified zone or zones include sufficient capacity to accommodate the need for emergency shelter identified in paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583, or has failed to demonstrate that the identified zone or zones can accommodate at least one emergency shelter, as required by paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583, then this paragraph shall not be utilized to disapprove or conditionally approve an emergency shelter proposed for a site designated in any element of the general plan for industrial, commercial, or multifamily residential uses. In any action in court, the burden of proof shall be on the local agency to show that its housing element does satisfy the requirements of paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583.~~

~~(e)Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve the local agency from complying with the congestion management program required by Chapter 2.6 (commencing with Section 65088) of Division 1 of Title 7 or the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code). Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve the local agency from making one or more of the findings required pursuant to Section 21081 of the Public Resources Code or otherwise complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code).~~

~~(f)(1)Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a local agency from requiring the housing development project to comply with objective, quantifiable, written development standards, conditions, and policies appropriate to, and consistent with, meeting the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584. However, the development standards, conditions, and policies shall be applied to facilitate and accommodate development at the density permitted on the site and proposed by the development.~~

~~(2)Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a local agency from requiring an emergency shelter project to comply with objective, quantifiable, written development standards, conditions, and policies that are consistent with paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583 and appropriate to, and consistent with, meeting the jurisdiction's need for emergency shelter, as identified pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583. However, the development standards, conditions, and policies shall be applied by the local agency to facilitate and accommodate the development of the emergency shelter project.~~

~~(3)This section does not prohibit a local agency from imposing fees and other exactions otherwise authorized by law that are essential to provide necessary public services and facilities to the housing development project or emergency shelter.~~

~~(4)For purposes of this section, a housing development project or emergency shelter shall be deemed consistent, compliant, and in conformity with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision if there is substantial evidence that would allow a reasonable person to conclude that the housing development project or emergency shelter is consistent, compliant, or in conformity.~~

~~(g)This section shall be applicable to charter cities because the Legislature finds that the lack of housing, including emergency shelter, is a critical statewide problem.~~

~~(h)The following definitions apply for the purposes of this section:~~

~~(1)"Feasible" means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.~~

~~(2)"Housing development project" means a use consisting of any of the following:~~

~~(A)Residential units only.~~

~~(B)Mixed-use developments consisting of residential and nonresidential uses with at least two-thirds of the square footage designated for residential use.~~

~~(C)Transitional housing or supportive housing.~~

~~(3)"Housing for very low, low-, or moderate-income households" means that either (A) at least 20 percent of the total units shall be sold or rented to lower income households, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or (B) 100 percent of the units shall be sold or rented to persons and families of moderate income as defined in Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code, or persons and families of middle income, as defined in Section 65008 of this code. Housing units targeted for lower income households shall be made available at a monthly housing cost that does not exceed 30 percent of 60 percent of area median income with adjustments for household size made in accordance with the adjustment factors on which the lower income eligibility limits are based. Housing units targeted for persons and families of moderate income shall be made available at a monthly housing cost that does not exceed 30 percent of 100 percent of area median income with adjustments for household size made in accordance with the adjustment factors on which the moderate income eligibility limits are based.~~

~~(4)"Area median income" means area median income as periodically established by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code. The developer shall provide sufficient legal commitments to ensure continued availability of units for very low or low-income households in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision for 30 years.~~

~~(5)"Disapprove the housing development project" includes any instance in which a local agency does either of the following:~~

~~(A)Votes on a proposed housing development project application and the application is disapproved, including any required land use approvals or entitlements necessary for the issuance of a building permit.~~

~~(B)Fails to comply with the time periods specified in subdivision (a) of Section 65950. An extension of time pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 65950) shall be deemed to be an extension of time pursuant to this paragraph.~~

~~(i)If any city, county, or city and county denies approval or imposes conditions, including design changes, lower density, or a reduction of the percentage of a lot that may be occupied by a building or structure under the applicable planning and zoning in force at the time the application is deemed complete pursuant to Section 65943, that have a substantial adverse effect on the viability or affordability of a housing development for very low, low-, or moderate-income households, and the denial of the development or the imposition of conditions on the development is the subject of a court action which challenges the denial or the imposition of conditions, then the burden of proof shall be on the local legislative body to show that its decision is consistent with the findings as described in subdivision (d) and that the findings are supported by a preponderance of the evidence in the record. For purposes of this section, "lower density" includes any conditions that have the same effect or impact on the ability of the project to provide housing.~~

~~(j)(1)When a proposed housing development project complies with applicable, objective general plan, zoning, and subdivision standards and criteria, including design review standards, in effect at the time that the housing development project's application is determined to be complete, but the local agency proposes to disapprove the project or to impose a condition that the project be developed at a lower density, the local agency shall base its decision regarding the proposed housing development project upon written findings supported by a preponderance of the evidence on the record that both of the following conditions exist:~~

~~(A)The housing development project would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety unless the project is disapproved or approved upon the condition that the project be developed at a lower density. As used in this paragraph, a "specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.~~

~~(B)There is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact identified pursuant to paragraph (1), other than the disapproval of the housing development project or the approval of the project upon the condition that it be developed at a lower density.~~

~~(2)(A)If the local agency considers a proposed housing development project to be inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in conformity with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision as specified in this subdivision, it shall provide the applicant with written documentation identifying the provision or provisions, and an explanation of the reason or reasons it considers the housing development to be inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in conformity as follows:~~

~~(i)Within 30 days of the date that the application for the housing development project is determined to be complete, if the housing development project contains 150 or fewer housing units.~~

~~(ii)Within 60 days of the date that the application for the housing development project is determined to be complete, if the housing development project contains more than 150 units.~~

~~(B)If the local agency fails to provide the required documentation pursuant to subparagraph (A), the housing development project shall be deemed consistent, compliant, and in conformity with the applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision.~~

~~(3)For purposes of this section, the receipt of a density bonus pursuant to Section 65915 or an equitable communities incentive pursuant to Section 65918.51 shall not constitute a valid basis on which to find a proposed housing development project is inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in conformity with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision specified in this subdivision.~~

~~(4)For purposes of this section, a proposed housing development project is not inconsistent with the applicable zoning standards and criteria, and shall not require a rezoning, if the housing development project is consistent with the objective general plan standards and criteria but the zoning for the project site is inconsistent with the general plan. If the local agency has complied with paragraph (2), the local agency may require the proposed housing development project to comply with the objective standards and criteria of the zoning which is consistent with the general plan, however, the standards and criteria shall be applied to facilitate and accommodate development at the density allowed on the site by the general plan and proposed by the proposed housing development project.~~

~~(5)For purposes of this section, "lower density" includes any conditions that have the same effect or impact on the ability of the project to provide housing.~~

~~(k)(1)(A)The applicant, a person who would be eligible to apply for residency in the development or emergency shelter, or a housing organization may bring an action to enforce this section. If, in any action brought to enforce this section, a court finds that either (i) the local agency, in violation of subdivision (d), disapproved a housing development project or conditioned its approval in a manner rendering it infeasible for the development of an emergency shelter, or housing for very low, low-, or moderate-income households, including farmworker housing, without making the findings required by this section or without making findings supported by a preponderance of the evidence, or (ii) the local agency, in violation of subdivision (j), disapproved a housing development project complying with applicable, objective general plan and zoning standards and criteria, or imposed a condition that the project be developed at a lower density, without making the findings required by this section or without making findings supported by a preponderance of the evidence, the court shall issue an order or judgment compelling compliance with this section within 60 days, including, but not limited to, an order that the local agency take action on the housing development project or emergency shelter. The court may issue an order or judgment directing the local agency to approve the housing development project or emergency shelter if the court finds that the local agency acted in bad faith when it disapproved or conditionally approved the housing development or emergency shelter in violation of this section. The court shall retain jurisdiction to ensure that its order or judgment is carried out and shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit to the plaintiff or petitioner, except under extraordinary circumstances in which the court finds that awarding fees would not further the purposes of this~~

section. For purposes of this section, "lower density" includes conditions that have the same effect or impact on the ability of the project to provide housing.

~~(B)(i) Upon a determination that the local agency has failed to comply with the order or judgment compelling compliance with this section within 60 days issued pursuant to subparagraph (A), the court shall impose fines on a local agency that has violated this section and require the local agency to deposit any fine levied pursuant to this subdivision into a local housing trust fund. The local agency may elect to instead deposit the fine into the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund, if Senate Bill 2 of the 2017-18 Regular Session is enacted, or otherwise in the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund. The fine shall be in a minimum amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per housing unit in the housing development project on the date the application was deemed complete pursuant to Section 65943. In determining the amount of fine to impose, the court shall consider the local agency's progress in attaining its target allocation of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584 and any prior violations of this section. Fines shall not be paid out of funds already dedicated to affordable housing, including, but not limited to, Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Funds, funds dedicated to housing for very low, low-, and moderate-income households, and federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Block Grant Program funds. The local agency shall commit and expend the money in the local housing trust fund within five years for the sole purpose of financing newly constructed housing units affordable to extremely low, very low, or low income households. After five years, if the funds have not been expended, the money shall revert to the state and be deposited in the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund, if Senate Bill 2 of the 2017-18 Regular Session is enacted, or otherwise in the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund, for the sole purpose of financing newly constructed housing units affordable to extremely low, very low, or low income households.~~

~~(ii) If any money derived from a fine imposed pursuant to this subparagraph is deposited in the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund, then, notwithstanding Section 50661 of the Health and Safety Code, that money shall be available only upon appropriation by the Legislature.~~

~~(C) If the court determines that its order or judgment has not been carried out within 60 days, the court may issue further orders as provided by law to ensure that the purposes and policies of this section are fulfilled, including, but not limited to, an order to vacate the decision of the local agency and to approve the housing development project, in which case the application for the housing development project, as proposed by the applicant at the time the local agency took the initial action determined to be in violation of this section, along with any standard conditions determined by the court to be generally imposed by the local agency on similar projects, shall be deemed to be approved unless the applicant consents to a different decision or action by the local agency.~~

~~(2) For purposes of this subdivision, "housing organization" means a trade or industry group whose local members are primarily engaged in the construction or management of housing units or a nonprofit organization whose mission includes providing or advocating for increased access to housing for low income households and have filed written or oral comments with the local agency prior to action on the housing development project. A housing organization may only file an action pursuant to this section to challenge the disapproval of a housing development by a local agency. A housing organization shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs if it is the prevailing party in an action to enforce this section.~~

~~(l) If the court finds that the local agency (1) acted in bad faith when it disapproved or conditionally approved the housing development or emergency shelter in violation of this section and (2) failed to carry out the court's order or judgment within 60 days as described in subdivision (k), the court, in addition to any other remedies provided by this section, shall multiply the fine determined pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) by a factor of five. For purposes of this section, "bad faith" includes, but is not limited to, an action that is frivolous or otherwise entirely without merit.~~

~~(m) Any action brought to enforce the provisions of this section shall be brought pursuant to Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and the local agency shall prepare and certify the record of proceedings in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure no later than 30 days after the petition is served, provided that the cost of preparation of the record shall be borne by the local agency, unless the petitioner elects to prepare the record as provided in subdivision (n) of this section. A petition to enforce the provisions of this section shall be filed and served no later than 90 days from the later of (1) the effective date of a decision of the local agency imposing conditions on, disapproving, or any other final action on a housing development project or (2) the expiration of the time periods specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (h). Upon entry of the trial court's order, a party may, in order to obtain appellate review of the order, file a petition within 20 days after service upon it of a written notice of the entry of the order, or within such further time not exceeding an additional 20 days as the trial court may for good cause allow, or may appeal the judgment or order of the trial court under Section 904.1 of the Code of Civil Procedure. If the local agency appeals the judgment of the trial court, the local agency shall post a bond, in an amount to be determined by the court, to the benefit of the plaintiff if the plaintiff is the project applicant.~~

~~(n) In any action, the record of the proceedings before the local agency shall be filed as expeditiously as possible and, notwithstanding Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure or subdivision (m) of this section, all or part of the record may be prepared (1) by the petitioner with the petition or petitioner's points and authorities, (2) by the respondent with respondent's points~~

~~and authorities, (3) after payment of costs by the petitioner, or (4) as otherwise directed by the court. If the expense of preparing the record has been borne by the petitioner and the petitioner is the prevailing party, the expense shall be taxable as costs.~~

~~(e) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as the Housing Accountability Act.~~

SECTION 1. *Section 65589.5 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 3.1 of Chapter 665 of the Statutes of 2019, is amended to read:*

65589.5. (a) (1) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(A) The lack of housing, including emergency shelters, is a critical problem that threatens the economic, environmental, and social quality of life in California.

(B) California housing has become the most expensive in the nation. The excessive cost of the state's housing supply is partially caused by activities and policies of many local governments that limit the approval of housing, increase the cost of land for housing, and require that high fees and exactions be paid by producers of housing.

(C) Among the consequences of those actions are discrimination against low-income and minority households, lack of housing to support employment growth, imbalance in jobs and housing, reduced mobility, urban sprawl, excessive commuting, and air quality deterioration.

(D) Many local governments do not give adequate attention to the economic, environmental, and social costs of decisions that result in disapproval of housing development projects, reduction in density of housing projects, and excessive standards for housing development projects.

(2) In enacting the amendments made to this section by the act adding this paragraph, the Legislature further finds and declares the following:

(A) California has a housing supply and affordability crisis of historic proportions. The consequences of failing to effectively and aggressively confront this crisis are hurting millions of Californians, robbing future generations of the chance to call California home, stifling economic opportunities for workers and businesses, worsening poverty and homelessness, and undermining the state's environmental and climate objectives.

(B) While the causes of this crisis are multiple and complex, the absence of meaningful and effective policy reforms to significantly enhance the approval and supply of housing affordable to Californians of all income levels is a key factor.

(C) The crisis has grown so acute in California that supply, demand, and affordability fundamentals are characterized in the negative: underserved demands, constrained supply, and protracted unaffordability.

(D) According to reports and data, California has accumulated an unmet housing backlog of nearly 2,000,000 units and must provide for at least 180,000 new units annually to keep pace with growth through 2025.

(E) California's overall homeownership rate is at its lowest level since the 1940s. The state ranks 49th out of the 50 states in homeownership rates as well as in the supply of housing per capita. Only one-half of California's households are able to afford the cost of housing in their local regions.

(F) Lack of supply and rising costs are compounding inequality and limiting advancement opportunities for many Californians.

(G) The majority of California renters, more than 3,000,000 households, pay more than 30 percent of their income toward rent and nearly one-third, more than 1,500,000 households, pay more than 50 percent of their income toward rent.

(H) When Californians have access to safe and affordable housing, they have more money for food and health care; they are less likely to become homeless and in need of government-subsidized services; their children do better in school; and businesses have an easier time recruiting and retaining employees.

(I) An additional consequence of the state's cumulative housing shortage is a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions caused by the displacement and redirection of populations to states with greater housing opportunities, particularly working- and middle-class households. California's cumulative housing shortfall therefore has not only national but international environmental consequences.

(J) California's housing picture has reached a crisis of historic proportions despite the fact that, for decades, the Legislature has enacted numerous statutes intended to significantly increase the approval, development, and affordability of housing for all income levels, including this section.

(K) The Legislature's intent in enacting this section in 1982 and in expanding its provisions since then was to significantly increase the approval and construction of new housing for all economic segments of California's communities by meaningfully and effectively curbing the capability of local governments to deny, reduce the density for, or render infeasible housing development projects and emergency shelters. That intent has not been fulfilled.

(L) It is the policy of the state that this section be interpreted and implemented in a manner to afford the fullest possible weight to the interest of, and the approval and provision of, housing.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature that the conditions that would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health and safety, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (j), arise infrequently.

(b) It is the policy of the state that a local government not reject or make infeasible housing development projects, including emergency shelters, that contribute to meeting the need determined pursuant to this article without a thorough analysis of the economic, social, and environmental effects of the action and without complying with subdivision (d).

(c) The Legislature also recognizes that premature and unnecessary development of agricultural lands for urban uses continues to have adverse effects on the availability of those lands for food and fiber production and on the economy of the state. Furthermore, it is the policy of the state that development should be guided away from prime agricultural lands; therefore, in implementing this section, local jurisdictions should encourage, to the maximum extent practicable, in filling existing urban areas.

(d) A local agency shall not disapprove a housing development project, including farmworker housing as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 50199.7 of the Health and Safety Code, for very low, low-, or moderate-income households, or an emergency shelter, or condition approval in a manner that renders the housing development project infeasible for development for the use of very low, low-, or moderate-income households, or an emergency shelter, including through the use of design review standards, unless it makes written findings, based upon a preponderance of the evidence in the record, as to one of the following:

(1) The jurisdiction has adopted a housing element pursuant to this article that has been revised in accordance with Section 65588, is in substantial compliance with this article, and the jurisdiction has met or exceeded its share of the regional housing need allocation pursuant to Section 65584 for the planning period for the income category proposed for the housing development project, provided that any disapproval or conditional approval shall not be based on any of the reasons prohibited by Section 65008. If the housing development project includes a mix of income categories, and the jurisdiction has not met or exceeded its share of the regional housing need for one or more of those categories, then this paragraph shall not be used to disapprove or conditionally approve the housing development project. The share of the regional housing need met by the jurisdiction shall be calculated consistently with the forms and definitions that may be adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to Section 65400. In the case of an emergency shelter, the jurisdiction shall have met or exceeded the need for emergency shelter, as identified pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583. Any disapproval or conditional approval pursuant to this paragraph shall be in accordance with applicable law, rule, or standards.

(2) The housing development project or emergency shelter as proposed would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety, and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact without rendering the development unaffordable to low- and moderate-income households or rendering the development of the emergency shelter financially infeasible. As used in this paragraph, a "specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete. The following shall not constitute a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety:

(A) Inconsistency with the zoning ordinance or general plan land use designation.

(B) The eligibility to claim a welfare exemption under subdivision (g) of Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(3) The denial of the housing development project or imposition of conditions is required in order to comply with specific state or federal law, and there is no feasible method to comply without rendering the development unaffordable to low- and moderate-income households or rendering the development of the emergency shelter financially infeasible.

(4) The housing development project or emergency shelter is proposed on land zoned for agriculture or resource preservation that is surrounded on at least two sides by land being used for agricultural or resource preservation purposes, or which does not have adequate water or wastewater facilities to serve the project.

(5) The housing development project or emergency shelter is inconsistent with both the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance and general plan land use designation as specified in any element of the general plan as it existed on the date the application was deemed complete, and the jurisdiction has adopted a revised housing element in accordance with Section 65588 that is in substantial compliance with this article. For purposes of this section, a change to the zoning ordinance or general plan land use

designation subsequent to the date the application was deemed complete shall not constitute a valid basis to disapprove or condition approval of the housing development project or emergency shelter.

(A) This paragraph cannot be utilized to disapprove or conditionally approve a housing development project if the housing development project is proposed on a site that is identified as suitable or available for very low, low-, or moderate-income households in the jurisdiction's housing element, and consistent with the density specified in the housing element, even though it is inconsistent with both the jurisdiction's zoning ordinance and general plan land use designation.

(B) If the local agency has failed to identify in the inventory of land in its housing element sites that can be developed for housing within the planning period and are sufficient to provide for the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need for all income levels pursuant to Section 65584, then this paragraph shall not be utilized to disapprove or conditionally approve a housing development project proposed for a site designated in any element of the general plan for residential uses or designated in any element of the general plan for commercial uses if residential uses are permitted or conditionally permitted within commercial designations. In any action in court, the burden of proof shall be on the local agency to show that its housing element does identify adequate sites with appropriate zoning and development standards and with services and facilities to accommodate the local agency's share of the regional housing need for the very low, low-, and moderate-income categories.

(C) If the local agency has failed to identify a zone or zones where emergency shelters are allowed as a permitted use without a conditional use or other discretionary permit, has failed to demonstrate that the identified zone or zones include sufficient capacity to accommodate the need for emergency shelter identified in paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583, or has failed to demonstrate that the identified zone or zones can accommodate at least one emergency shelter, as required by paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583, then this paragraph shall not be utilized to disapprove or conditionally approve an emergency shelter proposed for a site designated in any element of the general plan for industrial, commercial, or multifamily residential uses. In any action in court, the burden of proof shall be on the local agency to show that its housing element does satisfy the requirements of paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve the local agency from complying with the congestion management program required by Chapter 2.6 (commencing with Section 65088) of Division 1 of Title 7 or the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code). ~~Neither shall anything in this section~~ **This section shall not** be construed to relieve the local agency from making one or more of the findings required pursuant to Section 21081 of the Public Resources Code or otherwise complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code).

(f) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (o), nothing in shall be construed to prohibit a local agency from requiring the housing development project to comply with objective, quantifiable, written development standards, conditions, and policies appropriate to, and consistent with, meeting the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584. However, the development standards, conditions, and policies shall be applied to facilitate and accommodate development at the density permitted on the site and proposed by the development.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (o), nothing in shall be construed to prohibit a local agency from requiring an emergency shelter project to comply with objective, quantifiable, written development standards, conditions, and policies that are consistent with paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583 and appropriate to, and consistent with, meeting the jurisdiction's need for emergency shelter, as identified pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 65583. However, the development standards, conditions, and policies shall be applied by the local agency to facilitate and accommodate the development of the emergency shelter project.

(3) Except as provided in subdivision (o), nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a local agency from imposing fees and other exactions otherwise authorized by law that are essential to provide necessary public services and facilities to the housing development project or emergency shelter.

(4) For purposes of this section, a housing development project or emergency shelter shall be deemed consistent, compliant, and in conformity with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision if there is substantial evidence that would allow a reasonable person to conclude that the housing development project or emergency shelter is consistent, compliant, or in conformity.

(g) This section shall be applicable to charter cities because the Legislature finds that the lack of housing, including emergency shelter, is a critical statewide problem.

(h) The following definitions apply for the purposes of this section:

(1) "Feasible" means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.

(2) "Housing development project" means a use consisting of any of the following:

(A) Residential units only.

(B) Mixed-use developments consisting of residential and nonresidential uses with at least two-thirds of the square footage designated for residential use.

(C) Transitional housing or supportive housing.

(3) "Housing for very low, low-, or moderate-income households" means that either (A) at least 20 percent of the total units shall be sold or rented to lower income households, as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or (B) 100 percent of the units shall be sold or rented to persons and families of moderate income as defined in Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code, or persons and families of middle income, as defined in Section 65008 of this code. Housing units targeted for lower income households shall be made available at a monthly housing cost that does not exceed 30 percent of 60 percent of area median income with adjustments for household size made in accordance with the adjustment factors on which the lower income eligibility limits are based. Housing units targeted for persons and families of moderate income shall be made available at a monthly housing cost that does not exceed 30 percent of 100 percent of area median income with adjustments for household size made in accordance with the adjustment factors on which the moderate-income eligibility limits are based.

(4) "Area median income" means area median income as periodically established by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code. The developer shall provide sufficient legal commitments to ensure continued availability of units for very low or low-income households in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision for 30 years.

(5) Notwithstanding any other law, until January 1, 2025, "deemed complete" means that the applicant has submitted a preliminary application pursuant to Section 65941.1.

(6) "Disapprove the housing development project" includes any instance in which a local agency does either of the following:

(A) Votes on a proposed housing development project application and the application is disapproved, including any required land use approvals or entitlements necessary for the issuance of a building permit.

(B) Fails to comply with the time periods specified in subdivision (a) of Section 65950. An extension of time pursuant to Article 5 (commencing with Section 65950) shall be deemed to be an extension of time pursuant to this paragraph.

(7) "Lower density" includes any conditions that have the same effect or impact on the ability of the project to provide housing.

(8) Until January 1, 2025, "objective" means involving no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and being uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development applicant or proponent and the public official.

(9) Notwithstanding any other law, until January 1, 2025, "determined to be complete" means that the applicant has submitted a complete application pursuant to Section 65943.

(i) If any city, county, or city and county denies approval or imposes conditions, including design changes, lower density, or a reduction of the percentage of a lot that may be occupied by a building or structure under the applicable planning and zoning in force at the time housing development project's the application is complete, that have a substantial adverse effect on the viability or affordability of a housing development for very low, low-, or moderate-income households, and the denial of the development or the imposition of conditions on the development is the subject of a court action which challenges the denial or the imposition of conditions, then the burden of proof shall be on the local legislative body to show that its decision is consistent with the findings as described in subdivision (d), and that the findings are supported by a preponderance of the evidence in the record, and with the requirements of subdivision (o).

(j) (1) When a proposed housing development project complies with applicable, objective general plan, zoning, and subdivision standards and criteria, including design review standards, in effect at the time that the application was deemed complete, but the local agency proposes to disapprove the project or to impose a condition that the project be developed at a lower density, the local agency shall base its decision regarding the proposed housing development project upon written findings supported by a preponderance of the evidence on the record that both of the following conditions exist:

(A) The housing development project would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety unless the project is disapproved or approved upon the condition that the project be developed at a lower density. As used in this paragraph, a "specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete.

(B) There is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact identified pursuant to paragraph (1), other than the disapproval of the housing development project or the approval of the project upon the condition that it be developed at a lower density.

(2) (A) If the local agency considers a proposed housing development project to be inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in conformity with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision as specified in this subdivision, it shall provide the applicant with written documentation identifying the provision or provisions, and an explanation of the reason or reasons it considers the housing development to be inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in conformity as follows:

(i) Within 30 days of the date that the application for the housing development project is determined to be complete, if the housing development project contains 150 or fewer housing units.

(ii) Within 60 days of the date that the application for the housing development project is determined to be complete, if the housing development project contains more than 150 units.

(B) If the local agency fails to provide the required documentation pursuant to subparagraph (A), the housing development project shall be deemed consistent, compliant, and in conformity with the applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision.

(3) For purposes of this section, the receipt of a density bonus pursuant to Section 65915 *or an equitable communities incentive pursuant to Section 65918.51* shall not constitute a valid basis on which to find a proposed housing development project is inconsistent, not in compliance, or not in ~~in-conformity~~, *conformity* with an applicable plan, program, policy, ordinance, standard, requirement, or other similar provision specified in this subdivision.

(4) For purposes of this section, a proposed housing development project is not inconsistent with the applicable zoning standards and criteria, and shall not require a rezoning, if the housing development project is consistent with the objective general plan standards and criteria but the zoning for the project site is inconsistent with the general plan. If the local agency has complied with paragraph (2), the local agency may require the proposed housing development project to comply with the objective standards and criteria of the zoning which is consistent with the general plan, however, the standards and criteria shall be applied to facilitate and accommodate development at the density allowed on the site by the general plan and proposed by the proposed housing development project.

(k) (1) (A) (i) The applicant, a person who would be eligible to apply for residency in the housing development project or emergency shelter, or a housing organization may bring an action to enforce this section. If, in any action brought to enforce this section, a court finds that any of the following are met, the court shall issue an order pursuant to clause (ii):

(I) The local agency, in violation of subdivision (d), disapproved a housing development project or conditioned its approval in a manner rendering it infeasible for the development of an emergency shelter, or housing for very low, low-, or moderate-income households, including farmworker housing, without making the findings required by this section or without making findings supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

(II) The local agency, in violation of subdivision (j), disapproved a housing development project complying with applicable, objective general plan and zoning standards and criteria, or imposed a condition that the project be developed at a lower density, without making the findings required by this section or without making findings supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

(III) (ia) Subject to sub-subclause (ib), the local agency, in violation of subdivision (o), required or attempted to require a housing development project to comply with an ordinance, policy, or standard not adopted and in effect when a preliminary application was submitted.

(ib) This subclause shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025.

(ii) If the court finds that one of the conditions in clause(i) is met, the court shall issue an order or judgment compelling compliance with this section within 60 days, including, but not limited to, an order that the local agency take action on the housing development project or emergency shelter. The court may issue an order or judgment directing the local agency to approve the housing development project or emergency shelter if the court finds that the local agency acted in bad faith when it disapproved or conditionally approved the housing development or emergency shelter in violation of this section. The court shall retain jurisdiction to ensure that its order or judgment is carried out and shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit to the plaintiff or petitioner, except under extraordinary circumstances in which the court finds that awarding fees would not further the purposes of this section.

(B) (i) Upon a determination that the local agency has failed to comply with the order or judgment compelling compliance with this section within 60 days issued pursuant to subparagraph (A), the court shall impose fines on a local agency that has violated this section and require the local agency to deposit any fine levied pursuant to this subdivision into a local housing trust fund. The

local agency may elect to instead deposit the fine into the Building Homes and Jobs [Trust](#) Fund, if Senate Bill 2 of the 2017–18 Regular Session is enacted, or otherwise in the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund. The fine shall be in a minimum amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per housing unit in the housing development project on the date the application was deemed complete pursuant to Section 65943. In determining the amount of fine to impose, the court shall consider the local agency's progress in attaining its target allocation of the regional housing need pursuant to Section 65584 and any prior violations of this section. Fines shall not be paid out of funds already dedicated to affordable housing, including, but not limited to, Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Funds, funds dedicated to housing for very low, low-, and moderate-income households, and federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program and Community Development Block Grant Program funds. The local agency shall commit and expend the money in the local housing trust fund within five years for the sole purpose of financing newly constructed housing units affordable to extremely low, very low, or low-income households. After five years, if the funds have not been expended, the money shall revert to the state and be deposited in the Building Homes and Jobs [Trust](#) Fund, if Senate Bill 2 of the 2017–18 Regular Session is enacted, or otherwise in the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund, for the sole purpose of financing newly constructed housing units affordable to extremely low, very low, or low-income households.

(ii) If any money derived from a fine imposed pursuant to this subparagraph is deposited in the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund, then, notwithstanding Section 50661 of the Health and Safety Code, that money shall be available only upon appropriation by the Legislature.

(C) If the court determines that its order or judgment has not been carried out within 60 days, the court may issue further orders as provided by law to ensure that the purposes and policies of this section are fulfilled, including, but not limited to, an order to vacate the decision of the local agency and to approve the housing development project, in which case the application for the housing development project, as proposed by the applicant at the time the local agency took the initial action determined to be in violation of this section, along with any standard conditions determined by the court to be generally imposed by the local agency on similar projects, shall be deemed to be approved unless the applicant consents to a different decision or action by the local agency.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, "housing organization" means a trade or industry group whose local members are primarily engaged in the construction or management of housing units or a nonprofit organization whose mission includes providing or advocating for increased access to housing for low-income households and have filed written or oral comments with the local agency prior to action on the housing development project. A housing organization may only file an action pursuant to this section to challenge the disapproval of a housing development by a local agency. A housing organization shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs if it is the prevailing party in an action to enforce this section.

(l) If the court finds that the local agency (1) acted in bad faith when it disapproved or conditionally approved the housing development or emergency shelter in violation of this section and (2) failed to carry out the court's order or judgment within 60 days as described in subdivision (k), the court, in addition to any other remedies provided by this section, shall multiply the fine determined pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) by a factor of five. For purposes of this section, "bad faith" includes, but is not limited to, an action that is frivolous or otherwise entirely without merit.

(m) Any action brought to enforce the provisions of this section shall be brought pursuant to Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and the local agency shall prepare and certify the record of proceedings in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure no later than 30 days after the petition is served, provided that the cost of preparation of the record shall be borne by the local agency, unless the petitioner elects to prepare the record as provided in subdivision (n) of this section. A petition to enforce the provisions of this section shall be filed and served no later than 90 days from the later of (1) the effective date of a decision of the local agency imposing conditions on, disapproving, or any other final action on a housing development project or (2) the expiration of the time periods specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (h). Upon entry of the trial court's order, a party may, in order to obtain appellate review of the order, file a petition within 20 days after service upon it of a written notice of the entry of the order, or within such further time not exceeding an additional 20 days as the trial court may for good cause allow, or may appeal the judgment or order of the trial court under Section 904.1 of the Code of Civil Procedure. If the local agency appeals the judgment of the trial court, the local agency shall post a bond, in an amount to be determined by the court, to the benefit of the plaintiff if the plaintiff is the project applicant.

(n) In any action, the record of the proceedings before the local agency shall be filed as expeditiously as possible and, notwithstanding Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure or subdivision (m) of this section, all or part of the record may be prepared (1) by the petitioner with the petition or petitioner's points and authorities, (2) by the respondent with respondent's points and authorities, (3) after payment of costs by the petitioner, or (4) as otherwise directed by the court. If the expense of preparing the record has been borne by the petitioner and the petitioner is the prevailing party, the expense shall be taxable as costs.

(o) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (6), and (7), and subdivision (d) of Section 65941.1, a housing development project shall be subject only to the ordinances, policies, and standards adopted and in effect when a preliminary application including all of the information required by subdivision (a) of Section 65941.1 was submitted.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not prohibit a housing development project from being subject to ordinances, policies, and standards adopted after the preliminary application was submitted pursuant to Section 65941.1 in the following circumstances:

(A) In the case of a fee, charge, or other monetary exaction, to an increase resulting from an automatic annual adjustment based on an independently published cost index that is referenced in the ordinance or resolution establishing the fee or other monetary exaction.

(B) A preponderance of the evidence in the record establishes that subjecting the housing development project to an ordinance, policy, or standard beyond those in effect when a preliminary application was submitted is necessary to mitigate or avoid a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety, as defined in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (j), and there is no feasible alternative method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact.

(C) Subjecting the housing development project to an ordinance, policy, standard, or any other measure, beyond those in effect when a preliminary application was submitted is necessary to avoid or substantially lessen an impact of the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code).

(D) The housing development project has not commenced construction within two and one-half years following the date that the project received final approval. For purposes of this subparagraph, "final approval" means that the housing development project has received all necessary approvals to be eligible to apply for, and obtain, a building permit or permits and either of the following is met:

(i) The expiration of all applicable appeal periods, petition periods, reconsideration periods, or statute of limitations for challenging that final approval without an appeal, petition, request for reconsideration, or legal challenge having been filed.

(ii) If a challenge is filed, that challenge is fully resolved or settled in favor of the housing development project.

(E) The housing development project is revised following submittal of a preliminary application pursuant to Section 65941.1 such that the number of residential units or square footage of construction changes by 20 percent or more, exclusive of any increase resulting from the receipt of a density bonus, incentive, concession, waiver, or similar provision. For purposes of this subdivision, "square footage of construction" means the building area, as defined by the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).

(3) This subdivision does not prevent a local agency from subjecting the additional units or square footage of construction that result from project revisions occurring after a preliminary application is submitted pursuant to Section 65941.1 to the ordinances, policies, and standards adopted and in effect when the preliminary application was submitted.

(4) For purposes of this subdivision, "ordinances, policies, and standards" includes general plan, community plan, specific plan, zoning, design review standards and criteria, subdivision standards and criteria, and any other rules, regulations, requirements, and policies of a local agency, as defined in Section 66000, including those relating to development impact fees, capacity or connection fees or charges, permit or processing fees, and other exactions.

(5) This subdivision shall not be construed in a manner that would lessen the restrictions imposed on a local agency, or lessen the protections afforded to a housing development project, that are established by any other law, including any other part of this section.

(6) This subdivision shall not restrict the authority of a public agency or local agency to require mitigation measures to lessen the impacts of a housing development project under the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code).

(7) With respect to completed residential units for which the project approval process is complete and a certificate of occupancy has been issued, nothing in this subdivision shall limit the application of later enacted ordinances, policies, and standards that regulate the use and occupancy of those residential units, such as ordinances relating to rental housing inspection, rent stabilization, restrictions on short-term renting, and business licensing requirements for owners of rental housing.

(8) This subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1, 2025.

(p) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as the Housing Accountability Act.

SEC. 2. Section 65913.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65913.5. For purposes of this section and Section 65913.6, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Development proponent" means the developer who submits an application for streamlined approval pursuant to Section 65913.6.

(b) "Eligible parcel" means a parcel that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) The parcel is not located on a site that is on a coastal zone, as defined in Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code, unless the local agency has a population of 50,000 or more, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data.

~~(1)~~

(2) The parcel satisfies the requirements specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.

(3) The parcel satisfies the requirements specified in subparagraphs (B) to (K), inclusive, of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.

~~(2) The parcel is not located on a site that is any of the following:~~

~~(A) A coastal zone, as defined in Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code, unless the local agency has a population of 50,000 or more, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data.~~

~~(B) Either prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance, as defined pursuant to United States Department of Agriculture land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California, and designated on the maps prepared by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the Department of Conservation, or land zoned or designated for agricultural protection or preservation by a local ballot measure that was approved by the voters of that jurisdiction.~~

~~(C) Wetlands, as defined in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Manual, Part 660 FW 2 (June 21, 1993).~~

~~(D) Within a very high fire hazard severity zone, as determined by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 51178, or within a high or very high fire hazard severity zone as indicated on maps adopted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 4202 of the Public Resources Code. A parcel is not ineligible within the meaning of this subparagraph if it is either:~~

~~(i) A site excluded from the specified hazard zones by a local agency, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51179.~~

~~(ii) A site that has adopted fire hazard mitigation measures pursuant to existing building standards or state fire mitigation measures applicable to the development.~~

~~(E) A hazardous waste site that is listed pursuant to Section 65962.5 or a hazardous waste site designated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control pursuant to Section 25356 of the Health and Safety Code, unless the Department of Toxic Substances Control has cleared the site for residential use or residential mixed uses.~~

~~(F) Within a delineated earthquake fault zone as determined by the State Geologist in any official maps published by the State Geologist, unless the development complies with applicable seismic protection building code standards adopted by the California Building Standards Commission under the California Building Standards Law (Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 18901) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code), and by any local building department under Chapter 12.2 (commencing with Section 8875) of Division 1 of Title 2.~~

~~(G) Within a special flood hazard area subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood (100-year flood) as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in any official maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If a development proponent is able to satisfy all applicable federal qualifying criteria in order to provide that the site satisfies this subparagraph and is otherwise eligible for streamlined approval under this section, a local government shall not deny the application on the basis that the development proponent did not comply with any additional permit requirement, standard, or action adopted by that local government that is applicable to that site. A development may be located on a site described in this subparagraph if either of the following are met:~~

~~(i) The site has been subject to a Letter of Map Revision prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and issued to the local jurisdiction.~~

~~(ii) The site meets Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements necessary to meet minimum flood plain management criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to Part 59 (commencing with Section 59.1) and Part 60 (commencing with Section 60.1) of Subchapter B of Chapter I of Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.~~

~~(H) Within a regulatory floodway as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in any official maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, unless the development has received a no rise certification in accordance with Section 60.3(d)(3) of Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations. If a development proponent is able to satisfy all applicable federal qualifying criteria in order to provide that the site satisfies this subparagraph and is otherwise eligible for streamlined approval under this section, a local government shall not deny the application on the basis that the development proponent did~~

~~not comply with any additional permit requirement, standard, or action adopted by that local government that is applicable to that site.~~

~~(I) Lands identified for conservation in any of the following:~~

~~(i) An adopted natural community conservation plan pursuant to the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 2800) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code).~~

~~(ii) A habitat conservation plan pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.).~~

~~(iii) Any other adopted natural resource protection plan.~~

~~(J) Habitat for protected species identified as candidate, sensitive, or species of special status by state or federal agencies, fully protected species, or species protected by any of the following:~~

~~(i) The federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.).~~

~~(ii) The California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code).~~

~~(iii) The Native Plant Protection Act (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 1900) of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code).~~

~~(K) Lands under conservation easement.~~

~~(3)~~

(4) The development of the project on the proposed parcel would not require the demolition or alteration of any of the following types of housing:

(A) Housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income.

(B) Housing that is subject to any form of rent or price control through a public entity's valid exercise of its police power.

(C) Housing occupied by tenants, as that term is defined in subdivision (l) of Section 65918.50, within the seven years preceding the date of the application, including housing that has been demolished or that tenants have vacated before the application for a development permit.

(D) A parcel or parcels on which an owner of residential real property has exercised their rights under Chapter 12.75 (commencing with Section 7060) of Division 7 of Title 1 to withdraw accommodations from rent or lease within 15 years before the date that the development proponent submits an application pursuant to Section 65913.6.

~~(4)~~

(5) The development of the project on the proposed parcel would not require the demolition of a historic structure that was placed on a national, state, or local historic register.

(c) "Local agency" means a city, including a charter city, a county, including a charter county, or a city and county, including a charter city and county.

(d) "Neighborhood multifamily project" means a project to construct a multifamily structure of up to four residential dwelling units that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) The project meets one of the following conditions:

(A) The parcel or parcels on which the neighborhood multifamily project would be located is vacant land, as defined in subdivision (e).

(B) If the project is a conversion of an existing structure, the conversion shall not require substantial exterior alteration. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a project requires "substantial exterior alteration" if the project would require either of the following:

(i) The demolition of 25 percent or more of the existing exterior vertical walls, measured by linear feet.

(ii) Any building addition that would increase total interior square footage by more than 15 percent.

(2) (A) The neighborhood multifamily project shall meet all objective zoning standards and objective design review standards that do not conflict with this section or Section 65913.6. If, on or after July 1, 2019, a local agency adopts an ordinance that eliminates

zoning designations permissive to residential use or decreases residential zoning development capacity within an existing zoning district in which the development is located than what was authorized on July 1, 2019, then that development shall be deemed to be consistent with any applicable requirement of this section and Section 65913.6 if it complies with zoning designations not in conflict with this section and Section 65913.6 that were authorized as of July 1, 2019.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, "objective zoning standards" and "objective design review standards" means standards that involve no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development proponent and the public official before the development proponent submits an application pursuant to this section. These standards include, but are not limited to, height, setbacks, floor area ratio, and lot coverage. For purposes of this section and Section 65913.6, "objective zoning standard" does not include any limits related to residential density that would limit a development to fewer than four residential units per parcel.

(3) A local agency may require the neighborhood multifamily project to provide at least 0.5 parking spaces per unit.

(e) "Vacant land" means either of the following:

(1) A property that contains no existing structures.

(2) A property that contains at least one existing structure, but the structure or structures have been unoccupied for at least five years and are considered substandard as defined by Section 17920.3 of the Health and Safety Code.

SEC. 3. Section 65913.6 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65913.6. (a) For purposes of this section, the definitions provided in Section 65913.5 shall apply.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (g), a development proponent of a neighborhood multifamily project on an eligible parcel may submit an application for a development to be subject to a streamlined, ministerial approval process provided by this section and not be subject to a conditional use permit if the development meets the requirements of this section and Section 65913.5.

(c) (1) If a local agency determines that a development submitted pursuant to this section is in conflict with any of the requirements specified in this section or Section 65913.5, it shall provide the development proponent written documentation of which requirement or requirements the development conflicts with, and an explanation for the reason or reasons the development conflicts with that requirement or requirements, within 60 days of submission of the development to the local agency pursuant to this section.

(2) If the local agency fails to provide the required documentation pursuant to paragraph (1), the development shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this section and Section 65913.5.

(d) Any design review or public oversight of the development may be conducted by the local agency's planning commission or any equivalent board or commission responsible for review and approval of development projects, or the city council or board of supervisors, as appropriate. That design review or public oversight shall be objective and be strictly focused on assessing compliance with criteria required for streamlined projects, as well as any reasonable objective design standards published and adopted by ordinance or resolution by a local agency before submission of a development application, and shall be broadly applicable to development within the local agency. That design review or public oversight shall be completed within 90 days of submission of the development to the local agency pursuant to this section and shall not in any way inhibit, chill, or preclude the ministerial approval provided by this section or its effect, as applicable.

(e) Notwithstanding any other law, a local agency, whether or not it has adopted an ordinance governing automobile parking requirements in multifamily developments, shall not impose automobile parking standards for a streamlined development that was approved pursuant to this section, including those related to orientation or structure of off-street automobile parking, beyond those provided in the minimum requirements of Section 65913.5.

(f) (1) If a local agency approves a development pursuant to this section, that approval shall automatically expire after three years except that a project may receive a one-time, one-year extension if the project proponent provides documentation that there has been significant progress toward getting the development construction ready. For purposes of this paragraph, "significant progress" includes filing a building permit application.

(2) If a local agency approves a development pursuant to this section, that approval shall remain valid for three years from the date of the final action establishing that approval and shall remain valid thereafter for a project so long as vertical construction of the development has begun and is in progress. Additionally, the development proponent may request, and the local agency shall have discretion to grant, an additional one-year extension to the original three-year period. The local agency's action and discretion in determining whether to grant the foregoing extension shall be limited to considerations and process set forth in this section.

(g) This section shall not apply if the local agency finds that the development project as proposed would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety, including, but not limited to, fire safety, and there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact without rendering the development unaffordable to low- and moderate-income households. As used in this paragraph, a "specific, adverse impact" means a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete. Inconsistency with the zoning ordinance or general plan land use designation shall not constitute a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety.

(h) A local agency shall not adopt any requirement, including, but not limited to, increased fees or inclusionary housing requirements, that applies to a project solely or partially on the basis that the project is eligible to receive ministerial or streamlined approval pursuant to this section.

(i) This section shall not affect a development proponent's ability to use any alternative streamlined by right permit processing adopted by a local agency, including the provisions of subdivision (i) of Section 65583.2 or 65913.4.

SEC. 4. Chapter 4.35 (commencing with Section 65918.50) is added to Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4.35. Equitable Communities Incentives

65918.50. For purposes of this chapter:

(a) "Development proponent" means an applicant who submits an application for an equitable communities incentive pursuant to this chapter.

(b) "Eligible applicant" means a development proponent ~~who receives~~ *whose development project meets the requirements of this chapter to receive* an equitable communities incentive.

(c) "FAR" means floor area ratio.

(d) "High-quality bus corridor" means a corridor with fixed route bus service that meets all of the following criteria:

(1) It has average service intervals for each line and in each direction of no more than 10 minutes during the three peak hours between 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., inclusive, and the three peak hours between 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., inclusive, on Monday through Friday.

(2) It has average service intervals for each line and in each direction of no more than 20 minutes during the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., inclusive, on Monday through Friday.

(3) It has average service intervals for each line and in each direction of no more than 30 minutes during the hours of 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., inclusive, on Saturday and Sunday.

(4) It has met the criteria specified in paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, for the five years preceding the date that a development proponent submits an application for approval of a residential development.

(e) (1) "Jobs-rich area" means an area identified by the Department of Housing and Community Development in consultation with the Office of Planning and Research that is high opportunity and either is jobs rich or would enable shorter commute distances based on whether, in a regional analysis, the tract meets both of the following:

(A) The tract is high opportunity, meaning its characteristics are associated with positive educational and economic outcomes for households of all income levels residing in the tract.

(B) The tract meets either of the following criteria:

(i) New housing sited in the tract would enable residents to live near more jobs than is typical for tracts in the region.

(ii) New housing sited in the tract would enable shorter commute distances for residents, relative to existing commute patterns and jobs-housing fit.

(2) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall, commencing on January 1, ~~2020~~, *2021*, publish and update, every five years thereafter, a map of the state showing the areas identified by the department as "jobs-rich areas."

(f) "Job-rich housing project" means a residential development within a jobs-rich area. A residential development shall be deemed to be within a jobs-rich area if both of the following apply:

(1) All parcels within the project have no more than 25 percent of their area outside of the jobs-rich area.

(2) No more than 10 percent of residential units or 100 units, whichever is less, of the development are outside of the jobs-rich area.

(g) "Local government" means a city, including a charter city, a county, or a city and county.

(h) "Major transit stop" means a rail transit station or a ferry terminal that is a major transit stop pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code.

(i) "Potentially sensitive community" means any of the following:

(1) An area that is designated as "high segregation and poverty" or "low resource" on the 2019 Opportunity Maps developed by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.

(2) A census tract that is in the top 25 percent scoring census tracts from the internet-based CalEnviroScreen 3.0 tool.

(3) A qualified census tract identified by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for 2019.

(4) It is the intent of the Legislature to consider ~~all~~ **both** of the following:

(A) Identifying additional communities as potentially sensitive communities in inland areas, areas experiencing rapid change in housing cost, and other areas based on objective measures of community sensitivity.

(B) Application of the process for determining sensitive communities established in subdivision (d) of Section 65918.55 to the San Francisco Bay area.

(j) "Residential development" means a project with at least two-thirds of the square footage of the development designated for residential use.

(k) "Sensitive community" means either of the following:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an area identified pursuant to subdivision ~~(e)~~ **(b)** of Section ~~65918.55~~ **65918.58**.

(2) In the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma, areas designated by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission on December 19, 2018, as the intersection of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities as defined by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, which identification of a sensitive community shall be updated at least every five years by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(l) "Tenant" means a person who does not own the property where they reside, including residential situations that are any of the following:

(1) Residential real property rented by the person under a long-term lease.

(2) A single-room occupancy unit.

(3) An accessory dwelling unit that is not subject to, or does not have a valid permit in accordance with, an ordinance adopted by a local agency pursuant to Section 65852.2.

(4) A residential motel.

(5) A mobilehome park, as governed under the Mobilehome Residency Law (Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 798) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code), the Recreational Vehicle Park Occupancy Law (Chapter 2.6 (commencing with Section 799.20) of Title 2 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Civil Code), the Mobilehome Parks Act (Part 2.1 (commencing with Section 18200) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code), or the Special Occupancy Parks Act (Part 2.3 (commencing with Section 18860) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code).

(6) Any other type of residential property that is not owned by the person or a member of the person's household, for which the person or a member of the person's household provides payments on a regular schedule in exchange for the right to occupy the residential property.

(m) "Transit-rich housing project" means a residential development, the parcels of which are all within a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a high-quality bus corridor. A project shall be deemed to be within the radius if both of the following apply:

(1) All parcels within the project have no more than 25 percent of their area outside of a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a high-quality bus corridor.

(2) No more than 10 percent of the residential units or 100 units, whichever is less, of the project are outside of a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop or a one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a high-quality bus corridor.

65918.51. ~~A~~(a) *Except as provided in subdivision (b) or Section 65918.58, on and after January 1, 2023, a local government shall, upon request of a development proponent, grant an equitable communities incentive, as specified in ~~Section 65918.53, Sections 65918.54 and 65918.55~~, when the development proponent seeks and agrees to construct a multifamily residential development that satisfies the requirements specified in ~~Section 65918.52. Sections 65918.52 and 65918.53, and, if applicable, Sections 65918.54 and 65918.55.~~*

(b) A local government shall not be required to grant an equitable communities incentive pursuant to subdivision (a) if the local government has a local flexibility plan that has been reviewed and certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to Section 65918.59.

65918.52. ~~In order to be eligible for an equitable communities incentive pursuant to this chapter, a~~ residential development ~~shall meet is not eligible for an equitable communities incentive pursuant to this chapter unless the residential development meets~~ all of the following criteria:

(a) The residential development is either a job-rich housing project or transit-rich housing project.

(b) The residential development is located on a site that meets the following requirements:

(1) At the time of application, the site is zoned to allow housing as an underlying use in the zone, including, but not limited to, a residential, mixed-use, or commercial zone, as defined and allowed by the local government.

(2) If the residential development is located within a coastal zone, as defined in Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code, the site ~~satisfies the requirements specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4. meets the following conditions:~~

(A) The site satisfies the requirements specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.

(B) The site is located in a city that has a population equal to or greater than 50,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data.

(3) The site is not located within any of the following:

~~(A) A coastal zone, as defined in Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code, if the site is also located in a city that has a population of less than 50,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data.~~

~~(B)~~

(A) A very high fire hazard severity zone, as determined by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 51178, or within a very high fire hazard severity zone as indicated on maps adopted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 4202 of the Public Resources Code. A parcel is not ineligible within the meaning of this paragraph if it is either of the following:

(i) A site excluded from the specified hazard zones by a local agency, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51179.

(ii) A site that has adopted fire hazard mitigation measures pursuant to existing building standards or state fire mitigation measures applicable to the development.

~~(C)~~

(B) A parcel for which either of the following apply:

(i) The parcel is a contributing parcel within a historic district established by an ordinance of the local government that was in effect as of December 31, 2010.

(ii) The parcel includes a structure that was listed on a state or federal register of historic resources before the date that the development proponent first submits an application for an equitable communities incentive pursuant to this chapter.

~~(c) If the residential development is located within a county that has a population equal to or less than 600,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, the residential development satisfies all of the following additional requirements:~~

~~(1) The site satisfies the requirements specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.~~

~~(2) The site is not located within either of the following:~~

~~(A)An architecturally or historically significant historic district, as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 5020.1 of the Public Resources Code.~~

~~(B)A special flood hazard area subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood (100-year flood) as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in any official maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If a development proponent is able to satisfy all applicable federal qualifying criteria in order to provide that the site satisfies this subparagraph and is otherwise eligible for streamlined approval under this section, a local government shall not deny the application on the basis that the development proponent did not comply with any additional permit requirement, standard, or action adopted by that local government that is applicable to that site. A development may be located on a site described in this subparagraph if either of the following are met:~~

~~(i)The site has been subject to a Letter of Map Revision prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and issued to the local jurisdiction.~~

~~(ii)The site meets Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements necessary to meet minimum flood plain management criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to Part 59 (commencing with Section 59.1) and Part 60 (commencing with Section 60.1) of Subchapter B of Chapter I of Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.~~

~~(3)The residential development has a minimum density of 30 dwelling units per acre in jurisdictions considered metropolitan, as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 65583.2, or a minimum density of 20 dwelling units per acre in jurisdictions considered suburban, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 65583.2.~~

~~(4)The residential development is located within a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop and within a city with a population greater than 50,000.~~

~~(d)(1)If the local government has adopted an inclusionary housing ordinance requiring that the development include a certain number of units affordable to households with incomes that do not exceed the limits for moderate income, lower income, very low income, or extremely low income specified in Sections 50079.5, 50093, 50105, and 50106 of the Health and Safety Code, and that ordinance requires that a new development include levels of affordable housing in excess of the requirements specified in paragraph (2), the residential development complies with that ordinance. The ordinance may provide alternative means of compliance that may include, but are not limited to, in-lieu fees, land dedication, offsite construction, or acquisition and rehabilitation of existing units.~~

~~(2)(A)If the local government has not adopted an inclusionary housing ordinance, as described in paragraph (1), the residential development includes an affordable housing contribution for households with incomes that do not exceed the limits for extremely low income, very low income, and low income specified in Sections 50093, 50105, and 50106 of the Health and Safety Code.~~

~~(B)For purposes of this paragraph, the residential development is subject to one of the following, as applicable:~~

~~(i)If the project has 10 or fewer units, no affordability contribution is imposed.~~

~~(ii)If the project has 11 to 20 residential units, the development proponent may pay an in-lieu fee to the local government for affordable housing, where feasible, pursuant to subparagraph (C).~~

~~(iii)If the project has more than 20 residential units, the development proponent shall do either of the following:~~

~~(I)Make a comparable affordability contribution toward housing offsite that is affordable to lower income households, pursuant to subparagraph (C).~~

~~(II)Include units on the site of the project that are affordable to extremely low income, very low income, or lower income households, as defined in Sections 50079.5, 50105, and 50106 of the Health and Safety Code, as follows:~~

Project Size	Inclusionary Requirement
21–200 units	15% lower income; or 8% very low income; or 6% extremely low income
201–350 units	17% lower income; or 10% very low income; or 8% extremely low income
351 or more units	25% lower income; or 15% very low income; or

~~11% extremely low income~~

~~(C)(i) The development proponent of a project that qualifies pursuant to clause (ii) or subclause (I) of clause (iii) of subparagraph (B) may make a comparable affordability contribution toward housing offsite that is affordable to lower income households, pursuant to this subparagraph.~~

~~(ii) For the purposes of this subparagraph, "comparable affordability contribution" means either a dedication of land or direct in-lieu fee payment to a housing provider that proposes to build a residential development in which 100 percent of the units, excluding manager's units, are sold or rented at affordable housing cost, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code, subject to all of the following conditions:~~

~~(I) The site, and if applicable, the dedicated land, is located within a one-half mile of the qualifying project.~~

~~(II) The site, and if applicable, the dedicated land, is eligible for an equitable communities incentive.~~

~~(III) The residential development that receives a dedication of land or in-lieu fee payment pursuant to this paragraph provides the same number of affordable units at the same income category, which would have been required onsite for the qualifying project pursuant to subclause (II) of clause (iii) of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2).~~

~~(IV) The value of the dedicated land or in-lieu fee payment must be at least equal to the capitalized value of the forgone revenue that the development proponent would have incurred if the qualifying project had provided the required number and type of affordable units onsite.~~

~~(V) If the qualifying project includes 21 or more units of housing, the comparable affordability contribution is subject to a recorded covenant with the local jurisdiction. A copy of the covenant shall be provided to the Department of Housing and Community Development.~~

~~(iii) For the purposes of this subparagraph, "qualifying project" means a project that receives an equitable communities incentive by providing a comparable affordability contribution.~~

~~(iv) The qualifying development shall not be issued a certificate of occupancy before the residential development receiving a dedication of land or direct in-lieu fee payment pursuant to this subparagraph receives a building permit.~~

~~(D) Affordability of units pursuant to this paragraph shall be restricted by deed for a period of 55 years for rental units or 45 years for units offered for sale.~~

~~(e)~~

~~(c)~~ The site does not contain, or has not contained, either of the following:

(1) Housing occupied by tenants within the seven years preceding the date of the application, including housing that has been demolished or that tenants have vacated prior to the application for a development permit.

(2) A parcel or parcels on which an owner of residential real property has exercised their rights under Chapter 12.75 (commencing with Section 7060) of Division 7 of Title 1 to withdraw accommodations from rent or lease within 15 years prior to the date that the development proponent submits an application pursuant to this chapter.

~~(f)~~

~~(d)~~ The residential development complies with all applicable labor, construction employment, and wage standards otherwise required by law and any other generally applicable requirement regarding the approval of a development project, including, but not limited to, the local government's conditional use or other discretionary permit approval process, the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code), or a streamlined approval process that includes labor protections.

~~(g)~~

~~(e)~~ The residential development complies with all other relevant standards, requirements, and prohibitions imposed by the local government regarding architectural design, restrictions on or oversight of demolition, impact fees, and community benefits agreements.

~~(h)~~

~~(f)~~ The equitable communities incentive shall not be used to undermine the economic feasibility of delivering low-income housing under the state density bonus program or a local implementation of the state density bonus program, or any locally adopted

program that puts conditions on new development applications on the basis of receiving a zone change or general plan amendment in exchange for benefits such as increased affordable housing, local hire, or payment of prevailing wages.

~~65918.53.(a)(1) Any transit rich or job rich housing project within a county that has a population greater than 600,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, that meets the criteria specified in Section 65918.52 shall receive, upon request, an equitable communities incentive as follows:~~

65918.53. *A residential development is not eligible for an equitable communities incentive pursuant to this chapter unless the residential development meets all of the following criteria:*

(a) If the local government has adopted an inclusionary housing ordinance requiring that the development include a certain number of units affordable to households with incomes that do not exceed the limits for moderate income, lower income, very low income, or extremely low income specified in Sections 50079.5, 50093, 50105, and 50106 of the Health and Safety Code, and that ordinance requires that a new development include levels of affordable housing in excess of the requirements specified in paragraph (2), the residential development complies with that ordinance. The ordinance may provide alternative means of compliance that may include, but are not limited to, in-lieu fees, land dedication, offsite construction, or acquisition and rehabilitation of existing units.

(b) (1) If the local government has not adopted an inclusionary housing ordinance, as described in subdivision (a), the residential development includes an affordable housing contribution for households with incomes that do not exceed the limits for extremely low income, very low income, and low income specified in Sections 50093, 50105, and 50106 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, a residential development satisfies the affordable housing contribution requirement of this subdivision if the residential development is subject to one of the following, as applicable:

(A) If the project has 10 or fewer units, no affordability contribution is imposed.

(B) If the project has 11 to 20 residential units, the development proponent may pay an in-lieu fee to the local government for affordable housing, where feasible, pursuant to paragraph (3).

(C) If the project has more than 20 residential units, the development proponent shall do either of the following:

(i) Make a comparable affordability contribution toward housing offsite that is affordable to lower income households, pursuant to paragraph (3).

(ii) Include units on the site of the project that are affordable to extremely low income, very low income, or lower income households, as defined in Sections 50079.5, 50105, and 50106 of the Health and Safety Code, as follows:

<i>Project Size</i>	<i>Inclusionary Requirement</i>
<i>21–200 units</i>	<i>15% lower income; or 8% very low income; or 6% extremely low income</i>
<i>201–350 units</i>	<i>17% lower income; or 10% very low income; or 8% extremely low income</i>
<i>351 or more units</i>	<i>25% lower income; or 15% very low income; or 11% extremely low income</i>

(3) (A) The development proponent of a project that qualifies pursuant to subparagraph (B) of, or clause (i) of subparagraph (C) of, paragraph (2) may make a comparable affordability contribution toward housing offsite that is affordable to lower income households, pursuant to this paragraph.

(B) For the purposes of this paragraph, "comparable affordability contribution" means either a dedication of land or direct in-lieu fee payment to a housing provider that proposes to build a residential development in which 100 percent of the units, excluding manager's units, are sold or rented at affordable housing cost, as defined in Section 50052.5 of the Health and Safety Code, or affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code, subject to all of the following conditions:

(i) The site, and, if applicable, the dedicated land are located within a one-half mile of the qualifying project.

(ii) The site, and, if applicable, the dedicated land are eligible for an equitable communities incentive.

(iii) The residential development that receives a dedication of land or in-lieu fee payment pursuant to this paragraph provides the same number of affordable units at the same income category that would have been required on the site of the qualifying project pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) for the qualifying project to be eligible for an equitable community incentive if the development proponent did not make a comparable affordability contribution.

(iv) The value of the dedicated land or in-lieu fee payment is at least equal to the capitalized value of the forgone revenue that the development proponent would have incurred if the qualifying project had provided the required number and type of affordable units onsite.

(v) If the qualifying project includes 21 or more units of housing, the comparable affordability contribution is subject to a recorded covenant with the local jurisdiction. A copy of the covenant shall be provided to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(C) For the purposes of this paragraph, "qualifying project" means a project that receives an equitable communities incentive by providing a comparable affordability contribution.

(D) The qualifying development shall not be issued a certificate of occupancy before the residential development receiving a dedication of land or direct in-lieu fee payment pursuant to this paragraph receives a building permit.

(4) The affordability of units made affordable to meet the requirements of this subdivision shall be restricted by deed for a period of 55 years for rental units or 45 years for units offered for sale.

(c) Residents living within one-half mile of the development at time of application shall receive priority for the following:

(1) Forty percent of the affordable housing units in the development that are reserved for lower income households.

(2) Forty percent of the affordable housing units in the development that are reserved for very low income households.

(3) Forty percent of the affordable housing units in the development that are reserved for extremely low income households.

65918.54. An eligible applicant that proposes a residential development within a county that has a population greater than 600,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, shall receive, upon request, an equitable communities incentive as follows:

(a) If the residential development is a transit-rich or job-rich housing project, the applicant shall receive both of the following:

~~(A)~~

(1) A waiver from maximum controls on density.

~~(B)~~

(2) A waiver from minimum automobile parking requirements greater than 0.5 automobile parking spots per unit.

~~(2) An eligible applicant proposing a~~

~~(b) If the residential development within a county that has a population greater than 600,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, that~~ is located within a one-half mile radius, but outside a one-quarter mile radius, of a major transit stop stop, the applicant shall receive, in addition to the incentives specified in ~~paragraph (1), subdivision (a)~~, waivers from all of the following:

~~(A)~~

(1) Maximum height requirements less than 45 feet.

~~(B)~~

(2) Any requirement governing the relationship between the size of the parcel and the area that the building may occupy that would restrict the structure to a FAR of less than 2.5.

~~(C)~~

(3) Notwithstanding ~~subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), paragraph (2) of subdivision (a)~~, any minimum automobile parking requirement.

~~(3) An eligible applicant proposing a~~

~~(c) If the residential development within a county that has a population greater than 600,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, that~~ is located within a one-quarter mile radius of a major transit ~~stop~~ *stop, the applicant* shall receive, in addition to the incentives specified in ~~paragraph (1), subdivision (a),~~ waivers from all of the following:

~~(A)~~

(1) Maximum height requirements less than 55 feet.

~~(B)~~

(2) Any requirement governing the relationship between the size of the parcel and the area that the building may occupy that would restrict the structure to a FAR of less than 3.25.

~~(C)~~

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), any minimum automobile parking requirement.

~~(b) A residential development within a county that has a population less than or equal to 600,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, that meets the criteria specified in Section 65918.52 shall receive, upon request, an equitable communities incentive as follows:~~

~~(1) A waiver from maximum controls on density, subject to paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65918.52.~~

~~(2) A waiver from maximum height limitations less than or equal to one story, or 15 feet, above the highest allowable height for mixed use or residential use. For purposes of this paragraph, "highest allowable height" means the tallest height, including heights that require conditional approval, allowable pursuant to zoning and any specific or area plan that covers the parcel.~~

~~(3) Any requirement governing the relationship between the size of the parcel and the area that the building may occupy that would restrict the structure to a FAR of less than 0.6 times the number of stories proposed for the project.~~

~~(4) A waiver from minimum automobile parking requirements, as follows:~~

~~(A) If the residential development is located within a one-quarter mile radius of a rail transit station in a city with a population of greater than 100,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, the residential development project shall receive a waiver from any minimum automobile parking requirement.~~

~~(B) If the residential development does not meet the criteria specified in clause (i), the residential development project shall receive a waiver from minimum automobile parking requirements of more than 0.5 parking spaces per unit.~~

~~(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a project that qualifies for an equitable communities incentive may also apply for a density bonus, incentives or concessions, and parking ratios in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 65915. To calculate a density bonus for a project that receives an equitable communities incentive, the "otherwise maximum allowable gross residential density" as described in subdivision (f) of Section 65915 shall be equal to the proposed number of units in, or the proposed square footage of, the residential development after applying the equitable communities incentive received pursuant to this chapter. In no case may a city, county, or city and county apply any development standard that will have the effect of physically precluding the construction of a development meeting the criteria of this chapter and subdivision (b) of Section 65915 at the unit count or square footage or with the concessions or incentives permitted by this chapter and as may be increased under Section 65915 in accordance with this subdivision, but no additional waivers or reductions of development standards, as described in subdivision (e) of Section 65915 shall be permitted.~~

~~(d) The local government shall grant an incentive requested by an eligible applicant pursuant to this chapter unless the local government makes a written finding, based on substantial evidence, that the incentive would have a specific, adverse impact on any real property or historic district that is listed on a federal or state register of historical resources and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact without rendering the development unaffordable.~~

~~(e) An eligible applicant proposing a project that meets all of the requirements under Section 65913.4 may submit an application for streamlined, ministerial approval in accordance with that section.~~

~~(f) The local government may modify or expand the terms of an equitable communities incentive provided pursuant to this chapter, provided that the equitable communities incentive is consistent with, and meets the minimum standards specified in, this chapter.~~

65918.55. (a) *An eligible applicant that proposes a residential development within a county that has a population less than or equal to 600,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, that meets all of the requirements in subdivision (b) shall receive, upon request, an equitable communities incentive as follows:*

(1) A waiver from maximum controls on density.

(2) A waiver from maximum height limitations less than or equal to one story, or 15 feet, above the highest allowable height for mixed use or residential use. For purposes of this paragraph, "highest allowable height" means the tallest height, including heights that require conditional approval, allowable pursuant to zoning and any specific or area plan that covers the parcel.

(3) Any requirement governing the relationship between the size of the parcel and the area that the building may occupy that would restrict the structure to a FAR of less than 0.6 times the number of stories proposed for the project.

(4) A waiver from minimum automobile parking requirements, as follows:

(A) If the residential development is located within a one-quarter mile radius of a rail transit station in a city with a population of greater than 100,000, based on the most recent United States Census Bureau data, the residential development project shall receive a waiver from any minimum automobile parking requirement.

(B) If the residential development does not meet the criteria specified in subparagraph (A), the residential development project shall receive a waiver from minimum automobile parking requirements of more than 0.5 parking spaces per unit.

(b) To be eligible for an equitable communities incentive outlined in subdivision (a), a residential development shall meet all of the following requirements:

(1) The site satisfies the requirements specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.

(2) The site is not located within either of the following:

(A) An architecturally or historically significant historic district, as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 5020.1 of the Public Resources Code.

(B) A special flood hazard area subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood (100-year flood), as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in any official maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If a development proponent is able to satisfy all applicable federal qualifying criteria in order to provide that the site satisfies this subparagraph and is otherwise eligible for an equitable communities incentive under this chapter, a local government shall not deny the application on the basis that the development proponent did not comply with any additional permit requirement, standard, or action adopted by that local government that is applicable to that site. A development may be located on a site described in this subparagraph if either of the following are met:

(i) The site has been subject to a Letter of Map Revision prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and issued to the local jurisdiction.

(ii) The site meets Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements necessary to meet minimum flood plain management criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to Part 59 (commencing with Section 59.1) and Part 60 (commencing with Section 60.1) of Subchapter B of Chapter I of Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) The residential development has a minimum density of 30 dwelling units per acre in jurisdictions considered metropolitan, as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 65583.2, or a minimum density of 20 dwelling units per acre in jurisdictions considered suburban, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 65583.2.

(4) The residential development is located within a one-half mile radius of a major transit stop and within a city with a population greater than 50,000.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a project that qualifies for an equitable communities incentive may also apply for a density bonus, incentives or concessions, and parking ratios in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 65915. To calculate a density bonus for a project that receives an equitable communities incentive, the "otherwise maximum allowable gross residential density," as described in subdivision (f) of Section 65915, shall be equal to the proposed number of units in, or the proposed square footage of, the residential development after applying the equitable communities incentive received pursuant to this chapter. In no case may a city, county, or city and county apply any development standard that will have the effect of physically precluding the construction of a development meeting the criteria of this chapter and subdivision (b) of Section 65915 at the unit count or square footage or with the concessions or incentives permitted by this chapter and as may be increased under Section 65915 in accordance with this subdivision, but no additional waivers or reductions of development standards, as described in subdivision (e) of Section 65915 shall be permitted.

65918.56. *(a) The local government shall grant an incentive requested by an eligible applicant pursuant to this chapter unless the local government makes a written finding, based on substantial evidence, that the incentive would have a specific, adverse impact on any real property or historic district that is listed on a federal or state register of historical resources and for which there*

is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact without rendering the development unaffordable.

(b) An eligible applicant proposing a project that meets all of the requirements under Section 65913.4 may submit an application for streamlined, ministerial approval in accordance with that section.

(c) The local government may modify or expand the terms of an equitable communities incentive provided pursuant to this chapter, provided that the equitable communities incentive is consistent with, and meets the minimum standards specified in, this chapter.

65918.54.65918.57. The Legislature finds and declares that this chapter addresses a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, this chapter applies to all cities, including charter cities.

65918.55.65918.58. (a) On or before July 1, ~~2020~~, **2023**, Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive, shall not apply to a potentially sensitive community. After July 1, ~~2020~~, **2023**, Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive, shall apply in any potentially sensitive community that is not identified as a sensitive community pursuant to subdivision (b).

(b) On or before July 1, ~~2020~~, **2023**, sensitive communities in each county shall be identified and mapped in accordance with the following:

(1) The council of governments, or the county board of supervisors in a county without a council of governments, shall establish a working group comprised of residents of potentially sensitive communities within the county, ensuring equitable representation of vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, renters, low-income people, and members of classes protected under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Part 2.8 (commencing with Section 12900) of Division 3 of Title 2).

(2) The working group shall develop a map of sensitive communities within the county, which shall include some or all of the areas identified as potentially sensitive communities pursuant to subdivision (i) of Section 65918.50. The working group shall prioritize the input of residents from each potentially sensitive community in making a determination about that community.

(3) Each board of supervisors or council of governments shall adopt the sensitive communities map for the county, along with an explanation of the composition and function of the working group and the community process and methodology used to create the maps, at a public hearing held on or before July 1, ~~2020~~, **2023**.

(c) Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive, shall apply in a sensitive community on and after January 1, 2026, unless the city or county in which the sensitive community is located has adopted a community plan for an area that includes the sensitive community that is aimed toward increasing residential density and multifamily housing choices near transit stops and meets all of the following:

(1) The community plan is not in conflict with the goals of this chapter.

(2) The community plan permits increased density and multifamily development near transit, with all upzoning linked to onsite affordable housing requirements that meet or exceed the affordable housing requirements in Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive. Community plans shall, at a minimum, be consistent with the overall residential development capacity and the minimum affordability standards set forth in Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive, within the boundaries of the community plan.

(3) The community plan includes provisions to protect vulnerable residents from displacement.

(4) The community plan promotes economic justice for workers and residents.

(5) The community plan was developed in partnership with at least one of the following:

(A) A nonprofit or community organization that focuses on organizing low-income residents in the sensitive community.

(B) A nonprofit or community organization that focuses on organizing low-income residents in the jurisdiction.

(C) If there are no nonprofit or community organizations working within the sensitive community or the jurisdiction, a nonprofit with demonstrated experience conducting outreach to low-income communities.

(6) Residents of the sensitive community are engaged throughout the planning process, including through at least three community meetings that are held at times and locations accessible to low-income residents.

(7) All public documents and meetings related to the planning process are translated into all languages spoken by at least 25 percent of residents of the sensitive community.

(8) The community plan is adopted before July 1, 2025.

(d) Each city and each county shall make reasonable efforts to develop a community plan for any sensitive communities within its jurisdiction. A community plan may address other locally identified priorities, provided they are not in conflict with the intent of this chapter or any other law. A city or county may designate a community plan adopted before July 1, ~~2020~~, 2023, as the plan that meets the requirements of this ~~paragraph~~, *subdivision*, provided that the plan meets all criteria in this section.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive, shall apply in any sensitive community if all of the following apply:

(1) At least 20 percent of adult residents of the sensitive community sign a petition attesting that the community desires to make the provisions of Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive, applicable in the area. The petition shall describe in plain language the planning standards set forth in Sections 65918.51 to 65918.54, inclusive; be translated into all languages spoken by at least 25 percent of residents in the affected area; and collect contact information from signatories to the petition, including first, middle, and last name, mailing address, and phone number and email address if available.

(2) The local government has verified the petition to ensure compliance with paragraph (1).

(3) Following signature verification, the ~~local government~~ *city or county* provides public notice and opportunity to comment to residents of the affected area and holds a minimum of three public hearings in the affected area at a time and in a place and manner accessible to low-income residents and other vulnerable populations.

(4) The governing body for the city or county in which the sensitive community is located determines, by majority vote, to apply this chapter in the affected area.

(f) It is the intent of the Legislature to consider all of the following:

(1) Tasking local government entities with greater community connection with convening and administering the process for identifying sensitive communities.

(2) Requiring review by the Department of Housing and Community Development of the designation of sensitive communities.

65918.59. *(a) On or before July 1, 2021, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall develop and publish on its internet website rules, regulations, or guidelines for the submission and approval of a local flexibility plan. The rules, regulations, or guidelines shall include requirements that the local government demonstrate that the local flexibility plan would do the following:*

(1) Affirmatively further fair housing, as that term is defined in Section 8899.50, to an extent as great or greater than if the local government were to grant equitable communities incentives in fulfillment of Section 65918.51.

(2) Achieve a standard of transportation efficiency as great or greater than if the local government were to grant equitable communities incentives in fulfillment of Section 65918.51.

(3) Increase overall feasible housing capacity for households of lower, moderate, and above moderate incomes, considering economic factors such as cost of likely construction types, affordable housing requirements, and the impact of local development fees.

(b) On or after July 1, 2021, a local government may submit a local flexibility plan for review and approval by the Department of Housing and Community Development pursuant to the rules, regulations, or guidelines adopted pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) A local government submitting a local flexibility plan and the Department of Housing and Community Development shall process, review, and certify the local flexibility plan as expeditiously as possible after local community planning and stakeholder outreach is complete.

(d) Any rule, regulation, or guideline developed and published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research pursuant to this section shall not be subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2.

SEC. 5. 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.