

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: March 24, 2010
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 1207
AUTHOR: C. Kehoe
RELATED BILLS: SB 505 of 2009
 (Kehoe)

BILL SUMMARY: Land Use: General Plan: Safety Element

Existing law requires local governments to include a safety element in their general plans. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a project proponent to mitigate to the extent feasible the environmental impacts of a proposed project. This bill would require the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to update its 'Fire Hazard Planning' document to be considered by local governments in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and other designated fire hazard zones when adopting the safety element of their general plans. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) would be required to review updates to the safety element of general plans. The bill would also amend CEQA to include fire hazard impact questions in the initial study checklist for projects in SRA or other designated fire hazard zones.

FISCAL SUMMARY

CAL FIRE estimates this bill would require \$219,260 General Fund and 2 PYs to provide guideline assistance and program oversight for the OPR and \$1,621,000 General Fund and 11 PYs to assist local agencies with the review and ongoing implementation. Additionally, CAL FIRE believes that in order to continue the long-term implementation of this bill it would need an additional \$1,149,000 General Fund and 2 PYs to update and maintain the SRA and fire hazard severity zone maps.

OPR estimates this bill would require 3/4 PYs to update its 'Fire Hazard Planning' document. This would translate into a total one-time cost of \$50,000 General Fund.

COMMENTS

Finance opposes this bill as it would result in General Fund costs not reflected in the 2009 Budget Act and creates significant cost pressures to maintain SRA and fire hazard severity zone maps.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	SO	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	
3540/Forest&Fire	SO	No		--	C	\$1,495	C	\$2,989	0001
0650/OPR	SO	No		--	C	\$50		--	0001

Analyst/Principal (0634) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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