

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier..... District 2
Jeff Flores..... District 3
David Couch..... District 4
Leticia Perez..... District 5



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

April 22, 2026

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

Re: SB 1075 (Reyes), Community Emissions Reduction Programs and overreach into local land use authority – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Blakespear,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to SB 1075 (Reyes), which would implement a sweeping expansion of state authority into local planning, dismantle existing environmental review frameworks, and create significant legal and administrative burdens for counties.

Expands CARB Authority and Subordinates Local Land Use Planning to State Oversight

SB 1075 would shift core land-use decision-making away from counties and toward the California Air Resources Board (CARB). By requiring community emissions reduction plans (CERPs) and local CERPs to achieve CARB approval and federal Clean Air Act attainment, the bill effectively conditions local planning on CARB's regulatory interpretations and enforcement priorities.

This structure places CARB, not locally elected governing bodies, in the position of determining whether any new or expanded land use "contributes to poor air quality," a vague and subjective standard that threatens to override general plans, zoning ordinances, and locally adopted environmental justice elements.

Additionally, shortening statewide strategy updates from five years to three creates a perpetual cycle of mandatory local plan revisions, forcing counties to repeatedly amend general plan components to maintain compliance with evolving statewide requirements.

Undermines CEQA by Elevating a Single Environmental Factor Above All Others

SB 1075 departs from decades of balanced environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires transparent review of nearly 20 categories of environmental impact including air quality, transportation, biological resources, water supply, and

land use, ensuring that decision makers assess environmental trade-offs holistically. SB 1075 dismantles this balanced approach by requiring air quality considerations to supersede all others, regardless of the broader environmental, economic, housing, or infrastructure needs of a community.

This creates a dangerous precedent by placing local governments in a position where they must disregard CEQA's comprehensive framework any time a project is deemed to "contribute to poor air quality," even if CEQA analysis suggests a different path that better serves the community.

Creates New Litigation Exposure and an Unprecedented Attorney General Enforcement Role

The bill authorizes any resident in a CERP community to petition the Attorney General to challenge, stay, or void a land-use decision that allegedly conflicts with a CERP or local CERP. This mechanism invites significant litigation risk, even when local agencies have followed CEQA, general plans, and established public processes in good faith.

Further, the Attorney General would be empowered to enforce violations with injunctive, declaratory, and equitable remedies, with costs borne entirely by the county whenever the AG prevails. This structure exposes counties to unpredictable and expensive litigation and allows for the overturning of duly noticed and lawfully adopted local decisions.

Impacts on Housing, Infrastructure, Economic Development, and Public Services

The bill's restrictions on new, modified, or expanded land uses that "contribute to poor air quality" would impede essential county priorities, including:

- Housing construction—including affordable and workforce housing
- Critical infrastructure (roads, utilities, emergency facilities)
- Economic development
- Industrial and agricultural operations that sustain local employment

The vague and all-encompassing standards in SB 1075 will have far-reaching, unintended consequences, delaying or preventing projects unrelated to emissions.

Imposes Unfunded Mandates Without Providing Local Capacity to Comply

SB 1075 places significant new obligations on counties to revise plans, conduct additional public processes, manage state-imposed consistency determinations, and respond to enforcement actions, yet it provides no resources to meet these obligations. Frequent mandatory updates, complex alignment requirements, and the potential for litigation create an unsustainable administrative burden.

Kern County remains committed to improving air quality through collaborative, community-driven approaches. However, SB 1075 goes too far as it will centralize land-use authority at the state level, undermine CEQA, increase litigation exposure, and impose costly and impractical burdens on local governments.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors strongly opposes this measure and respectfully urges you to vote **NO on SB 1075**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized, flowing script.

Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange