

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 571

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk-Silva
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chen, Davies, Dixon, Essayli,
Pacheco, Petrie-Norris, Sanchez, Ta, and Valencia)
(Coauthors: Senators Archuleta and Choi)

February 12, 2025

An act to add and repeal Section 21080.62 of the Public Resources Code, relating to environmental quality, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 571, as introduced, Quirk-Silva. California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery.

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 exempts from its requirements various projects, including, but not limited to, housing projects that meet certain requirements and activities and approvals related to certain prison facilities.

This bill would exempt from the requirements of CEQA any activity or approval necessary for the completion of the Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery in the County of Orange. To the extent that a local agency would be required to determine whether an activity or approval qualifies for this exemption, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would repeal this provision on January 1, 2030.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the County of Orange.

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.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 21080.62 is added to the Public Resources
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 21080.62. (a) This division does not apply to any activity or
- 4 approval necessary for the completion of the public and state
- 5 veterans cemetery in Gypsum Canyon in the County of Orange,
- 6 known as the Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery.
- 7 (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2030,
- 8 and as of that date is repealed.
- 9 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special statute
- 10 is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made applicable
- 11 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
- 12 Constitution because the County of Orange, the state's largest
- 13 county without a veterans cemetery, requires specific legislative
- 14 action to establish the Gypsum Canyon Veterans Cemetery and
- 15 provide a final resting place for its veterans.
- 16 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
- 17 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
- 18 a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service
- 19 charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or

1 level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section
2 17556 of the Government Code.

3 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
4 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
5 the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall
6 go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

7 The County of Orange is the largest county in the state without
8 a veterans cemetery and requires immediate legislative action to
9 facilitate the construction of the Gypsum Canyon Veterans
10 Cemetery. In order to ensure the honorable and respectful treatment
11 of veterans in the County of Orange in the county they called home,
12 it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

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