

Public Law Update – Housing Development Project Fee Estimates (AB 1820)

The Legislature's passage of AB 1820 (2024) ("AB 1820") is aimed at providing greater transparency in cities' and counties' development fees. The Legislature adopted the conclusion from a 2018 study conducted by the Terner Center for Housing Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley finding that, without standardized tools to estimate development fees, builders cannot accurately predict total project costs during the critical predevelopment phase.

AB 1820 adds Government Code section 65943.1 which requires cities and counties to provide a good faith estimate of the total fees and exactions that apply to a project within 30 days of a housing development project's final approval. The code applies to those fees and exactions imposed only by the local agency, such as development impact fees, building permit fees, etc. AB 1829 also amends Government Code section 65941.1 by requiring cities and counties to provide preliminary fees and exaction estimates within 30 business days of receipt of a preliminary application for a housing development project, upon the developer's request. AB 1820 applies to all cities, including charter cities, and is effective January 1, 2025.

Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP regularly advises clients on legal matters relating to land use, zoning, and planning issues, including the Housing Accountability Act and development impact fees.

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