



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

April 10, 2026

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Comm.
1021 O Street, Suite 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Comm.
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1075 (Reyes) Air resources: toxic air contaminants: criteria air pollutants: community emissions reduction programs: local community emissions reduction plans.
Notice of OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED (*As Amended on March 25, 2026*)

Dear Chair Blakespear and Chair Durazo,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and the American Planning Association of California (APA) respectfully submit our **Oppose Unless Amended** position on **SB 1075 (Reyes)**, related to community emission reduction programs and plans, and land use decisions.

Under Federal Clean Air Act, attainment is the status achieved when a geographic area's air quality meets or is cleaner than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the US EPA. Under existing state law, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and regional air districts develop statewide and community-level air quality strategies to reduce emissions and air pollutants in communities. Existing law requires CARB's statewide strategy to be updated at least once every 5 years. Based on its assessment and identification, CARB can select locations for preparation of community emissions reduction programs. Regional air quality management districts (AQMDs) can then review community emissions reduction program (CERPs) to achieve emissions reductions based on unique local factors. In some cases, CARB has provided grants through its Community Air Grant program to develop and implement local community emission reduction plans (LCERPs), which are developed locally by community groups that are ultimately not developed, certified or approved by the AQMDs or CARB but are community-conceived plans.

SB 1075 would expand existing law by requiring CARB's statewide strategy to be updated every three years, rather than five, and would require the AQMDs to develop local CERPs to be submitted to CARB for review and approval. CARB would be authorized to enforce these plans to ensure they are consistent with not only the statewide strategy but that federal Clean Air Act attainment is achieved.

SB 1075 would restrict a local government's land use planning authority and require the environmental justice element of the general plan to comply with an applicable CERPs or LCERPs. The bill would define such compliance as preventing new, substantial modifications or expanded uses that contribute to poor air quality. Should there be inconsistencies, the bill would require the most health protective standard to apply. Before permitting a use, a local land use agency would be required to notice and conduct a public meeting for any decisions that would be considered an essential environmental, health, or safety need on the community that may not align with a program or plan but for which there is no reasonable alternative. The bill would allow citizens to file a petition with the Attorney General, who would be able to challenge, stay, and void a local land use decision, where an action brought against the local

land use agency could only be remedied after a violation with equitable, injunctive, and declaratory relief and all costs covered when the Attorney General prevails, as deemed appropriate by the court.

SB 1075 Prescribes Land Use Planning at the Behest of CARB

As currently written, SB 1075 would strip cities and counties of their land use authority over general plans, zoning, permitting, and land use decisions based on the review and approval of CERPs by CARB or LCERPs that have no local, regional or state involvement at all. By requiring local governments to have consistency with the CERPs or LCERPs, this would trigger the environmental justice or portions of the General Plan to be updated every three years in which CARB would enforce compliance of all CERPs and LCERPs with the statewide strategy. By requiring compliance to be predicated on preventing any new or expanded uses that contribute to poor air quality, land use authority would fall to CARB's order, through its role in regulating the AQMDs and approval of the CERPs, and in the case of LCERPs with no local, regional or state involvement, land use authority would be directed by this plan. This approach would dissolve local government's ability to assess potential land use impacts holistically and stymie critical infrastructure and housing development for communities based on this singular focus.

SB 1075 Dismantles CEQA by Prioritizing Air Quality Above All Else

SB 1075 creates very broad, ongoing obligations for cities to align land use decisions to the single indicator of air quality, for all local planning, zoning, and permitting decisions. Cities and counties must plan and make land use decisions consistent with a plethora of environmental law, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An environmental review under CEQA is conducted in a transparent and public process to disclose environmental impacts and develop mitigation measures as appropriate. CEQA requires the assessment of nearly 20 various indicators that every project or action must consider, including air quality, transportation, land use, among others. SB 1075 undermines the entire purpose and intent of CEQA by prioritizing air quality above all other potential environmental impacts when cities and counties make land use decisions. This would set a dangerous precedent that could dismantle CEQA and that would only expose local governments to more litigation under CEQA and SB 1075.

SB 1075 Empowers Citizen Petitions to Void Land Use Decisions

SB 1075 would allow a citizen petition to the Attorney General to void local land use decisions. This overly punitive approach effectively subordinates local land use decisions to CERPs developed by AQMDs and certified by CARB or LCERPs that are only developed by community groups without local, regional or state involvement that a city or county have not contributed to, nor have control over and penalizes them for it by exposing them to strict enforcement actions from the Attorney General based on citizen petition.

SB 1075 would impose land use restrictions that would create significant uncertainty, expand litigation risk, and constrain local land use authority in ways that could delay critical housing, infrastructure, and economic development projects. We are deeply concerned this bill would have far reaching, unintended consequences. As such, we are committed to continuing to work with the author on amendments to ensure local land use authority and holistic environmental review are protected in this bill.

For these reasons, Cal Cities, CSAC, RCRC, and APA must respectfully **Oppose SB 1075 (Reyes) Unless It Is Amended.**

Sincerely,



Melissa Sparks-Kranz
Legislative Advocate
League of California Cities



Tracy Rhine
Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Mark Neuburger
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California State Association of Counties



Reuben Duarte
Vice President, Policy and Legislation
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cc: The Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes
Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Members, Senate Local Government Committee