

**ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**



**STAFF REPORT**

**TO: ALAMEDA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**HEARING DATE: APRIL 03, 2023**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**ISSUE:** Accessory Dwelling Unit and Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit permitted per State Legislation.

**BACKGROUND:** Planning Commission request for a discussion on Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit reviews when located within same building as the primary dwelling unit

**LOCATION:** Applicable to entirety of unincorporated Alameda County.

**GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:** Applicable to all parcels in all general plan land use designations that allow the R-1 (single-family residence) Zoning Districts.

**ZONING:** Applicable to all parcels within R-1 (single-family residence) Zoning Districts.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** This is an interpretation of State Legislation, and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission listen to the Staff presentation, take public testimony, and provide staff with recommendations on the interpretation of State Legislation regarding development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) within the same building as a primary dwelling unit.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

Alameda County permits ADUs and JADUs, but per the Government Code Section 65852.2 (e) referenced below, the ADU would need to be detached, if a JADU is also proposed.

Government Code Section 65852.2.

- (e) (1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, a local agency shall ministerially approve an application for a building permit within a residential or mixed-use zone to create any of the following:
  - (A) One accessory dwelling unit and one junior accessory dwelling unit per lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling if all of the following apply:
    - (i) The accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit is within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure and may include an expansion of not more than 150 square feet beyond the same physical dimensions as the existing accessory structure. An expansion beyond the physical dimensions of the existing accessory structure shall be limited to accommodating ingress and egress.
    - (ii) The space has exterior access from the proposed or existing single-family dwelling.
    - (iii) The side and rear setbacks are sufficient for fire and safety.
    - (iv) The junior accessory dwelling unit complies with the requirements of Section 65852.22.

Below further defines the permitted ADU & JADU combination proposal.

- (B) One detached, new construction, accessory dwelling unit that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks for a lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. The accessory dwelling unit may be combined with a junior accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A). A local agency may impose the following conditions on the accessory dwelling unit:
  - (i) A total floor area limitation of not more than 800 square feet.
  - (ii) A height limitation as provided in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) as applicable, of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).

Staff has previously interpreted the State Legislation above to state that if a property owner proposes both an ADU and a JADU on an R-1 zoned property, then the ADU must be detached from the primary dwelling unit.

A proposal was submitted late in 2022 to construct an ADU and a JADU within the same building as an existing primary dwelling unit in an R-1 Zoning District. Based on County Staff's previous interpretation of the State Legislation, we informed the applicant that a proposal for an ADU and a JADU within the same building as the primary dwelling unit was not allowed, but that they could submit either a detached ADU or a Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) proposal (SB 9 State Legislation requires that local jurisdictions allow up to four dwelling units within qualifying R-1 zoned parcels: up to two primary dwelling units plus up to two ADUs). The project proponent subsequently submitted an SB 9 Pre-Screen review in early 2023 (which is to keep the existing primary dwelling unit, add one more primary dwelling unit within the same building envelope, and add one ADU within the same building envelope), which County staff approved, and has yet to submit the Building Permit application for SB 9 units to the County.

However, State Housing and Community Development staff responded to County staff inquiries about the ADU and JADU issue earlier this year, and their interpretation of the State Legislation is that the ADUs and the JADUs can be located within the same building as the primary dwelling unit (per the email below).

**From:** Dept. of Housing & Community Development <[calhcd@service-now.com](mailto:calhcd@service-now.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 6:19 PM  
**To:** Chin, William, CDA <[William.Chin@acgov.org](mailto:William.Chin@acgov.org)>  
**Cc:** [Michael.McLaughlin@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.McLaughlin@hcd.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** A comment has been posted by an ADU team member on case number ADU0000471



A comment has been posted by an ADU team member on case number ADU0000471, submitted on 12/20/2022 10:52:41 AM PST, by Guest at [William.Chin@acgov.org](mailto:William.Chin@acgov.org).

William,

I apologize that you have not received a response yet.

Pursuant to Government Code section 65852.2, subdivisions (e)(1), “Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, a local agency shall ministerially approve an application for a building permit within a residential or mixed-use zone to create any of the following: (A) One accessory dwelling unit and one junior accessory dwelling unit per lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling...(i) The accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit is within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure.” Moreover subpart (B) permits “One detached, new construction, accessory dwelling unit that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks.” The use of the term any followed by an enumeration of by right ADU types permitted indicate that any of these ADU types can be combined on a lot zoned for single family dwellings. This permits a homeowner, who meets specified requirements, to create one converted ADU, one detached, new construction ADU, and one JADU.

Thus, if the local agency approves an ADU that is created from existing (or proposed) space, and the owner subsequently applies for a detached ADU (or vice versa), that meets the size and setbacks, pursuant to the subdivision, the local agency cannot deny the applicant, nor deny a permit for a JADU under this section. We noted that the Legislature, in creating the list did not use ‘or’ nor “one of” to indicate only one or another would be applicable to the exclusion of the other.

This subdivision applies equally to ADUs created on lots with proposed or existing multifamily dwellings.

To clarify, on a lot *with* a (proposed or existing) single-family dwelling, both a converted ADU (whether from existing or proposed space of the single-family dwelling) AND a JADU are permitted. The JADU must be created entirely within the primary dwelling unit. **This would moreover not preclude a detached ADU from being built, for a total of three dwelling units that are permitted by right.**

How is Alameda County currently enforcing subdivision (e) with regards to the total unit mix that is allowed by right?

Regards,

Michael

Replies to this message will be processed by the ADU Customer Service Portal and Michael McLaughlin will be notified of your question or comment

Also, the California Department of Housing and Community Development “Accessory Dwelling Unit Handbook”, updated July of 2022, page 19, states that “One ADU and one JADU are permitted per lot within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure that meets specified requirements such as exterior access and setbacks for fire and safety.” The inclusion of the word “within” instead of the word “with” that is in the State Legislation to County staff was an error in interpretation of the State legislation by the Handbook, but the reinforcing communication from State HCD staff in the email above has changed County Staff’s interpretation, and we not consider that an ADU and a JADU can be located within the same building as the primary dwelling unit.

Lastly, a review of the regulations as interpreted by nearby jurisdictions has revealed that both the City of Hayward and City of San Leandro allow attached ADUs if JADUs are also proposed.

It is therefore currently County Staff’s interpretation that the ADU no longer needs to be detached from the primary dwelling unit if a JADU is being constructed within the primary dwelling unit, as was the previous interpretation of the State Legislation by County Staff.

#### **H) Ministerially Approved ADUs and Junior ADUs (JADUs) Not Subject to Local Standards**

- **Are local agencies required to comply with Government Code section 65852.2, subdivision (e)?**

Yes. All local agencies must comply with subdivision (e). This subdivision requires the ministerial approval of ADUs within a residential or mixed-use zone. The subdivision creates four categories of ADUs that should not be subject to other specified areas of State ADU Law, most notably zoning and development standards. For example, ADUs under this subdivision should not have to comply with lot coverage, setbacks, heights, and unit sizes. However, ADUs under this subdivision must meet the building code and health and safety requirements. The four categories of ADUs under subdivision (e)(1) are:

- (A) One ADU and one JADU are permitted per lot within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure that meets specified requirements such as exterior access and setbacks for fire and safety.
- (B) One detached new construction ADU that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks. This ADU may be combined on the same lot with a JADU, and may be required to meet a maximum unit size requirement of 800 square feet and a height limitation of 16 feet.

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#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- State legislation on ADUs and AJADUs, most recent update effective on January 01, 2023
- California Department of Housing and Community Development “Accessory Dwelling Unit Handbook”, updated July of 2022

PREPARED BY: Rodrigo Orduña, Assistant Planning Director

**State of California**

**GOVERNMENT CODE**

**Section 65852.2**

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65852.2. (a) (1) A local agency may, by ordinance, provide for the creation of accessory dwelling units in areas zoned to allow single-family or multifamily dwelling residential use. The ordinance shall do all of the following:

(A) Designate areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency where accessory dwelling units may be permitted. The designation of areas may be based on the adequacy of water and sewer services and the impact of accessory dwelling units on traffic flow and public safety. A local agency that does not provide water or sewer services shall consult with the local water or sewer service provider regarding the adequacy of water and sewer services before designating an area where accessory dwelling units may be permitted.

(B) (i) Impose objective standards on accessory dwelling units that include, but are not limited to, parking, height, setback, landscape, architectural review, maximum size of a unit, and standards that prevent adverse impacts on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. These standards shall not include requirements on minimum lot size.

(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), a local agency may reduce or eliminate parking requirements for any accessory dwelling unit located within its jurisdiction.

(C) Provide that accessory dwelling units do not exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which the accessory dwelling unit is located, and that accessory dwelling units are a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designation for the lot.

(D) Require the accessory dwelling units to comply with all of the following:

(i) Except as provided in Section 65852.26, the accessory dwelling unit may be rented separate from the primary residence, but may not be sold or otherwise conveyed separate from the primary residence.

(ii) The lot is zoned to allow single-family or multifamily dwelling residential use and includes a proposed or existing dwelling.

(iii) The accessory dwelling unit is either attached to, or located within, the proposed or existing primary dwelling, including attached garages, storage areas or similar uses, or an accessory structure or detached from the proposed or existing primary dwelling and located on the same lot as the proposed or existing primary dwelling, including detached garages.

(iv) If there is an existing primary dwelling, the total floor area of an attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 50 percent of the existing primary dwelling.

(v) The total floor area for a detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 1,200 square feet.

(vi) No passageway shall be required in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit.

(vii) No setback shall be required for an existing living area or accessory structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure that is converted to an accessory dwelling unit or to a portion of an accessory dwelling unit, and a setback of no more than four feet from the side and rear lot lines shall be required for an accessory dwelling unit that is not converted from an existing structure or a new structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure.

(viii) Local building code requirements that apply to detached dwellings, except that the construction of an accessory dwelling unit shall not constitute a Group R occupancy change under the local building code, as described in Section 310 of the California Building Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations), unless the building official or enforcement agency of the local agency makes a written finding based on substantial evidence in the record that the construction of the accessory dwelling unit could have a specific, adverse impact on public health and safety. Nothing in this clause shall be interpreted to prevent a local agency from changing the occupancy code of a space that was unhabitable space or was only permitted for nonresidential use and was subsequently converted for residential use pursuant to this section.

(ix) Approval by the local health officer where a private sewage disposal system is being used, if required.

(x) (I) Parking requirements for accessory dwelling units shall not exceed one parking space per accessory dwelling unit or per bedroom, whichever is less. These spaces may be provided as tandem parking on a driveway.

(II) Offstreet parking shall be permitted in setback areas in locations determined by the local agency or through tandem parking, unless specific findings are made that parking in setback areas or tandem parking is not feasible based upon specific site or regional topographical or fire and life safety conditions.

(III) This clause shall not apply to an accessory dwelling unit that is described in subdivision (d).

(xi) When a garage, carport, or covered parking structure is demolished in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit or converted to an accessory dwelling unit, the local agency shall not require that those offstreet parking spaces be replaced.

(xii) Accessory dwelling units shall not be required to provide fire sprinklers if they are not required for the primary residence. The construction of an accessory dwelling unit shall not trigger a requirement for fire sprinklers to be installed in the existing primary dwelling.

(2) The ordinance shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.

(3) (A) A permit application for an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit shall be considered and approved ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing, notwithstanding Section 65901 or 65906 or any local ordinance

regulating the issuance of variances or special use permits. The permitting agency shall either approve or deny the application to create or serve an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days from the date the permitting agency receives a completed application if there is an existing single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot. If the permit application to create or serve an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create a new single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot, the permitting agency may delay approving or denying the permit application for the accessory dwelling unit or the junior accessory dwelling unit until the permitting agency approves or denies the permit application to create the new single-family or multifamily dwelling, but the application to create or serve the accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit shall be considered without discretionary review or hearing. If the applicant requests a delay, the 60-day time period shall be tolled for the period of the delay. If the local agency has not approved or denied the completed application within 60 days, the application shall be deemed approved. A local agency may charge a fee to reimburse it for costs incurred to implement this paragraph, including the costs of adopting or amending any ordinance that provides for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

(B) If a permitting agency denies an application for an accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit pursuant to subparagraph (A), the permitting agency shall, within the time period described in subparagraph (A), return in writing a full set of comments to the applicant with a list of items that are defective or deficient and a description of how the application can be remedied by the applicant.

(4) The ordinance shall require that a demolition permit for a detached garage that is to be replaced with an accessory dwelling unit be reviewed with the application for the accessory dwelling unit and issued at the same time.

(5) The ordinance shall not require, and the applicant shall not be otherwise required, to provide written notice or post a placard for the demolition of a detached garage that is to be replaced with an accessory dwelling unit, unless the property is located within an architecturally and historically significant historic district.

(6) An existing ordinance governing the creation of an accessory dwelling unit by a local agency or an accessory dwelling ordinance adopted by a local agency shall provide an approval process that includes only ministerial provisions for the approval of accessory dwelling units and shall not include any discretionary processes, provisions, or requirements for those units, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision. If a local agency has an existing accessory dwelling unit ordinance that fails to meet the requirements of this subdivision, that ordinance shall be null and void and that agency shall thereafter apply the standards established in this subdivision for the approval of accessory dwelling units, unless and until the agency adopts an ordinance that complies with this section.

(7) No other local ordinance, policy, or regulation shall be the basis for the delay or denial of a building permit or a use permit under this subdivision.

(8) (A) This subdivision establishes the maximum standards that local agencies shall use to evaluate a proposed accessory dwelling unit on a lot that includes a

proposed or existing single-family dwelling. No additional standards, other than those provided in this subdivision, shall be used or imposed, except that, subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), a local agency may require an applicant for a permit issued pursuant to this subdivision to be an owner-occupant.

(B) (i) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a local agency shall not impose an owner-occupant requirement on an accessory dwelling unit before January 1, 2025.

(ii) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a local agency shall not impose an owner-occupant requirement on an accessory dwelling unit that was permitted between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2025.

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), a local agency may require that an accessory dwelling unit be used for rentals of terms longer than 30 days.

(9) A local agency may amend its zoning ordinance or general plan to incorporate the policies, procedures, or other provisions applicable to the creation of an accessory dwelling unit if these provisions are consistent with the limitations of this subdivision.

(10) An accessory dwelling unit that conforms to this subdivision shall be deemed to be an accessory use or an accessory building and shall not be considered to exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which it is located, and shall be deemed to be a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designations for the lot. The accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.

(b) (1) When a local agency that has not adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a) receives an application for a permit to create or serve an accessory dwelling unit pursuant to this subdivision, the local agency shall approve or disapprove the application ministerially without discretionary review pursuant to subdivision (a). The permitting agency shall either approve or deny the application to create or serve an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days from the date the permitting agency receives a completed application if there is an existing single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot. If the permit application to create or serve an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create or serve a new single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot, the permitting agency may delay approving or denying the permit application for the accessory dwelling unit or the junior accessory dwelling unit until the permitting agency approves or denies the permit application to create or serve the new single-family or multifamily dwelling, but the application to create or serve the accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit shall still be considered ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing. If the applicant requests a delay, the 60-day time period shall be tolled for the period of the delay. If the local agency has not approved or denied the completed application within 60 days, the application shall be deemed approved.

(2) If a permitting agency denies an application for an accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit pursuant to paragraph (1), the permitting agency shall, within the time period described in paragraph (1), return in writing a full set of comments to the applicant with a list of items that are defective or deficient and a description of how the application can be remedied by the applicant.



(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a local agency may establish minimum and maximum unit size requirements for both attached and detached accessory dwelling units.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a local agency shall not establish by ordinance any of the following:

(A) A minimum square footage requirement for either an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit that prohibits an efficiency unit.

(B) A maximum square footage requirement for either an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit that is less than either of the following:

(i) 850 square feet.

(ii) 1,000 square feet for an accessory dwelling unit that provides more than one bedroom.

(C) Any requirement for a zoning clearance or separate zoning review or any other minimum or maximum size for an accessory dwelling unit, size based upon a percentage of the proposed or existing primary dwelling, or limits on lot coverage, floor area ratio, open space, front setbacks, and minimum lot size, for either attached or detached dwellings that does not permit at least an 800 square foot accessory dwelling unit with four-foot side and rear yard setbacks to be constructed in compliance with all other local development standards.

(D) Any height limitation that does not allow at least the following, as applicable:

(i) A height of 16 feet for a detached accessory dwelling unit on a lot with an existing or proposed single family or multifamily dwelling unit.

(ii) A height of 18 feet for a detached accessory dwelling unit on a lot with an existing or proposed single family or multifamily dwelling unit that is within one-half of one mile walking distance of a major transit stop or a high-quality transit corridor, as those terms are defined in Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code. A local agency shall also allow an additional two feet in height to accommodate a roof pitch on the accessory dwelling unit that is aligned with the roof pitch of the primary dwelling unit.

(iii) A height of 18 feet for a detached accessory dwelling unit on a lot with an existing or proposed multifamily, multistory dwelling.

(iv) A height of 25 feet or the height limitation in the local zoning ordinance that applies to the primary dwelling, whichever is lower, for an accessory dwelling unit that is attached to a primary dwelling. This clause shall not require a local agency to allow an accessory dwelling unit to exceed two stories.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, and whether or not the local agency has adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a), all of the following shall apply:

(1) The local agency shall not impose any parking standards for an accessory dwelling unit in any of the following instances:

(A) Where the accessory dwelling unit is located within one-half mile walking distance of public transit.

(B) Where the accessory dwelling unit is located within an architecturally and historically significant historic district.

(C) Where the accessory dwelling unit is part of the proposed or existing primary residence or an accessory structure.

(D) When onstreet parking permits are required but not offered to the occupant of the accessory dwelling unit.

(E) When there is a car share vehicle located within one block of the accessory dwelling unit.

(F) When a permit application for an accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create a new single-family dwelling or a new multifamily dwelling on the same lot, provided that the accessory dwelling unit or the parcel satisfies any other criteria listed in this paragraph.

(2) The local agency shall not deny an application for a permit to create an accessory dwelling unit due to the correction of nonconforming zoning conditions, building code violations, or unpermitted structures that do not present a threat to public health and safety and are not affected by the construction of the accessory dwelling unit.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, a local agency shall ministerially approve an application for a building permit within a residential or mixed-use zone to create any of the following:

(A) One accessory dwelling unit and one junior accessory dwelling unit per lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling if all of the following apply:

(i) The accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit is within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure and may include an expansion of not more than 150 square feet beyond the same physical dimensions as the existing accessory structure. An expansion beyond the physical dimensions of the existing accessory structure shall be limited to accommodating ingress and egress.

(ii) The space has exterior access from the proposed or existing single-family dwelling.

(iii) The side and rear setbacks are sufficient for fire and safety.

(iv) The junior accessory dwelling unit complies with the requirements of Section 65852.22.

(B) One detached, new construction, accessory dwelling unit that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks for a lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. The accessory dwelling unit may be combined with a junior accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A). A local agency may impose the following conditions on the accessory dwelling unit:

(i) A total floor area limitation of not more than 800 square feet.

(ii) A height limitation as provided in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) as applicable, of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).

(C) (i) Multiple accessory dwelling units within the portions of existing multifamily dwelling structures that are not used as livable space, including, but not limited to, storage rooms, boiler rooms, passageways, attics, basements, or garages, if each unit complies with state building standards for dwellings.

(ii) A local agency shall allow at least one accessory dwelling unit within an existing multifamily dwelling and shall allow up to 25 percent of the existing multifamily dwelling units.

(D) (i) Not more than two accessory dwelling units that are located on a lot that has an existing or proposed multifamily dwelling, but are detached from that multifamily dwelling and are subject to a height limitation in clause (i), (ii), or (iii), as applicable, of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) and rear yard and side setbacks of no more than four feet.

(ii) If the existing multifamily dwelling has a rear or side setback of less than four feet, the local agency shall not require any modification of the existing multifamily dwelling as a condition of approving the application to construct an accessory dwelling unit that satisfies the requirements of this subparagraph.

(2) A local agency shall not require, as a condition for ministerial approval of a permit application for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit, the correction of nonconforming zoning conditions.

(3) The installation of fire sprinklers shall not be required in an accessory dwelling unit if sprinklers are not required for the primary residence. The construction of an accessory dwelling unit shall not trigger a requirement for fire sprinklers to be installed in the existing multifamily dwelling.

(4) A local agency may require owner-occupancy for either the primary dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit on a single-family lot, subject to the requirements of paragraph (8) of subdivision (a).

(5) A local agency shall require that a rental of the accessory dwelling unit created pursuant to this subdivision be for a term longer than 30 days.

(6) A local agency may require, as part of the application for a permit to create an accessory dwelling unit connected to an onsite wastewater treatment system, a percolation test completed within the last five years, or, if the percolation test has been recertified, within the last 10 years.

(7) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) and paragraph (1) a local agency that has adopted an ordinance by July 1, 2018, providing for the approval of accessory dwelling units in multifamily dwelling structures shall ministerially consider a permit application to construct an accessory dwelling unit that is described in paragraph (1), and may impose objective standards including, but not limited to, design, development, and historic standards on said accessory dwelling units. These standards shall not include requirements on minimum lot size.

(f) (1) Fees charged for the construction of accessory dwelling units shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 66000) and Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 66012).

(2) An accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered by a local agency, special district, or water corporation to be a new residential use for purposes of calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, including water and sewer service, unless the accessory dwelling unit was constructed with a new single-family dwelling.

(3) (A) A local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not impose any impact fee upon the development of an accessory dwelling unit less than 750 square

feet. Any impact fees charged for an accessory dwelling unit of 750 square feet or more shall be charged proportionately in relation to the square footage of the primary dwelling unit.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, “impact fee” has the same meaning as the term “fee” is defined in subdivision (b) of Section 66000, except that it also includes fees specified in Section 66477. “Impact fee” does not include any connection fee or capacity charge charged by a local agency, special district, or water corporation.

(4) For an accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not require the applicant to install a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory dwelling unit and the utility or impose a related connection fee or capacity charge, unless the accessory dwelling unit was constructed with a new single-family dwelling.

(5) For an accessory dwelling unit that is not described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation may require a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory dwelling unit and the utility. Consistent with Section 66013, the connection may be subject to a connection fee or capacity charge that shall be proportionate to the burden of the proposed accessory dwelling unit, based upon either its square feet or the number of its drainage fixture unit (DFU) values, as defined in the Uniform Plumbing Code adopted and published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, upon the water or sewer system. This fee or charge shall not exceed the reasonable cost of providing this service.

(g) This section shall supersede a conflicting local ordinance. This section does not limit the authority of local agencies to adopt less restrictive requirements for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

(h) (1) A local agency shall submit a copy of the ordinance adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) to the Department of Housing and Community Development within 60 days after adoption. After adoption of an ordinance, the department may submit written findings to the local agency as to whether the ordinance complies with this section.

(2) (A) If the department finds that the local agency’s ordinance does not comply with this section, the department shall notify the local agency and shall provide the local agency with a reasonable time, no longer than 30 days, to respond to the findings before taking any other action authorized by this section.

(B) The local agency shall consider the findings made by the department pursuant to subparagraph (A) and shall do one of the following:

(i) Amend the ordinance to comply with this section.

(ii) Adopt the ordinance without changes. The local agency shall include findings in its resolution adopting the ordinance that explain the reasons the local agency believes that the ordinance complies with this section despite the findings of the department.

(3) (A) If the local agency does not amend its ordinance in response to the department’s findings or does not adopt a resolution with findings explaining the

reason the ordinance complies with this section and addressing the department's findings, the department shall notify the local agency and may notify the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law.

(B) Before notifying the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law, the department may consider whether a local agency adopted an ordinance in compliance with this section between January 1, 2017, and January 1, 2020.

(i) The department may review, adopt, amend, or repeal guidelines to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, and standards set forth in this section. The guidelines adopted pursuant to this subdivision are not subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2.

(j) As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Accessory dwelling unit" means an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing primary residence. It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-family or multifamily dwelling is or will be situated. An accessory dwelling unit also includes the following:

(A) An efficiency unit.

(B) A manufactured home, as defined in Section 18007 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) "Accessory structure" means a structure that is accessory and incidental to a dwelling located on the same lot.

(3) "Efficiency unit" has the same meaning as defined in Section 17958.1 of the Health and Safety Code.

(4) "Living area" means the interior habitable area of a dwelling unit, including basements and attics, but does not include a garage or any accessory structure.

(5) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

(6) "Nonconforming zoning condition" means a physical improvement on a property that does not conform with current zoning standards.

(7) "Objective standards" means standards that involve no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development applicant or proponent and the public official prior to submittal.

(8) "Passageway" means a pathway that is unobstructed clear to the sky and extends from a street to one entrance of the accessory dwelling unit.

(9) "Permitting agency" means any entity that is involved in the review of a permit for an accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit and for which there is no substitute, including, but not limited to, applicable planning departments, building departments, utilities, and special districts.

(10) "Proposed dwelling" means a dwelling that is the subject of a permit application and that meets the requirements for permitting.

(11) “Public transit” means a location, including, but not limited to, a bus stop or train station, where the public may access buses, trains, subways, and other forms of transportation that charge set fares, run on fixed routes, and are available to the public.

(12) “Tandem parking” means that two or more automobiles are parked on a driveway or in any other location on a lot, lined up behind one another.

(k) A local agency shall not issue a certificate of occupancy for an accessory dwelling unit before the local agency issues a certificate of occupancy for the primary dwelling.

(l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or in any way alter or lessen the effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code), except that the local government shall not be required to hold public hearings for coastal development permit applications for accessory dwelling units.

(m) A local agency may count an accessory dwelling unit for purposes of identifying adequate sites for housing, as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 65583.1, subject to authorization by the department and compliance with this division.

(n) In enforcing building standards pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 17960) of Chapter 5 of Part 1.5 of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code for an accessory dwelling unit described in paragraph (1) or (2), a local agency, upon request of an owner of an accessory dwelling unit for a delay in enforcement, shall delay enforcement of a building standard, subject to compliance with Section 17980.12 of the Health and Safety Code:

(1) The accessory dwelling unit was built before January 1, 2020.

(2) The accessory dwelling unit was built on or after January 1, 2020, in a local jurisdiction that, at the time the accessory dwelling unit was built, had a noncompliant accessory dwelling unit ordinance, but the ordinance is compliant at the time the request is made.

(Amended (as amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 343, Sec. 1) by Stats. 2022, Ch. 664, Sec. 2.5. (SB 897) Effective January 1, 2023.)



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

# ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT HANDBOOK

UPDATED JULY 2022



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# Understanding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Their Importance



California's housing production is not keeping pace with demand. In the last decade, fewer than half of the homes needed to keep up with the population growth were built. Additionally, new homes are often constructed away from job-rich areas. This lack of housing that meets people's needs is impacting affordability and causing average housing costs, particularly for renters in California, to rise significantly. As affordable housing becomes less accessible, people drive longer distances between housing they can afford and their workplace or pack themselves into smaller shared spaces, both of which reduce quality of life and produce negative environmental impacts.

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Beyond traditional construction, widening the range of housing types can increase the housing supply and help more low-income Californians thrive. Examples of some of these housing types are accessory dwelling units (ADUs – also referred to as second units, in-law units, casitas, or granny flats) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs).

## **What is an ADU?**

An ADU is accessory to a primary residence and has complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and has a few variations:

- Detached: The unit is separated from the primary structure.
- Attached: The unit is attached to the primary structure.
- Converted Existing Space: Space (e.g., master bedroom, attached garage, storage area, or similar use, or an accessory structure) on the lot of the primary residence that is converted into an independent living unit.
- JADU: A specific type of conversion of existing space that is contained entirely within an existing or proposed single-family residence.

ADUs tend to be significantly less expensive to build than new detached single-family homes and offer benefits that address common development barriers, such as environmental quality. Because ADUs must be built on lots with existing or proposed housing, they do not require paying for new land or other costly infrastructure often required to build a new single-family home. Because they are contained inside existing or proposed single-family homes, JADUs require relatively modest renovations and are much more affordable to complete. ADUs are often built with cost-effective one- or two-story wood frames, which are also less expensive than other construction types. Additionally, prefabricated ADUs (e.g., manufactured housing and factory-built housing) can be directly purchased and can further reduce construction time and cost. ADUs can provide as much living space as apartments and condominiums and work well for couples, small families, friends, young people, and seniors.

Much of California's housing crisis comes from job-rich, high-opportunity areas where the total housing stock is insufficient to meet demand and exclusionary practices have limited housing choice and inclusion. Professionals and students often prefer living closer to jobs and amenities rather than spending hours commuting. Parents often want better access to schools and do not necessarily require single-family homes to meet their housing needs. There is a shortage of affordable units, and the units that are available can be out of reach for many people. Homeowners can construct an ADU on their lot or convert an underutilized part of their home into a JADU. This flexibility benefits both renters and homeowners, who can receive extra monthly rental income while also contributing to meeting state housing production goals.

ADUs also give homeowners the flexibility to share independent living areas with family members and others, allowing seniors to age in place, even if they require more care, thus helping extended families stay together while maintaining privacy. ADUs provide housing for family members, students, the elderly, in-home health care providers, individuals with disabilities, and others at below market prices within existing neighborhoods.

New policies are making ADUs even more affordable to build, in part by limiting the development impact fees that local jurisdictions may charge for ADU construction and relaxing local zoning requirements. ADUs and JADUs can often be built at a fraction of the price of a new single-family home, and homeowners may use their existing lot to create additional housing. Often the rent generated from the ADU can pay for the entire project in a matter of years.

ADUs and JADUs are a flexible form of housing that can help Californians more easily access job-rich, high-opportunity areas. By design, ADUs are more affordable to renters and can provide additional income to homeowners. Local governments can encourage the development of ADUs and improve access to jobs, education, and services for many Californians.

# Summary of Recent Changes to ADU Laws



In Government Code Section 65852.150, the California Legislature found and declared that, among other things, allowing ADUs in zones that allow single-family and multifamily uses provides additional rental housing and is an essential component in addressing California's housing needs. Over the years, State ADU Law has been revised to improve its effectiveness at creating more housing units. Changes to State ADU Law effective January 1, 2021, further reduce barriers, streamline approval processes, and expand capacity to accommodate the development of ADUs and JADUs. Within this context, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) developed –

and continues to update – this handbook to assist local governments, homeowners, architects, and the general public in encouraging the development of ADUs. Below is a summary of recent legislation that amended State ADU Law. Please see Attachment 1 for the complete statutory changes.

## **AB 345 (Chapter 343, Statutes of 2021)**

AB 345 (Chapter 343, Statutes of 2021) builds upon recent changes to State ADU Law, particularly Government Code sections 65852.2 and 65852.26, to require the allowance of the separate conveyance of ADUs from the primary dwelling in certain circumstances, provided they meet certain conditions, including those listed below, found in Government Code section 65852.26, subdivisions (a)(1-5):

- The ADU or primary dwelling was built or developed by a qualified nonprofit. (Gov. Code, § 65852.26, subd. (a).)
- There is an enforceable restriction on the use of the property between the low-income buyer and nonprofit that satisfies the requirements of Section 402.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code. (Gov. Code, § 65852.26, subd. (a)(2).)
- The entire property is subject to the affordability restrictions to assure that the ADU and primary dwelling are preserved for owner-occupied, low-income housing for 45 years and are sold or resold only to a qualified buyer. (Gov. Code, § 65852.26, subd. (a)(3)(D).)
- The property is held in a recorded tenancy in common agreement that meets certain requirements. (Gov. Code, § 65852.26, subd. (a)(3).)

AB 345 does not apply to JADUs, and local ordinances must continue to prohibit JADUs from being sold separately from the primary residence.

## **[AB 3182](#) (Chapter 198, Statutes of 2020)**

AB 3182 (Chapter 198, Statutes of 2020) builds upon recent changes to State ADU Law, specifically Government Code section 65852.2 and Civil Code Sections 4740 and 4741, to further address barriers to the development and use of ADUs and JADUs.

This legislation, among other changes, addresses the following:

- States that an application for the creation of an ADU or JADU shall be *deemed approved* (not just subject to ministerial approval) if the local agency has not acted on the completed application within 60 days. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(3).)
- Requires ministerial approval of an application for a building permit within a residential or mixed-use zone to create one ADU *and* one JADU per lot (not one or the other), within the proposed or existing single-family dwelling, if certain conditions are met. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (e)(1)(A).)
- Provides for the rental or leasing of a separate interest ADU or JADU in a common interest development, notwithstanding governing documents that otherwise appear to prohibit renting or leasing of a unit, and without regard to the date of the governing documents. (Civ. Code, § 4740, subd. (a), and Civ. Code, § 4741, subd. (a).)
- Provides that not less than 25 percent of the separate interest units within a common interest development be allowed as rental or leasable units. (Civ. Code, § 4740, subd. (b).)

## **[AB 68](#) (Chapter 655, Statutes of 2019), [AB 881](#) (Chapter 659, Statutes of 2019), and [SB 13](#) (Chapter 653, Statutes of 2019)**

AB 68 (Chapter 655, Statutes of 2019), AB 881 (Chapter 659, Statutes of 2019), and SB 13 (Chapter 653, Statutes of 2019) build upon recent changes to ADU and JADU Law, specifically Government Code sections 65852.2 and 65852.22, and further address barriers to the development of ADUs and JADUs.

This legislation, among other changes, addresses the following:

- Prohibits local agencies from including in development standards for ADUs requirements on minimum lotsize. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(B)(i).)
- Clarifies that areas designated by local agencies for ADUs may be based on the adequacy of water and sewer services, as well as on impacts on traffic flow and public safety. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(A).)
- Eliminates all owner-occupancy requirements by local agencies for ADUs approved between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2025. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(6).)
- Prohibits a local agency from establishing a maximum size of an ADU of less than 850 square feet, or 1,000 square feet if the ADU contains more than one bedroom and

requires approval of a permit to build an ADU of up to 800 square feet. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subds. (c)(2)(B) and (C).)

- Clarifies that when ADUs are created through the conversion of a garage, carport or covered parking structure, replacement of off-street parking spaces cannot be required by the local agency. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(D)(xi).)
- Reduces the maximum ADU and JADU application review time from 120 days to 60 days. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(3) and (b).)
- Clarifies that “public transit” includes various means of transportation that charge set fees, run on fixed routes, and are available to the public. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (j)(9).)
- Establishes impact fee exemptions and limitations based on the size of the ADU. ADUs up to 750 square feet are exempt from impact fees, and ADUs that are 750 square feet or larger may be charged impact fees but only such fees that are proportional in size (by square foot) to those for the primary dwelling unit. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (f)(3).)
- Defines an “accessory structure” to mean a structure that is accessory and incidental to a dwelling on the same lot. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (j)(2).)
- Authorizes HCD to notify the local agency if HCD finds that the local ADU ordinance is not in compliance with state law. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (h)(2).)
- Clarifies that a local agency may identify an ADU or JADU as an adequate site to satisfy its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). (Gov. Code, §§ 65583.1, subd. (a), and 65852.2, subd. (m).)
- Permits JADUs even where a local agency has not adopted an ordinance expressly authorizing them. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subds. (b) and (e).)
- Allows a permitted JADU to be constructed within the walls of the proposed or existing single-family residence and eliminates the required inclusion of an existing bedroom and an interior entry into the single-family residence. (Gov. Code, § 65852.22, subd. (a)(4-5).)
- Requires, upon application and approval, a local agency to delay enforcement against a qualifying substandard ADU for five years to allow the owner to correct the violation, so long as the violation is not a health and safety issue, as determined by the enforcement agency. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (n); Health & Safety Code, § 17980.12).)

**[AB 587](#) (Chapter 657, Statutes of 2019), [AB 670](#) (Chapter 178, Statutes of 2019), and [AB 671](#) (Chapter 658, Statutes of 2019)**

In addition to the legislation listed above, AB 587 (Chapter 657, Statutes of 2019), AB 670 (Chapter 178, Statutes of 2019), and AB 671 (Chapter 658, Statutes of 2019) also have an

impact on State ADU Law, particularly through Health and Safety Code Section 17980.12. These pieces of legislation, among other changes, address the following:

- AB 587 creates a narrow exemption to the prohibition for ADUs to be sold or otherwise conveyed separately from the primary dwelling by allowing deed-restricted sales to occur if the local agency adopts an ordinance. To qualify, the primary dwelling and the ADU are to be built by a qualified nonprofit corporation whose mission is to provide units to low-income households. (Gov. Code, § 65852.26.)
- AB 670 provides that covenants, conditions and restrictions that either effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the construction or use of an ADU or JADU on a lot zoned for single-family residential use are void and unenforceable. (Civ. Code, § 4751.)
- AB 671 requires local agencies' housing elements to include a plan that incentivizes and promotes the creation of ADUs that can offer affordable rents for very low-, low-, or moderate-income households and requires HCD to develop a list of state grants and financial incentives in connection with the planning, construction, and operation of affordable ADUs. (Gov. Code, § 65583; Health & Safety Code, § 50504.5.)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Legislative Intent

- **Should a local ordinance encourage the development of ADUs?**

Yes. Pursuant to Government Code section 65852.150, the California Legislature found and declared that, among other things, California is facing a severe housing crisis and ADUs are a valuable form of housing that meets the needs of family members, students, the elderly, in-home health care providers, people with disabilities, and others. Therefore, ADUs are an essential component of California's housing supply.

State ADU Law and recent changes intend to address barriers, streamline approval, and expand potential capacity for ADUs, recognizing their unique importance in addressing California's housing needs. The preparation, adoption, amendment, and implementation of local ADU ordinances must be carried out consistent with Government Code section 65852.150 and must not unduly constrain the creation of ADUs. Local governments adopting ADU ordinances should carefully weigh the adoption of zoning, development standards, and other provisions for impacts on the development of ADUs.

*ADU Law is the statutory minimum requirement. Local governments may elect to go beyond this statutory minimum and further the creation of ADUs. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (g).)* Many local governments have embraced the importance of ADUs as an important part of their overall housing policies and have pursued innovative strategies.

**Government Code section 65852.150:**

*(a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:*

*(1) Accessory dwelling units are a valuable form of housing in California.*

*(2) Accessory dwelling units provide housing for family members, students, the elderly, in-home health care providers, the disabled, and others, at below market prices within existing neighborhoods.*

*(3) Homeowners who create accessory dwelling units benefit from added income, and an increased sense of security.*

*(4) Allowing accessory dwelling units in single-family or multifamily residential zones provides additional rental housing stock in California.*

*(5) California faces a severe housing crisis.*

*(6) The state is falling far short of meeting current and future housing demand with serious consequences for the state's economy, our ability to build green infill consistent with state greenhouse gas reduction goals, and the well-being of our citizens, particularly lower and middle-income earners.*

*(7) Accessory dwelling units offer lower cost housing to meet the needs of existing and future residents within existing neighborhoods, while respecting architectural character.*

*(8) Accessory dwelling units are, therefore, an essential component of California's housing supply.*

*(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that an accessory dwelling unit ordinance adopted by a local agency has the effect of providing for the creation of accessory dwelling units and that provisions in this ordinance relating to matters including unit size, parking, fees, and other requirements, are not so arbitrary, excessive, or burdensome so as to unreasonably restrict the ability of homeowners to create accessory dwelling units in zones in which they are authorized by local ordinance.*



## 2. Zoning, Development and Other Standards

### A) Zoning and Development Standards

- **Are ADUs required jurisdiction-wide?**

No. ADUs proposed pursuant to subdivision (e) of Government Code section 65852.2 must be permitted in any residential or mixed-use zone, which should be construed broadly to mean any zone where residential uses are permitted by-right or by conditional use. For other ADUs, local governments may, by ordinance, designate areas in zones where residential uses are permitted that will also permit ADUs. However, any limits on where ADUs are permitted may only be based on the adequacy of water and sewer service and on the impacts on traffic flow and public safety.

Further, local governments may not preclude the creation of ADUs altogether, and any limitation should be accompanied by detailed findings of fact explaining why ADU limitations are required and consistent with these factors. If a lot with a residence has been rezoned to a use that does not allow for residential uses, that lot is no longer eligible to create an ADU. (Gov. Code § 65852.2 subd. (a)(1) and (e)(1).)

Impacts on traffic flow should consider factors like lower car ownership rates for ADUs. Finally, local governments may develop alternative procedures, standards, or special conditions with mitigations for allowing ADUs in areas with potential health and safety concerns.

- **Can ADUs exceed general plan and zoning densities?**

Yes. An ADU is an accessory use for the purposes of calculating allowable density under the general plan and zoning and does not count toward the allowable density. For example, if a zoning district allows one unit per 7,500 square feet, then an ADU would not be counted as an additional unit. Further, local governments could elect to allow more than one ADU on a lot, and ADUs are automatically a residential use deemed consistent with the general plan and zoning. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(C).)

- **Can a local government apply design and development standards?**

Yes. With an adopted ADU ordinance in compliance with State ADU Law, a local government may apply development and design standards that include, but are not limited to, parking, height, setback, landscape, architectural review, maximum size of a unit, and standards that prevent adverse impacts on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. **However, these standards should be objective to allow ministerial review of an ADU.** (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subds. (a)(1)(B)(i) and (a)(4).)

ADUs created under subdivision (e) of Government Code section 65852.2 shall not be subject to design and development standards except for those that are noted in the subdivision.

ADUs that do not meet objective and ministerial development and design standards may still be permitted through an ancillary discretionary process if the applicant chooses to pursue this route. In this scenario, the applicant assumes time and monetary costs associated with a discretionary approval process. Some jurisdictions with compliant ADU ordinances apply additional processes to further the creation of ADUs that do not otherwise comply with the minimum standards necessary for ministerial review. Importantly, these processes are intended to provide additional opportunities to create ADUs that would not otherwise be permitted, and a discretionary process may not be used to review ADUs that are fully compliant with State ADU Law.

- **Are ADUs permitted ministerially?**

Yes. ADUs subject to State ADU Law must be considered, approved, and permitted ministerially, without discretionary action. Development and other decision-making standards must be sufficiently objective to allow for ministerial review. Examples include numeric and fixed standards such as heights or setbacks, or design standards such as colors or materials. Subjective standards require judgement and can be interpreted in multiple ways, such as privacy, compatibility with neighboring properties, or promoting harmony and balance in the community; subjective standards must not be imposed on ADU development. Further, ADUs must not be subject to hearing requirements or any ordinance regulating the issuance of variances or special use permits and must be considered ministerially. (Gov. Code § 65852.2, subs. (a)(3) and (a)(4).)

- **Is there a streamlined permitting process for ADU and JADU applications?**

Yes. Whether or not a local agency has adopted an ordinance, applications to create an ADU or JADU shall be considered and approved ministerially within 60 days from the date the local agency receives a completed application. Although the allowed 60-day review period may be interrupted due to an applicant addressing comments generated by a local agency during the permitting process, additional 60-day time periods may not be required by the local agency for minor revisions to the application. (Gov. Code § 65852.2, subs. (a)(3) and (b).)

- **Can I create an ADU if I have multiple detached dwellings on a lot?**

Yes. A lot where there are currently multiple detached single-family dwellings is eligible for creation of one ADU per lot by converting space within the proposed or existing space of a single-family dwelling or existing structure and by building a new detached ADU subject to certain development standards. (Gov. Code § 65852.2, subs. (e)(1)(A) and (B).)

- **What is considered a multifamily dwelling under ADU Law?**

For the purposes of State ADU Law, a structure with two or more attached dwellings on

a single lot is considered a multifamily dwelling structure. Multiple detached single-unit dwellings on the same lot are not considered multifamily dwellings for the purposes of State ADU Law.

- **Can I build an ADU in a historic district or if the primary residence is subject to historic preservation?**

Yes. ADUs are allowed within a historic district and on lots where the primary residence is subject to historic preservation. State ADU Law allows for a local agency to impose standards that prevent adverse impacts on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. However, these standards do not apply to ADUs proposed pursuant to Government Code section 65852.2, subdivision (e).

As with non-historic resources, a jurisdiction may impose objective and ministerial standards that are sufficiently objective to be reviewed ministerially and do not unduly burden the creation of ADUs. Jurisdictions are encouraged to incorporate these standards into their ordinances and to submit these standards along with their ordinances to HCD. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subds. (a)(1)(B)(i) and (a)(5).)

## **B) Size Requirements**

- **Can minimum lot size requirements be imposed on ADUs? What about lot coverage, floor area ratio, or open space requirements?**

No. While local governments may impose certain development standards on ADUs, these standards shall not include minimum lot size requirements. Further, lot coverage requirements cannot preclude the creation of a statewide exemption ADU (see below). If lot coverage requirements do not allow such an ADU, an automatic exception or waiver should be given to appropriate development standards such as lot coverage, floor area, or open space requirements. Local governments may continue to enforce building and health and safety standards and may consider design, landscape, and other standards to facilitate compatibility. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subds. (c)(2)(C).)

### **What is a statewide exemption ADU?**

A statewide exemption ADU, found in Government Code section 65852, subdivision (e), is an ADU of up to 800 square feet, 16 feet in height, as potentially limited by a local agency, and with four-foot side and rear yard setbacks. State ADU Law requires that no lot coverage, floor area ratio, open space, or minimum lot size will preclude the construction of a statewide exemption ADU. Further, State ADU Law allows the construction of a detached new construction statewide exemption ADU to be combined on the same lot with a JADU in a single-family residential zone. In addition, ADUs are allowed in any residential or mixed uses regardless of zoning and development standards imposed in an ordinance. See more discussion below.

- **Can minimum and maximum unit sizes be established for ADUs?**

Yes. A local government may, by ordinance, establish minimum and maximum unit size requirements for both attached and detached ADUs; however, maximum unit size requirements must allow an ADU of at least 850 square feet, or 1,000 square feet for ADUs with more than one bedroom. For local agencies without an ADU ordinance, maximum unit sizes are 1,200 square feet for a new detached ADU and up to 50 percent of the floor area of the existing primary dwelling for an attached ADU (at least 800 square feet). Finally, the local agency must not establish by ordinance a minimum square footage requirement that prohibits the development of an efficiency unit as defined in Health and Safety Code section 17958.1.

The conversion of an existing accessory structure or a portion of the existing primary residence to an ADU is not subject to unit size requirements. For example, an existing 3,000 square-foot barn converted to an ADU would not be subject to the local unit size requirements, regardless of whether a local government has an adopted ADU ordinance. Should an applicant want to expand an accessory structure to create an ADU beyond 150 square feet, this ADU would be subject to the size maximums outlined in State ADU Law or in the local agency's adopted ordinance.

- **Can a percentage of the primary dwelling be used to limit the maximum size of an ADU?**

Yes. Local agencies may utilize a percentage (e.g., 50 percent) of the primary dwelling as a maximum unit size for attached ADUs, but only if it does not restrict an ADU's size to less than the standard of at least 850 square feet (or at least 1,000 square feet for ADUs with more than one bedroom). Local agencies shall not, by ordinance, establish any other minimum or maximum unit sizes, including limits based on a percentage of the area of the primary dwelling, that precludes an 800 square-foot ADU. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (c)(2)(C).) Local agencies utilizing percentages of the primary dwelling as maximum unit sizes can consider multi-pronged standards to help navigate these requirements (e.g., shall not exceed 50 percent of the dwelling or 1,000 square feet, whichever is greater).

- **Can maximum unit sizes exceed 1,200 square feet for ADUs?**

Yes. Maximum unit sizes can exceed 1,200 square feet for ADUs through the adoption of a local ADU ordinance. State ADU Law does not limit the authority of local agencies to adopt less restrictive requirements for the creation of ADUs. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (g).)

## C) Parking Requirements

- **Are certain ADUs exempt from parking requirements?**

Yes. A local agency shall not impose ADU parking standards for any of the following ADUs, pursuant to Government Code section 65852.2, subdivisions (d)(1-5) and (j)(10):

- (1) ADUs located within one-half mile walking distance of public transit.
- (2) ADUs located within an architecturally and historically significant historic district.
- (3) ADUs that are part of the proposed or existing primary residence or an accessory structure.
- (4) When on-street parking permits are required but not offered to the occupant of the ADU.
- (5) When there is a car share vehicle located within one block of the ADU.

*Note: For the purposes of State ADU Law, a jurisdiction may use the designated areas where a car share vehicle may be accessed. Public transit is any location where an individual may access buses, trains, subways, and other forms of transportation that charge set fares, run on fixed routes, and are available to the general public. Walking distance is defined as the pedestrian shed to reach public transit. Additional parking requirements to avoid impacts to public access may be required in the Coastal Zone.*

- **Can ADU parking requirements exceed one space per unit or bedroom?**

No. Parking requirements for ADUs shall not exceed one parking space per unit or bedroom, whichever is less. These spaces may be provided as tandem parking on a driveway. Guest parking spaces shall not be required for ADUs under any circumstances. For certain ADUs, pursuant to Government Code section 65852.2, subdivisions (d)(1-5) and (j)(10), a local agency may not impose any ADU parking standards (see above question).

### **What is Tandem Parking?**

Tandem parking means two or more automobiles that are parked on a driveway or in any other location on a lot, lined up behind one another. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subs. (a)(1)(D)(x)(l) and (j)(11).)

Local agencies may choose to eliminate or reduce parking requirements for ADUs, such as requiring zero or half a parking space per each ADU, to remove barriers to ADU construction and to facilitate development.

- **Is flexibility for siting ADU parking recommended?**

Yes. Local agencies should be flexible when siting parking for ADUs. Off-street parking spaces for the ADU shall be permitted in setback areas in locations determined by the local agency or through tandem parking unless specific findings are made. Specific findings must be based on specific site or regional topographical or fire and life safety conditions.

When a garage, carport, or covered parking structure is demolished in conjunction with the construction of an ADU, or converted to an ADU, the local agency shall not require that those off-street parking spaces for the primary unit be replaced. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(D)(xi).)

## **D) Setbacks**

- **Can setbacks be required for ADUs?**

Yes. A local agency may impose development standards, such as setbacks, for the creation of ADUs. However, setbacks should not unduly constrain the creation of ADUs and cannot be required for ADUs proposed pursuant to subdivision (e). Further, a setback of no more than four feet from the side and rear lot lines shall be required for an attached or detached ADU. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(D)(vii).) Additional setback requirements may be required in the Coastal Zone if required by a local Coastal Program. Setback requirements must also comply with any recorded utility easements or other previously recorded setback restrictions.

No setback shall be required for an ADU created within an existing living area or accessory structure or an ADU created in a new structure in the same location as an existing structure, while not exceeding the existing dimensions, including height. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(D)(vii).)

A local agency may also allow the expansion of a detached structure being converted into an ADU when the existing structure does not have four-foot rear and side setbacks. A local agency may also allow the expansion area of a detached structure being converted into an ADU to have no setbacks, or setbacks of less than four feet, if the existing structure has no setbacks, or has setbacks of less than four feet, respectively. A local agency shall not require setbacks of more than four feet for the expanded area of a detached structure being converted into an ADU.

A local agency may still apply front yard setbacks for ADUs, but front yard setbacks cannot preclude an ADU of at least 800 square feet and must not unduly constrain the creation of all types of ADUs. (Gov. Code, §65852.2, subd. (c) and (e).)

- **Is there a distance requirement between an ADU and other structures on the lot?**

State ADU Law does not address the distance between an ADU and other structures on a lot. A local agency may impose development standards for the creation of ADUs, and ADUs shall comply with local building codes. However, development standards should not unduly constrain the creation of ADUs, cannot preclude a statewide exemption ADU (an ADU of up to 800 square feet, 16 feet in height, as potentially limited by a local agency, and with four-foot side and rear yard setbacks), and should not unduly constrain the creation of all types of ADUs, where feasible. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (c).)

## **E) Height Requirements**

- **Is there a limit on the height or number of stories of an ADU?**

There is no height limit contained in State ADU Law, but local agencies may impose height limits provided that the limit is no less than 16 feet. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (a)(1)(B)(i).) For a local agency to impose a height limit, it must do so through the adoption of a compliant ADU ordinance.

## **F) Bedrooms**

- **Can a limit on the number of bedrooms in an ADU be imposed?**

A limit on the number of bedrooms could be construed as a discriminatory practice towards protected classes, such as familial status, and would be considered a constraint on the development of ADUs. Building code standards for minimum bedroom size still apply.

## G) Impact Fees

- **Can impact fees be charged for an ADU less than 750 square feet?**

No. An ADU is exempt from incurring impact fees from local agencies, special districts, and water corporations if less than 750 square feet. If an ADU is 750 square feet or larger, impact fees shall be charged proportionately in relation to the square footage of the ADU to the square footage of the primary dwelling unit.

### What is “Proportionately”?

“Proportionately” is some amount in relation to a total amount, in this case, an impact fee for a single-family dwelling. For example, a 2,000 square-foot primary dwelling with a proposed 1,000 square-foot ADU could result in 50 percent of the impact fee that would be charged for a new primary dwelling on the same site. In all cases, the impact fee for the ADU must be less than the primary dwelling. Otherwise, the fee is not calculated proportionately. When utilizing proportions, careful consideration should be given to the impacts on costs, feasibility, and, ultimately, the creation of ADUs. In the case of the example above, anything greater than 50 percent of the primary dwelling could be considered a constraint on the development of ADUs. A proportional fee shall not be greater than 100 percent, as when a proposed ADU exceeds the size of the existing primary dwelling.

For purposes of calculating the fees for an ADU on a lot with a multifamily dwelling, the proportionality shall be based on the average square footage of the units within that multifamily dwelling structure. For ADUs converting existing space with a 150 square-foot expansion, a total ADU square footage over 750 square feet could trigger the proportionate fee requirement. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (f)(3)(A).)

- **Can local agencies, special districts, or water corporations waive impact fees?**

Yes. Agencies can waive impact and any other fees for ADUs. Also, local agencies may use fee deferrals for applicants.

- **Can school districts charge impact fees?**

Yes. School districts are authorized to, but do not have to, levy impact fees for ADUs greater than 500 square feet pursuant to Section 17620 of the Education Code. ADUs less than 500 square feet are not subject to school impact fees. Local agencies are encouraged to coordinate with school districts to carefully weigh the importance of promoting ADUs, ensuring appropriate nexus studies and appropriate fees to facilitate construction or reconstruction of adequate school facilities.



- **What types of fees are considered impact fees?**

Impact fees charged for the construction of ADUs must be determined in accordance with the Mitigation Fee Act and generally include any monetary exaction that is charged by a local agency in connection with the approval of an ADU, including impact fees, for the purpose of defraying all or a portion of the cost of public facilities relating to the ADU. A local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not consider ADUs as a new residential use for the purposes of calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, including water and sewer services. However, these provisions do not apply to ADUs that are constructed concurrently with a new single-family home. (Gov. Code, §§ 65852.2, subd. (f), and 66000.)

- **Can I still be charged water and sewer connection fees?**

ADUs converted from existing space and JADUs shall not be considered by a local agency, special district, or water corporation to be a new residential use for purposes of calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, unless constructed with a new single-family dwelling. The connection fee or capacity charge shall be proportionate to the burden of the proposed ADU, based on its square footage or plumbing fixtures as compared to the primary dwelling. ADU Law does not cover monthly charge fees. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (f)(2).)

## **H) Ministerially Approved ADUs and Junior ADUs (JADUs) Not Subject to Local Standards**

- **Are local agencies required to comply with Government Code section 65852.2, subdivision (e)?**

Yes. All local agencies must comply with subdivision (e). This subdivision requires the ministerial approval of ADUs within a residential or mixed-use zone. The subdivision creates four categories of ADUs that should not be subject to other specified areas of State ADU Law, most notably zoning and development standards. For example, ADUs under this subdivision should not have to comply with lot coverage, setbacks, heights, and unit sizes. However, ADUs under this subdivision must meet the building code and health and safety requirements. The four categories of ADUs under subdivision (e)(1) are:

- (A) One ADU and one JADU are permitted per lot within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure that meets specified requirements such as exterior access and setbacks for fire and safety.
- (B) One detached new construction ADU that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks. This ADU may be combined on the same lot with a JADU, and may be required to meet a maximum unit size requirement of 800 square feet and a height limitation of 16 feet.

(C) Multiple ADUs within the portions of multifamily structures that are not used as livable space. Local agencies must allow at least one of these types of ADUs and up to 25 percent of the existing multifamily structures.

(D) Up to two detached ADUs on a lot that has existing multifamily dwellings that are subject to height limits of 16 feet and four-foot rear and side yard setbacks.

The above four categories may be combined. For example, local governments must allow (A) and (B) together or (C) and (D) together.

The most common ADU that can be created under subdivision (e) is a conversion of proposed or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure into an ADU, without any prescribed size limitations, height, setback, lot coverage, architectural review, landscape, or other development standards. This would enable the conversion of an accessory structure, such as a 2,000 square-foot garage, to an ADU without any additional requirements other than compliance with building standards for dwellings.

These types of ADUs are also eligible for a 150 square-foot expansion (see discussion below).

ADUs created under subdivision (e) shall not be required to provide parking if the ADU qualifies for one of the five exemptions listed under subdivision (d). Moreover, these units shall not, as a condition for ministerial approval, be required to correct any existing or created nonconformity. Subdivision (e) ADUs shall be required to be rented for terms longer than 30 days and only require fire sprinklers if fire sprinklers are required for the primary residence. These ADUs shall not be counted as units when calculating density for the general plan and are not subject to owner occupancy.

- **How many ADUs are allowed on a multifamily site under subdivision (e)?**

Under subdivision (e), an applicant may apply to build up to two detached ADUs and at least one interior ADU up to 25 percent of the number of units in the proposed or existing multifamily dwelling. All interior ADUs, however, must be converted from non-livable space, which is not a requirement under subdivision (a) for ADUs associated with single-family sites. It should also be noted that if there is no existing non-livable space within a multifamily structure, an applicant would not be able to build an interior ADU under subdivision (e). Attached ADUs are also prohibited under this subdivision.

By contrast, under subdivision (a), an applicant may choose to build one attached, detached, or conversion ADU on a site with a proposed or existing multifamily dwelling, with local objective development standards applied in the same manner as they would be applied to an ADU proposed on a single-family site under subdivision (a). JADUs can only be constructed on a site with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling; however, a JADU cannot be constructed on a multifamily site concurrently with an ADU under subdivision (a).

- **Can I convert my accessory structure into an ADU?**

Yes. The conversion of garages, sheds, barns, and other existing accessory structures, either attached or detached from the primary dwelling, into ADUs is permitted and promoted through State ADU Law.

These conversions of accessory structures are not subject to any additional development standards, such as unit size, height, and lot coverage requirements, and shall be from existing space that can be made safe under building and safety codes. A local agency should not set limits based on when the structure was created, and the structure must meet standards for health and safety.

Additionally, the two ADUs allowed on each multifamily site under subdivision (e) may be converted from existing detached structures on the site. Existing, detached accessory structures on a lot with an existing multifamily dwelling that are converted to ADUs cannot be required to be modified to correct for a non-conforming use. Both structures must be accessory structures detached from the primary residence, and because they are conversions of existing structures, these ADUs would not have to comply with the four-foot setback requirements under subdivision (e) if the existing structures are closer than four feet to the property line. This would also mean that the 16-foot height limitation would not apply if the existing structure were taller than 16 feet. Conversion ADUs in this scenario would not be subject to any square footage restrictions as long as they are built within the footprint of the previous structure.

- **Can an ADU created by converting existing space be expanded?**

Yes. An ADU created within the existing or proposed space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure can be expanded beyond the physical dimensions of the structure. Per State ADU Law, only an ADU created within an existing accessory structure may be expanded up to 150 square feet without application of local development standards, but this expansion shall be limited to accommodating ingress and egress. An ADU created within the space of an existing or proposed single-family dwelling is subject to local development standards. An example of where this expansion could be applicable is for the creation of a staircase to reach a second story ADU. These types of ADUs shall conform to setbacks sufficient for fire and safety.

A local agency may allow for an expansion beyond 150 square feet, though the ADU would have to comply with the size maximums as per State ADU Law or per a local agency's adopted ordinance. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (e)(1)(i).)

**As a JADU is limited to being created within the walls of a primary residence and not an accessory structure, this expansion of up to 150 square feet does not pertain to JADUs.**

- **Can an ADU be constructed in the non-livable spaces of the non-residential portions of a mixed-use development?**

No. The non-livable space used to create an ADU or ADUs under Government Code section 65852.2, subdivision (e)(1)(C), should be limited to the residential areas of a mixed-use development, and not the areas used for commercial or other activities. The parking and storage areas for these non-residential uses would also be excluded from potential ADU development.

## **I) Nonconforming Zoning Standards**

- **Does the creation of an ADU require the applicant to carry out public improvements?**

No physical improvements shall be required for the creation or conversion of an ADU. Any requirement to carry out public improvements is beyond what is required for the creation of an ADU, as per State ADU Law. For example, an applicant shall not be required to improve sidewalks or carry out street or access improvements to create an ADU. Additionally, as a condition for ministerial approval of an ADU, an applicant shall not be required to correct nonconforming zoning conditions. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (e)(2).)

## **J) Renter- and Owner-Occupancy**

- **Are rental terms allowed?**

Yes. Local agencies may require that the property be used for rentals of terms longer than 30 days. ADUs permitted ministerially, under subdivision (e), shall be rented for terms longer than 30 days. (Gov. Code, §65852.2, subds. (a)(6) and (e)(4).)

- **Are there any owner-occupancy requirements for ADUs?**

No. Prior to recent legislation, ADU laws allowed local agencies to elect whether the primary dwelling or ADU was required to be occupied by an owner. The updates to State ADU Law removed the owner-occupancy requirement for newly created ADUs effective January 1, 2020. The new owner-occupancy exclusion is set to expire on December 31, 2024; however, local agencies may not retroactively require owner-occupancy for ADUs permitted between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2024.

However, should a property have both an ADU and JADU, JADU law requires owner-occupancy of either the newly created JADU or the single-family residence. Under this specific circumstance, a lot with an ADU would be subject to owner-occupancy requirements. (Gov. Code, § 65852.22, subd. (a)(2).)

## K) Fire Sprinkler Requirements

- **Can fire sprinklers be required for ADUs?**

Installation of fire sprinklers may not be required in ADUs (attached, detached, or conversion) where sprinklers were not required by building codes for the existing primary residence. For example, a detached single-family home designed and constructed decades ago would not have been required to have fire sprinklers installed under the applicable building code at the time. However, if the same primary dwelling recently underwent significant alteration and is now required to have fire sprinklers, any ADU created after that alteration must be provided with fire sprinklers. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subds. (a)(1)(D)(xii) and (e)(3).)

Please note, for ADUs created on lots with multifamily residential structures, the entire residential structure shall serve as the “primary residence” for the purposes of this analysis. Therefore, if the multifamily structure is served by fire sprinklers, the ADU can be required to install fire sprinklers.

For additional guidance on ADUs and fire sprinkler system requirements, please consult the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

## L) Solar System Requirements

- **Are solar systems required for newly constructed ADUs?**

Yes, newly constructed ADUs are subject to the California Energy Code requirement (excluding manufactured homes) to provide solar systems if the unit(s) is a newly constructed, non-manufactured, detached ADU (though some exceptions apply). Per the California Energy Commission (CEC), the solar systems can be installed on the ADU or on the primary dwelling unit. ADUs that are constructed within existing space, or as an addition to existing homes, including detached additions where an existing detached building is converted from non-residential to residential space, are not subject to the Energy Code requirement to provide solar systems.

Please refer to the CEC on this matter. For more information, see the CEC’s website at [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov). You may email your questions to [title24@energy.ca.gov](mailto:title24@energy.ca.gov), or contact the Energy Standards Hotline at 800-772-3300. CEC memos can also be found on HCD’s website at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/AccessoryDwellingUnits.shtml>.

See HCD’s [Information Bulletin 2020-10](#) for information on the applicability of California solar requirements to manufactured housing.

### 3. JADUs – Government Code Section 65852.22

- **What is a JADU?**

A “junior accessory dwelling unit” or JADU is a unit that is no more than 500 square feet in size and contained entirely within a single-family residence. A JADU may include separate sanitation facilities or may share sanitation facilities with the existing structure. (Gov. Code, § 65852.22, subd. (h)(1).)

- **Are two JADUs allowed on a lot?**

No. A JADU may be created on a lot zoned for single-family residences with one primary dwelling. The JADU may be created within the walls of the proposed or existing single-family residence, including attached garages, as attached garages are considered within the walls of the existing single-family residence. Please note that JADUs created in the attached garage are not subject to the same parking protections as ADUs and could be required by the local agency to provide replacement parking.

JADUs are limited to one per residential lot with a single-family residence. Lots with multiple detached single-family dwellings are not eligible to have JADUs. (Gov. Code, § 65852.22, subd. (a)(1).)

- **Are JADUs required to have an interior connection to the primary dwelling?**

No. Although JADUs are required to be within the walls of the primary dwelling, they are not required to have an interior connection to the primary dwelling. That said, JADUs may share a significant interior connection to the primary dwelling, as they are allowed to share bathroom facilities with the primary dwelling.

- **Are JADUs allowed in detached accessory structures?**

No, JADUs are not allowed in accessory structures. The creation of a JADU must be within the single-family residence. As noted above, attached garages are eligible for JADU creation. (Gov. Code, § 65852.22, subds. (a)(1) and (a)(4).)

- **Are JADUs allowed to be increased up to 150 square feet when created within an existing structure?**

No. Only ADUs are allowed to add up to 150 square feet “beyond the physical dimensions of the existing accessory structure” to provide for ingress. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (e)(1)(A)(i).)

This provision extends only to ADUs and excludes JADUs. A JADU is required to be created within the single-family residence.

- **Are there any owner-occupancy requirements for JADUs?**

Yes. The owner must reside in either the remaining portion of the primary residence or in the newly created JADU. (Gov. Code, § 65852.22, subd. (a)(2).)

#### 4. Manufactured Homes

- **Are manufactured homes considered to be an ADU?**

Yes. An ADU is any residential dwelling unit with independent living facilities and permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. An ADU includes a manufactured home. (Health & Saf. Code, § 18007.)

Health and Safety Code section 18007, subdivision (a): “**Manufactured home,**” for the purposes of this part, means a structure that was constructed on or after June 15, 1976, is transportable in one or more sections, is eight body feet or more in width, or 40 body feet or more in length, in the traveling mode, or, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet, is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a single-family dwelling with or without a foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein. “Manufactured home” includes any structure that meets all the requirements of this paragraph except the size requirements and with respect to which the manufacturer voluntarily files a certification and complies with the standards established under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C., Sec. 5401, and following).

#### 5. Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and the Housing Element

- **Do ADUs and JADUs count toward a local agency’s RHNA?**

Yes. Pursuant to Government Code section 65852.2 subdivision (m), and section 65583.1, ADUs and JADUs may be utilized towards the RHNA and Housing Element Annual Progress Report (APR) pursuant to Government Code section 65400. To credit a unit toward the RHNA, HCD and the Department of Finance (DOF) utilize the census definition of a housing unit. Generally, an ADU, and a JADU with shared sanitation facilities, and any other unit that meets the census definition and is reported to DOF as part of the DOF annual City and County Housing Unit Change Survey can be credited toward the RHNA based on the appropriate income level. The housing element or APR must include a reasonable methodology to demonstrate the level of affordability. Local governments can track actual or anticipated affordability to assure ADUs and JADUs are

counted towards the appropriate income category. For example, some local governments request and track information such as anticipated affordability as part of the building permit or other local applications. For more information, please contact [HousingElements@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:HousingElements@hcd.ca.gov).

- **What analysis is required to count ADUs toward the RHNA in the housing element?**

To count ADUs towards the RHNA in the housing element, local agencies must generally use a three-part approach: (1) development trends, (2) anticipated affordability, and (3) resources and incentives. Development trends must consider ADUs permitted in the prior planning period and may also consider more recent trends. Anticipated affordability can use a variety of methods to estimate the affordability by income group. Common approaches include rent surveys of ADUs, using rent surveys and square footage assumptions and data available through the APR pursuant to Government Code section 65400. Resources and incentives include policies and programs to encourage ADUs, such as prototype plans, fee waivers, expedited procedures, and affordability monitoring programs.

- **Are ADUs required to be addressed in the housing element?**

Yes. The housing element must include a description of zoning available to permit ADUs, including development standards and analysis of potential constraints on the development of ADUs. The element must include programs as appropriate to address identified constraints. In addition, housing elements must include a plan that incentivizes and promotes the creation of ADUs that can offer affordable rents for very low-, low-, or moderate-income households and requires HCD to develop a list of state grants and financial incentives in connection with the planning, construction, and operation of affordable ADUs. (Gov. Code, § 65583 and Health & Saf. Code, § 50504.5.) This list is available on HCD's ADU webpage.

## 6. Homeowners Associations

- **Can my local Homeowners Association (HOA) prohibit the construction of an ADU or JADU?**

No. Assembly Bill 670 (2019) and AB 3182 (2020) amended Section 4751, 4740, and 4741 of the Civil Code to preclude common interest developments from prohibiting or unreasonably restricting the construction or use, including the renting or leasing of, an ADU on a lot zoned for single-family residential use. Covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) that either effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the construction or use of an ADU or JADU on such lots are void and unenforceable or may be liable for actual damages and payment of a civil penalty. Applicants who encounter issues with creating ADUs or JADUs within CC&Rs are encouraged to reach out to HCD for additional guidance. Refer to Section 4100 of the Civil Code for the meaning of a common interest development.



## 7. ADU Ordinances and Local Agencies

- **Are ADU ordinances existing prior to new 2020 laws null and void?**

Maybe. ADU ordinances existing prior to the new 2020 laws, as well as newly adopted ordinances, are null and void when they conflict with State ADU Law. Subdivision (a)(4) of Government Code section 65852.2 states that an ordinance that fails to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) shall be null and void, and the local agency shall apply the state standards until a compliant ordinance is adopted. See the question on Enforcement below for more detail.

- **Do local agencies have to adopt an ADU ordinance?**

No. Local governments may choose not to adopt an ADU ordinance. Should a local government choose not to adopt an ADU ordinance, any proposed ADU development would be subject only to standards set in State ADU Law. If a local agency adopts an ADU ordinance, it may impose zoning, development, design, and other standards in compliance with State ADU Law.

- **Is a local government required to send an ADU ordinance to HCD?**

Yes. A local government, upon adoption of an ADU ordinance, must submit a copy of the adopted ordinance to HCD within 60 days after adoption. After the adoption of an ordinance, HCD may review and submit written findings to the local agency as to whether the ordinance complies with State ADU Law. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (h)(1).)

Local governments may also submit a draft ADU ordinance for preliminary review by HCD. HCD recommends that local agencies do so, as this provides local agencies the opportunity to receive feedback on their ordinance and helps to ensure compliance with State ADU Law prior to adoption.

- **Are charter cities and counties subject to the new ADU laws?**

Yes. State ADU Law applies to a local agency, which is defined as a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered. (Gov. Code, § 65852.2, subd. (j)(5)).

Further, pursuant to Chapter 659, Statutes of 2019 (AB 881), the Legislature found and declared State ADU Law addresses “...a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair, as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution” and concluded that State ADU Law applies to all cities, including charter cities.

- **Do the new ADU laws apply to jurisdictions located in the California Coastal Zone?**

Yes. ADU laws apply to jurisdictions in the California Coastal Zone, but do not

necessarily alter or lessen the effect or application of Coastal Act resource protection policies. (Gov. Code, § 65852.22, subd. (l).) Coastal localities should seek to harmonize the goals of protecting coastal resources and addressing housing needs of Californians. For example, where appropriate, localities should amend Local Coastal Programs for California Coastal Commission review to comply with the California Coastal Act and new ADU laws. For more information, see the [California Coastal Commission 2020 Memo](#) and reach out to the locality's local Coastal Commission district office.

- **Do the new ADU laws apply to areas governed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)?**

Possibly. The TRPA was formed through a bistate compact between California and Nevada. Under the compact, TRPA has authority to adopt ordinances, rules, and regulations, and those ordinances, rules, and regulations are considered federal law. Under this authority, TRPA has adopted certain restrictions that effectively limit lot coverage on developed land. State ADU Law may conflict to a degree with the TRPA standards, and to the extent that it does, the TRPA law likely preempts or overrides State ADU Law.

## 8. Enforcement

- **Does HCD have enforcement authority over ADU ordinances?**

Yes. Pursuant to Government Code section 65852.2, subdivision (h), local agencies are required to submit a copy of newly adopted ADU ordinances within 60 days of adoption. HCD may thereafter provide written findings to the local agency as to whether the ordinance complies with State ADU Law. If HCD finds that the local agency's ADU ordinance does not comply with State ADU Law, HCD must provide a reasonable time, no longer than 30 days, for the local agency to respond. The local agency shall either amend its ordinance in accordance with HCD's written findings or adopt the ordinance without changes but include findings in its resolution explaining why the ordinance complies with State ADU Law despite HCD's findings. If the local agency does not amend its ordinance in accordance with HCD's findings or adopt a resolution explaining why the ordinance is compliant, HCD shall notify the local agency that it is in violation of State ADU Law. HCD may also notify the Attorney General of the local agency's violation. While an ordinance is non-compliant, the local agency shall apply state standards.

In addition, HCD may review, adopt, amend, or repeal guidelines to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify State ADU Law.

## 9. Senate Bill (SB) 9 (2021)

- **Does SB 9 have any impact on ADUs?**

SB 9 (Gov. Code Sections 66452.6, 65852.21 and 66411.7) contains some overlaps with State ADU Law, but only on a relatively small number of topics. Please note that although HCD does not administer or enforce SB 9, violations of SB 9 may concurrently violate other housing laws that HCD does enforce, including, but not limited to, State ADU Law and State Housing Element Law. As local jurisdictions implement SB 9, including adopting local

ordinances, it is important to keep these and other housing laws in mind. For details regarding SB 9, please see HCD's [SB 9 Factsheet](#).

## 10. Funding

- **Is there financial assistance or funding available for ADUs?**

Effective September 20, 2021, the California Housing Finance Agency's (CalHFA) ADU Grant Program provides up to \$40,000 in assistance to reimburse qualifying homeowners for predevelopment costs necessary to build and occupy an ADU or JADU on a lot with a single-family dwelling unit. The ADU Grant Program is intended to create more housing units in California by providing a grant to reimburse qualifying homeowners for predevelopment costs. Predevelopment costs include, but are not limited to, architectural designs, permits, soil tests, impact fees, property surveys, and energy reports. For additional information or questions, please see CalHFA's ADU Grant Program at <https://www.calhfa.ca.gov/adu> or contact the CalHFA Single Family Lending Division at (916) 326-8033 or [SFLending@calhfa.ca.gov](mailto:SFLending@calhfa.ca.gov).

# Resources



## Attachment 1: Statutory Changes (Strikeout/Italics and Underline)

### GOV. CODE: TITLE 7, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2

#### Combined changes from AB 345, AB 3182, AB 881, AB 68, and SB 13 (Changes noted in strikeout, underline/italics)

Effective January 1, 2022, Section 65852.2 of the Government Code is amended to read:

#### **65852.2.**

(a)(1) A local agency may, by ordinance, provide for the creation of accessory dwelling units in areas zoned to allow single-family or multifamily dwelling residential use. The ordinance shall do all of the following:

(A) Designate areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency where accessory dwelling units may be permitted. The designation of areas may be based on the adequacy of water and sewer services and the impact of accessory dwelling units on traffic flow and public safety. A local agency that does not provide water or sewer services shall consult with the local water or sewer service provider regarding the adequacy of water and sewer services before designating an area where accessory dwelling units may be permitted.

(B)(i) Impose standards on accessory dwelling units that include, but are not limited to, parking, height, setback, landscape, architectural review, maximum size of a unit, and standards that prevent adverse impacts on any real property that is listed in the California Register of ~~Historic~~ *Historical* Resources. These standards shall not include requirements on minimum lot size.

(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), a local agency may reduce or eliminate parking requirements for any accessory dwelling unit located within its jurisdiction.

(C) Provide that accessory dwelling units do not exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which the accessory dwelling unit is located, and that accessory dwelling units are a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designation for the lot.

(D) Require the accessory dwelling units to comply with all of the following:

(i) ~~The~~ *Except as provided in Section 65852.26, the* accessory dwelling unit may be rented separate from the primary residence, but may not be sold or otherwise conveyed separate from the primary residence.

(ii) The lot is zoned to allow single-family or multifamily dwelling residential use and includes a proposed or existing dwelling.

(iii) The accessory dwelling unit is either attached to, or located within, the proposed or existing primary dwelling, including attached garages, storage areas or similar uses, or an accessory structure or detached from the proposed or existing primary dwelling and located on the same lot as the proposed or existing primary dwelling.

(iv) If there is an existing primary dwelling, the total floor area of an attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 50 percent of the existing primary dwelling.

(v) The total floor area for a detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 1,200 square feet.

(vi) No passageway shall be required in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit.

(vii) No setback shall be required for an existing living area or accessory structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure that is

converted to an accessory dwelling unit or to a portion of an accessory dwelling unit, and a setback of no more than four feet from the side and rear lot lines shall be required for an accessory dwelling unit that is not converted from an existing structure or a new structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure.

(viii) Local building code requirements that apply to detached dwellings, as appropriate.

(ix) Approval by the local health officer where a private sewage disposal system is being used, if required.

(x)(I) Parking requirements for accessory dwelling units shall not exceed one parking space per accessory dwelling unit or per bedroom, whichever is less. These spaces may be provided as tandem parking on a driveway.

(II) Offstreet parking shall be permitted in setback areas in locations determined by the local agency or through tandem parking, unless specific findings are made that parking in setback areas or tandem parking is not feasible based upon specific site or regional topographical or fire and life safety conditions.

(III) This clause shall not apply to an accessory dwelling unit that is described in subdivision (d).

(xi) When a garage, carport, or covered parking structure is demolished in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit or converted to an accessory dwelling unit, the local agency shall not require that those offstreet parking spaces be replaced.

(xii) Accessory dwelling units shall not be required to provide fire sprinklers if they are not required for the primary residence.

(1) The ordinance shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.

(2) A permit application for an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit shall be considered and approved ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing, notwithstanding Section 65901 or 65906 or any local ordinance regulating the issuance of variances or special use permits. The permitting agency shall act on the application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days from the date the local agency receives a completed application if there is an existing single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot. If the permit application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create a new single-family dwelling on the lot, the permitting agency may delay acting on the permit application for the accessory dwelling unit or the junior accessory dwelling unit until the permitting agency acts on the permit application to create the new single-family dwelling, but the application to create the accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit shall be considered without discretionary review or hearing. If the applicant requests a delay, the 60-day time period shall be tolled for the period of the delay. [If the local agency has not acted upon the completed application within 60 days, the application shall be deemed approved.](#) A local agency may charge a fee to reimburse it for costs incurred to implement this paragraph, including the costs of adopting or amending any ordinance that provides for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

(3) An existing ordinance governing the creation of an accessory dwelling unit by a local agency or an accessory dwelling ordinance adopted by a local agency shall provide an approval process that includes only ministerial provisions for the approval of accessory dwelling units and shall not include any discretionary processes, provisions, or requirements for those units, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision. If a local agency has an existing accessory dwelling unit ordinance that fails to meet the requirements of this subdivision, that ordinance shall be null and void and that agency shall thereafter apply the standards established in this subdivision for the approval of accessory dwelling units, unless and until the agency adopts an

ordinance that complies with this section.

(4) No other local ordinance, policy, or regulation shall be the basis for the delay or denial of a building permit or a use permit under this subdivision.

(5) This subdivision establishes the maximum standards that local agencies shall use to evaluate a proposed accessory dwelling unit on a lot that includes a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. No additional standards, other than those provided in this subdivision, shall be used or imposed, including any owner-occupant requirement, except that a local agency may require that the property be used for rentals of terms longer than 30 days.

(6) A local agency may amend its zoning ordinance or general plan to incorporate the policies, procedures, or other provisions applicable to the creation of an accessory dwelling unit if these provisions are consistent with the limitations of this subdivision.

(7) An accessory dwelling unit that conforms to this subdivision shall be deemed to be an accessory use or an accessory building and shall not be considered to exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which it is located, and shall be deemed to be a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designations for the lot. The accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.

(b) When a local agency that has not adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a) receives an application for a permit to create an accessory dwelling unit pursuant to this subdivision, the local agency shall approve or disapprove the application ministerially without discretionary review pursuant to subdivision (a). The permitting agency shall act on the application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days from the date the local agency receives a completed application if there is an existing single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot. If the permit application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create a new single-family dwelling on the lot, the permitting agency may delay acting on the permit application for the accessory dwelling unit or the junior accessory dwelling unit until the permitting agency acts on the permit application to create the new single-family dwelling, but the application to create the accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit shall still be considered ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing. If the applicant requests a delay, the 60-day time period shall be tolled for the period of the delay. If the local agency has not acted upon the completed application within 60 days, the application shall be deemed approved.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2), a local agency may establish minimum and maximum unit size requirements for both attached and detached accessory dwelling units.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a local agency shall not establish by ordinance any of the following:

(A) A minimum square footage requirement for either an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit that prohibits an efficiency unit.

(B) A maximum square footage requirement for either an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit that is less than either of the following:

(i) 850 square feet.

(ii) 1,000 square feet for an accessory dwelling unit that provides more than one bedroom.

(C) Any other minimum or maximum size for an accessory dwelling unit, size based upon a percentage of the proposed or existing primary dwelling, or limits on lot coverage, floor area ratio, open space, and minimum lot size, for either attached or detached dwellings that does not permit at least an 800 square foot accessory dwelling unit that is at least 16 feet in height with four-foot side and rear yard setbacks to be constructed in compliance with all other local

development standards.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, a local agency, whether or not it has adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a), shall not impose parking standards for an accessory dwelling unit in any of the following instances:

- (1) The accessory dwelling unit is located within one-half mile walking distance of public transit.
- (2) The accessory dwelling unit is located within an architecturally and historically significant historic district.
- (3) The accessory dwelling unit is part of the proposed or existing primary residence or an accessory structure.
- (4) When on-street parking permits are required but not offered to the occupant of the accessory dwelling unit.
- (5) When there is a car share vehicle located within one block of the accessory dwelling unit.

(e)(1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, a local agency shall ministerially approve an application for a building permit within a residential or mixed-use zone to create any of the following:

(A) One accessory dwelling unit ~~or~~ *and* one junior accessory dwelling unit per lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling if all of the following apply:

- (i) The accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit is within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure and may include an expansion of not more than 150 square feet beyond the same physical dimensions as the existing accessory structure. An expansion beyond the physical dimensions of the existing accessory structure shall be limited to accommodating ingress and egress.
- (ii) The space has exterior access from the proposed or existing single-family dwelling.
- (iii) The side and rear setbacks are sufficient for fire and safety.
- (iv) The junior accessory dwelling unit complies with the requirements of Section 65852.22.

(B) One detached, new construction, accessory dwelling unit that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks for a lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. The accessory dwelling unit may be combined with a junior accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A). A local agency may impose the following conditions on the accessory dwelling unit:

- (i) A total floor area limitation of not more than 800 square feet.
- (ii) A height limitation of 16 feet.

(C)(i) Multiple accessory dwelling units within the portions of existing multifamily dwelling structures that are not used as livable space, including, but not limited to, storage rooms, boiler rooms, passageways, attics, basements, or garages, if each unit complies with state building standards for dwellings.

(ii) A local agency shall allow at least one accessory dwelling unit within an existing multifamily dwelling and shall allow up to 25 percent of the existing multifamily dwelling units.

(D) Not more than two accessory dwelling units that are located on a lot that has an existing multifamily dwelling, but are detached from that multifamily dwelling and are subject to a height limit of 16 feet and four-foot rear yard and side setbacks.

(2) A local agency shall not require, as a condition for ministerial approval of a permit application for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit, the correction of nonconforming zoning conditions.

(3) The installation of fire sprinklers shall not be required in an accessory dwelling unit if sprinklers are not required for the primary residence.

(4) A local agency shall require that a rental of the accessory dwelling unit created pursuant to this subdivision be for a term longer than 30 days.

(5) A local agency may require, as part of the application for a permit to create an accessory



dwelling unit connected to an onsite wastewater treatment system, a percolation test completed within the last five years, or, if the percolation test has been recertified, within the last 10 years.

(6) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) and paragraph (1) a local agency that has adopted an ordinance by July 1, 2018, providing for the approval of accessory dwelling units in multifamily dwelling structures shall ministerially consider a permit application to construct an accessory dwelling unit that is described in paragraph (1), and may impose standards including, but not limited to, design, development, and historic standards on said accessory dwelling units. These standards shall not include requirements on minimum lot size.

(f) (1) Fees charged for the construction of accessory dwelling units shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 66000) and Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 66012).

(2) An accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered by a local agency, special district, or water corporation to be a new residential use for purposes of calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, including water and sewer service, unless the accessory dwelling unit was constructed with a new single-family dwelling.

(3) (A) A local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not impose any impact fee upon the development of an accessory dwelling unit less than 750 square feet. Any impact fees charged for an accessory dwelling unit of 750 square feet or more shall be charged proportionately in relation to the square footage of the primary dwelling unit.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, "impact fee" has the same meaning as the term "fee" is defined in subdivision

(b) of Section 66000, except that it also includes fees specified in Section 66477. "Impact fee" does not include any connection fee or capacity charge charged by a local agency, special district, or water corporation.

(4) For an accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not require the applicant to install a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory dwelling unit and the utility or impose a related connection fee or capacity charge, unless the accessory dwelling unit was constructed with a new single-family home.

(5) For an accessory dwelling unit that is not described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation may require a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory dwelling unit and the utility. Consistent with Section 66013, the connection may be subject to a connection fee or capacity charge that shall be proportionate to the burden of the proposed accessory dwelling unit, based upon either its square feet or the number of its drainage fixture unit (DFU) values, as defined in the Uniform Plumbing Code adopted and published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, upon the water or sewer system. This fee or charge shall not exceed the reasonable cost of providing this service.

(g) This section does not limit the authority of local agencies to adopt less restrictive requirements for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

(h) (1) A local agency shall submit a copy of the ordinance adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) to the Department of Housing and Community Development within 60 days after adoption. After adoption of an ordinance, the department may submit written findings to the local agency as to whether the ordinance complies with this section.

(2) (A) If the department finds that the local agency's ordinance does not comply with this section, the department shall notify the local agency and shall provide the local agency with a reasonable time, no longer than 30 days, to respond to the findings before taking any other

action authorized by this section.

(B) The local agency shall consider the findings made by the department pursuant to subparagraph (A) and shall do one of the following:

(i) Amend the ordinance to comply with this section.

(ii) Adopt the ordinance without changes. The local agency shall include findings in its resolution adopting the ordinance that explain the reasons the local agency believes that the ordinance complies with this section despite the findings of the department.

(3)(A) If the local agency does not amend its ordinance in response to the department's findings or does not adopt a resolution with findings explaining the reason the ordinance complies with this section and addressing the department's findings, the department shall notify the local agency and may notify the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law.

(B) Before notifying the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law, the department may consider whether a local agency adopted an ordinance in compliance with this section between January 1, 2017, and January 1, 2020.

(i) The department may review, adopt, amend, or repeal guidelines to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, and standards set forth in this section. The guidelines adopted pursuant to this subdivision are not subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2.

(j) As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Accessory dwelling unit" means an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing primary residence. It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-family or multifamily dwelling is or will be situated. An accessory dwelling unit also includes the following:

(A) An efficiency unit.

(B) A manufactured home, as defined in Section 18007 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) "Accessory structure" means a structure that is accessory and incidental to a dwelling located on the same lot.

(3) "Efficiency unit" has the same meaning as defined in Section 17958.1 of the Health and Safety Code.

(4) "Living area" means the interior habitable area of a dwelling unit, including basements and attics, but does not include a garage or any accessory structure.

(5) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

(6) "Nonconforming zoning condition" means a physical improvement on a property that does not conform with current zoning standards.

(7) "Passageway" means a pathway that is unobstructed clear to the sky and extends from a street to one entrance of the accessory dwelling unit.

(8) "Proposed dwelling" means a dwelling that is the subject of a permit application and that meets the requirements for permitting.

(9) "Public transit" means a location, including, but not limited to, a bus stop or train station, where the public may access buses, trains, subways, and other forms of transportation that charge set fares, run on fixed routes, and are available to the public.

(10) "Tandem parking" means that two or more automobiles are parked on a driveway or in any other location on a lot, lined up behind one another.

(k) A local agency shall not issue a certificate of occupancy for an accessory dwelling unit before the local agency issues a certificate of occupancy for the primary dwelling.

(l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or in any way alter or lessen the

effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code), except that the local government shall not be required to hold public hearings for coastal development permit applications for accessory dwelling units.

(m) A local agency may count an accessory dwelling unit for purposes of identifying adequate sites for housing, as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 65583.1, subject to authorization by the department and compliance with this division.

(n) In enforcing building standards pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 17960) of Chapter 5 of Part 1.5 of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code for an accessory dwelling unit described in paragraph (1) or (2) below, a local agency, upon request of an owner of an accessory dwelling unit for a delay in enforcement, shall delay enforcement of a building standard, subject to compliance with Section 17980.12 of the Health and Safety Code:

(1) The accessory dwelling unit was built before January 1, 2020.

(2) The accessory dwelling unit was built on or after January 1, 2020, in a local jurisdiction that, at the time the accessory dwelling unit was built, had a noncompliant accessory dwelling unit ordinance, but the ordinance is compliant at the time the request is made.

(o) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.

**(Becomes operative on January 1, 2025)**

Section 65852.2 of the Government Code is amended to read (changes from January 1, 2021 statute noted in underline/italic):

**65852.2.**

(a)(1) A local agency may, by ordinance, provide for the creation of accessory dwelling units in areas zoned to allow single-family or multifamily dwelling residential use. The ordinance shall do all of the following:

(A) Designate areas within the jurisdiction of the local agency where accessory dwelling units may be permitted. The designation of areas may be based on the adequacy of water and sewer services and the impact of accessory dwelling units on traffic flow and public safety. A local agency that does not provide water or sewer services shall consult with the local water or sewer service provider regarding the adequacy of water and sewer services before designating an area where accessory dwelling units may be permitted.

(B)(i) Impose standards on accessory dwelling units that include, but are not limited to, parking, height, setback, landscape, architectural review, maximum size of a unit, and standards that prevent adverse impacts on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historic Resources. These standards shall not include requirements on minimum lot size.

(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), a local agency may reduce or eliminate parking requirements for any accessory dwelling unit located within its jurisdiction.

(C) Provide that accessory dwelling units do not exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which the accessory dwelling unit is located, and that accessory dwelling units are a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designation for the lot.

(D) Require the accessory dwelling units to comply with all of the following:

(i) The accessory dwelling unit may be rented separate from the primary residence, but may not be sold or otherwise conveyed separate from the primary residence.

(ii) The lot is zoned to allow single-family or multifamily dwelling residential use and includes a proposed or existing dwelling.

(iii) The accessory dwelling unit is either attached to, or located within, the proposed or

existing primary dwelling, including attached garages, storage areas or similar uses, or an accessory structure or detached from the proposed or existing primary dwelling and located on the same lot as the proposed or existing primary dwelling.

(iv) If there is an existing primary dwelling, the total floor area of an attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 50 percent of the existing primary dwelling.

(v) The total floor area for a detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 1,200 square feet.

(vi) No passageway shall be required in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit.

(vii) No setback shall be required for an existing living area or accessory structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure that is converted to an accessory dwelling unit or a portion of an accessory dwelling unit, and a setback of no more than four feet from the side and rear lot lines shall be required for an accessory dwelling unit that is not converted from an existing structure or a new structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure.

(viii) Local building code requirements that apply to detached dwellings, as appropriate.

(ix) Approval by the local health officer where a private sewage disposal system is being used, if required.

(x) (I) Parking requirements for accessory dwelling units shall not exceed one parking space per accessory dwelling unit or per bedroom, whichever is less. These spaces may be provided as tandem parking on a driveway.

(II) Offstreet parking shall be permitted in setback areas in locations determined by the local agency or through tandem parking, unless specific findings are made that parking in setback areas or tandem parking is not feasible based upon specific site or regional topographical or fire and life safety conditions.

(III) This clause shall not apply to an accessory dwelling unit that is described in subdivision (d).

(xi) When a garage, carport, or covered parking structure is demolished in conjunction with the construction of an accessory dwelling unit or converted to an accessory dwelling unit, the local agency shall not require that those offstreet parking spaces be replaced.

(xii) Accessory dwelling units shall not be required to provide fire sprinklers if they are not required for the primary residence.

(2) The ordinance shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.

(3) A permit application for an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit shall be considered and approved ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing, notwithstanding Section 65901 or 65906 or any local ordinance regulating the issuance of variances or special use permits. The permitting agency shall act on the application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days from the date the local agency receives a completed application if there is an existing single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot. If the permit application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create a new single-family dwelling on the lot, the permitting agency may delay acting on the permit application for the accessory dwelling unit or the junior accessory dwelling unit until the permitting agency acts on the permit application to create the new single-family dwelling, but the application to create the accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit shall be considered without discretionary review or hearing. If the applicant requests a delay, the 60-day time period shall be tolled for the period of the delay. *If the local agency has not acted upon the completed application within 60 days, the application shall be deemed approved.* A local agency may charge a fee to reimburse it for costs incurred to implement this paragraph, including the costs

of adopting or amending any ordinance that provides for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

(4) An existing ordinance governing the creation of an accessory dwelling unit by a local agency or an accessory dwelling ordinance adopted by a local agency shall provide an approval process that includes only ministerial provisions for the approval of accessory dwelling units and shall not include any discretionary processes, provisions, or requirements for those units, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision. If a local agency has an existing accessory dwelling unit ordinance that fails to meet the requirements of this subdivision, that ordinance shall be null and void and that agency shall thereafter apply the standards established in this subdivision for the approval of accessory dwelling units, unless and until the agency adopts an ordinance that complies with this section.

(5) No other local ordinance, policy, or regulation shall be the basis for the delay or denial of a building permit or a use permit under this subdivision.

(6) (A) This subdivision establishes the maximum standards that local agencies shall use to evaluate a proposed

accessory dwelling unit on a lot that includes a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. No additional standards, other than those provided in this subdivision, shall be used or ~~imposed, including any owner-occupant requirement, except that~~ imposed except that, subject to subparagraph (B), a local agency may require an applicant for a permit issued pursuant to this subdivision to be an owner-occupant or that the property be used for rentals of terms longer than 30 days.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a local agency shall not impose an owner-occupant requirement on an accessory dwelling unit permitted between January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2025, during which time the local agency was prohibited from imposing an owner-occupant requirement.

(7) A local agency may amend its zoning ordinance or general plan to incorporate the policies, procedures, or other provisions applicable to the creation of an accessory dwelling unit if these provisions are consistent with the limitations of this subdivision.

(8) An accessory dwelling unit that conforms to this subdivision shall be deemed to be an accessory use or an accessory building and shall not be considered to exceed the allowable density for the lot upon which it is located, and shall be deemed to be a residential use that is consistent with the existing general plan and zoning designations for the lot. The accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered in the application of any local ordinance, policy, or program to limit residential growth.

(b) When a local agency that has not adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a) receives an application for a permit to create an accessory dwelling unit pursuant to this subdivision, the local agency shall approve or disapprove the application ministerially without discretionary review pursuant to subdivision (a). The permitting agency shall act on the application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days from the date the local agency receives a completed application if there is an existing single-family or multifamily dwelling on the lot. If the permit application to create an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create a new single-family dwelling on the lot, the permitting agency may delay acting on the permit application for the accessory dwelling unit or the junior accessory dwelling unit until the permitting agency acts on the permit application to create the new single-family dwelling, but the application to create the accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit shall still be considered ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing. If the applicant requests a delay, the 60-day time period shall be tolled for the period of the delay. If

the local agency has not acted upon the completed application within 60 days, the application shall be deemed approved.

(c)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a local agency may establish minimum and maximum unit size requirements for both attached and detached accessory dwelling units.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a local agency shall not establish by ordinance any of the following:

(A) A minimum square footage requirement for either an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit that prohibits an efficiency unit.

(B) A maximum square footage requirement for either an attached or detached accessory dwelling unit that is less than either of the following:

(i) 850 square feet.

(ii) 1,000 square feet for an accessory dwelling unit that provides more than one bedroom.

(C) Any other minimum or maximum size for an accessory dwelling unit, size based upon a percentage of the proposed or existing primary dwelling, or limits on lot coverage, floor area ratio, open space, and minimum lot size, for either attached or detached dwellings that does not permit at least an 800 square foot accessory dwelling unit that is at least 16 feet in height with four-foot side and rear yard setbacks to be constructed in compliance with all other local development standards.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, a local agency, whether or not it has adopted an ordinance governing accessory dwelling units in accordance with subdivision (a), shall not impose parking standards for an accessory dwelling unit in any of the following instances:

(1) The accessory dwelling unit is located within one-half mile walking distance of public transit.

(2) The accessory dwelling unit is located within an architecturally and historically significant historic district.

(3) The accessory dwelling unit is part of the proposed or existing primary residence or an accessory structure.

(4) When on-street parking permits are required but not offered to the occupant of the accessory dwelling unit.

(5) When there is a car share vehicle located within one block of the accessory dwelling unit.

(e)(1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, a local agency shall ministerially approve an application for a building permit within a residential or mixed-use zone to create any of the following:

(A) One accessory dwelling unit ~~or~~ and one junior accessory dwelling unit per lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling if all of the following apply:

(i) The accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit is within the proposed space of a single-family dwelling or existing space of a single-family dwelling or accessory structure and may include an expansion of not more than 150 square feet beyond the same physical dimensions as the existing accessory structure. An expansion beyond the physical dimensions of the existing accessory structure shall be limited to accommodating ingress and egress.

(ii) The space has exterior access from the proposed or existing single-family dwelling.

(iii) The side and rear setbacks are sufficient for fire and safety.

(iv) The junior accessory dwelling unit complies with the requirements of Section 65852.22.

(B) One detached, new construction, accessory dwelling unit that does not exceed four-foot side and rear yard setbacks for a lot with a proposed or existing single-family dwelling. The accessory dwelling unit may be combined with a junior accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A). A local agency may impose the following conditions on the accessory dwelling unit:

(i) A total floor area limitation of not more than 800 square feet.

(ii) A height limitation of 16 feet.

(C)(i) Multiple accessory dwelling units within the portions of existing multifamily dwelling structures that are not used as livable space, including, but not limited to, storage rooms, boiler rooms, passageways, attics, basements, or garages, if each unit complies with state building standards for dwellings.

(ii) A local agency shall allow at least one accessory dwelling unit within an existing multifamily dwelling and shall allow up to 25 percent of the existing multifamily dwelling units.

(D) Not more than two accessory dwelling units that are located on a lot that has an existing multifamily dwelling but are detached from that multifamily dwelling and are subject to a height limit of 16 feet and four-foot rear yard and side setbacks.

(2) A local agency shall not require, as a condition for ministerial approval of a permit application for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit, the correction of nonconforming zoning conditions.

(3) The installation of fire sprinklers shall not be required in an accessory dwelling unit if sprinklers are not required for the primary residence.

(4) A local agency may require owner occupancy for either the primary dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit on a single-family lot, subject to the requirements of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a).

~~(4)~~ (5) A local agency shall require that a rental of the accessory dwelling unit created pursuant to this subdivision be for a term longer than 30 days.

~~(5)~~ (6) A local agency may require, as part of the application for a permit to create an accessory dwelling unit connected to an onsite wastewater treatment system, a percolation test completed within the last five years, or, if the percolation test has been recertified, within the last 10 years.

~~(6)~~ (7) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) and paragraph (1) a local agency that has adopted an ordinance by July 1, 2018, providing for the approval of accessory dwelling units in multifamily dwelling structures shall ministerially consider a permit application to construct an accessory dwelling unit that is described in paragraph (1), and may impose standards including, but not limited to, design, development, and historic standards on said accessory dwelling units. These standards shall not include requirements on minimum lot size.

(f) (1) Fees charged for the construction of accessory dwelling units shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 66000) and Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 66012).

(2) An accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered by a local agency, special district, or water corporation to be a new residential use for purposes of calculating connection fees or capacity charges for utilities, including water and sewer service, unless the accessory dwelling unit was constructed with a new single-family dwelling.

(3)(A) A local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not impose any impact fee upon the development of an accessory dwelling unit less than 750 square feet. Any impact fees charged for an accessory dwelling unit of 750 square feet or more shall be charged proportionately in relation to the square footage of the primary dwelling unit.

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, "impact fee" has the same meaning as the term "fee" is defined in subdivision

(b) of Section 66000, except that it also includes fees specified in Section 66477. "Impact fee" does not include any connection fee or capacity charge charged by a local agency, special district, or water corporation.

(4) For an accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation shall not require the applicant to install a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory

dwelling unit and the utility or impose a related connection fee or capacity charge, unless the accessory dwelling unit was constructed with a new single-family ~~home~~. [dwelling](#).

(5) For an accessory dwelling unit that is not described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a local agency, special district, or water corporation may require a new or separate utility connection directly between the accessory dwelling unit and the utility. Consistent with Section 66013, the connection may be subject to a connection fee or capacity charge that shall be proportionate to the burden of the proposed accessory dwelling unit, based upon either its square feet or the number of its drainage fixture unit (DFU) values, as defined in the Uniform Plumbing Code adopted and published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, upon the water or sewer system. This fee or charge shall not exceed the reasonable cost of providing this service.

(g) This section does not limit the authority of local agencies to adopt less restrictive requirements for the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.

(h) (1) A local agency shall submit a copy of the ordinance adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) to the Department of Housing and Community Development within 60 days after adoption. After adoption of an ordinance, the department may submit written findings to the local agency as to whether the ordinance complies with this section.

(2)(A) If the department finds that the local agency's ordinance does not comply with this section, the department shall notify the local agency and shall provide the local agency with a reasonable time, no longer than 30 days, to respond to the findings before taking any other action authorized by this section.

(B) The local agency shall consider the findings made by the department pursuant to subparagraph (A) and shall do one of the following:

(i) Amend the ordinance to comply with this section.

(ii) Adopt the ordinance without changes. The local agency shall include findings in its resolution adopting the ordinance that explain the reasons the local agency believes that the ordinance complies with this section despite the findings of the department.

(3)(A) If the local agency does not amend its ordinance in response to the department's findings or does not adopt a resolution with findings explaining the reason the ordinance complies with this section and addressing the department's findings, the department shall notify the local agency and may notify the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law.

(B) Before notifying the Attorney General that the local agency is in violation of state law, the department may consider whether a local agency adopted an ordinance in compliance with this section between January 1, 2017, and January 1, 2020.

(i) The department may review, adopt, amend, or repeal guidelines to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, and standards set forth in this section. The guidelines adopted pursuant to this subdivision are not subject to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2.

(j) As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Accessory dwelling unit" means an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing primary residence. It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-family or multifamily dwelling is or will be situated. An accessory dwelling unit also includes the following:

(A) An efficiency unit.

(B) A manufactured home, as defined in Section 18007 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) "Accessory structure" means a structure that is accessory and incidental to a dwelling located



on the same lot.

(3) "Efficiency unit" has the same meaning as defined in Section 17958.1 of the Health and Safety Code.

(4) "Living area" means the interior habitable area of a dwelling unit, including basements and attics, but does not include a garage or any accessory structure.

(5) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

(6) "Nonconforming zoning condition" means a physical improvement on a property that does not conform with current zoning standards.

(7) "Passageway" means a pathway that is unobstructed clear to the sky and extends from a street to one entrance of the accessory dwelling unit.

(8) "Proposed dwelling" means a dwelling that is the subject of a permit application and that meets the requirements for permitting.

(9) "Public transit" means a location, including, but not limited to, a bus stop or train station, where the public may access buses, trains, subways, and other forms of transportation that charge set fares, run on fixed routes, and are available to the public.

(10) "Tandem parking" means that two or more automobiles are parked on a driveway or in any other location on a lot, lined up behind one another.

(k) A local agency shall not issue a certificate of occupancy for an accessory dwelling unit before the local agency issues a certificate of occupancy for the primary dwelling.

(l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or in any way alter or lessen the effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code), except that the local government shall not be required to hold public hearings for coastal development permit applications for accessory dwelling units.

(m) A local agency may count an accessory dwelling unit for purposes of identifying adequate sites for housing, as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 65583.1, subject to authorization by the department and compliance with this division.

(n) In enforcing building standards pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 17960) of Chapter 5 of Part 1.5 of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code for an accessory dwelling unit described in paragraph (1) or (2) below, a local agency, upon request of an owner of an accessory dwelling unit for a delay in enforcement, shall delay enforcement of a building standard, subject to compliance with Section 17980.12 of the Health and Safety Code:

(1) The accessory dwelling unit was built before January 1, 2020.

(2) The accessory dwelling unit was built on or after January 1, 2020, in a local jurisdiction that, at the time the accessory dwelling unit was built, had a noncompliant accessory dwelling unit ordinance, but the ordinance is compliant at the time the request is made.

(o) This section shall ~~remain in effect only until January 1, 2025, and as of that date is repealed.~~  
*become operative on January 1, 2025.*

**GOV. CODE: TITLE 7, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4,  
ARTICLE 2  
AB 345 (Accessory Dwelling Units)**

Effective January 1, 2022, Section 65852.26 is amended to read:

**65852.26.**

(a) Notwithstanding clause (i) of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 65852.2, a local agency ~~may, by ordinance,~~ *shall* allow an accessory dwelling unit to be sold or conveyed separately from the primary residence to a qualified buyer if all of the following apply:

- (1) The ~~property~~ *accessory dwelling unit or the primary dwelling* was built or developed by a qualified nonprofit corporation.
- (2) There is an enforceable restriction on the use of the land pursuant to a recorded contract between the qualified buyer and the qualified nonprofit corporation that satisfies all of the requirements specified in paragraph (10) of subdivision (a) of Section 402.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- (3) The property is held pursuant to a recorded tenancy in common agreement that includes all of the following:
  - (A) The agreement allocates to each qualified buyer an undivided, unequal interest in the property based on the size of the dwelling each *that* qualified buyer occupies.
  - (B) A repurchase option that requires the qualified buyer to first offer the qualified nonprofit corporation to buy the ~~property~~ *accessory dwelling unit or primary dwelling* if the buyer desires to sell or convey the property.
  - (C) A requirement that the qualified buyer occupy the ~~property~~ *accessory dwelling unit or primary dwelling* as the buyer's principal residence.
  - (D) Affordability restrictions on the sale and conveyance of the ~~property~~ *accessory dwelling unit or primary dwelling* that ensure the ~~property~~ *accessory dwelling unit and primary dwelling* will be preserved for low-income housing for 45 years for owner-occupied housing units and will be sold or resold to a qualified buyer.
  - (E) *If the tenancy in common agreement is recorded after December 31, 2021, it shall also include all of the following*
    - (i) *Delineation of all areas of the property that are for the exclusive use of a cotenant. Each cotenant shall agree not to claim a right of occupancy to an area delineated for the exclusive use of another cotenant, provided that the latter cotenant's obligations to each of the other cotenants have been satisfied.*
    - (ii) *Delineation of each cotenant's responsibility for the costs of taxes, insurance, utilities, general maintenance and repair, improvements, and any other costs, obligations, or liabilities associated with the property. This delineation shall only be binding on the parties to the agreement, and shall not supersede or obviate the liability, whether joint and several or otherwise, of the parties for any cost, obligation, or liability associated with the property where such liability is otherwise established by law or by agreement with a third party.*

*(iii) Procedures for dispute resolution among the parties before resorting to legal action.*

(4) A grant deed naming the grantor, grantee, and describing the property interests being transferred shall be recorded in the county in which the property is located. A Preliminary Change of Ownership Report shall be filed concurrently with this grant deed pursuant to Section 480.3 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(5) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (f) of Section 65852.2, if requested by a utility providing service to the primary residence, the accessory dwelling unit has a separate water, sewer, or electrical connection to that utility.

(b) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Qualified buyer" means persons and families of low or moderate income, as that term is defined in Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) "Qualified nonprofit corporation" means a nonprofit corporation organized pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that has received a welfare exemption under Section 214.15 of the Revenue and Taxation Code for properties intended to be sold to low-income families who participate in a special no-interest loan program.

Effective January 1, 2021, Section 4740 of the Civil Code is amended to read (changes noted in ~~strikeout~~, underline/*italics*) (AB 3182 (Ting)):

#### **4740.**

(a) An owner of a separate interest in a common interest development shall not be subject to a provision in a governing document or an amendment to a governing document that prohibits the rental or leasing of any of the separate interests in that common interest development to a renter, lessee, or tenant unless that governing document, or amendment thereto, was effective prior to the date the owner acquired title to ~~his or her~~ their separate interest.

~~(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an owner of a separate interest in a common interest development may expressly consent to be subject to a governing document or an amendment to a governing document that prohibits the rental or leasing of any of the separate interests in the common interest development to a renter, lessee, or tenant.~~

(c) ~~(b)~~ For purposes of this section, the right to rent or lease the separate interest of an owner shall not be deemed to have terminated if the transfer by the owner of all or part of the separate interest meets at least one of the following conditions:

(1) Pursuant to Section 62 or 480.3 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the transfer is exempt, for purposes of reassessment by the county tax assessor.

(2) Pursuant to subdivision (b) of, solely with respect to probate transfers, or subdivision (e), (f), or (g) of, Section 1102.2, the transfer is exempt from the requirements to prepare and deliver a Real Estate Transfer Disclosure Statement, as set forth in Section 1102.6.

~~(d)~~ ~~(c)~~ Prior to renting or leasing ~~his or her~~ their separate interest as provided by this section, an owner shall provide the association verification of the date the owner acquired title to the separate interest and the name and contact information of the prospective tenant or lessee or the prospective tenant's or lessee's representative.

~~(e)~~ ~~(d)~~ Nothing in this section shall be deemed to revise, alter, or otherwise affect the voting process by which a common interest development adopts or amends its governing documents.

~~(f) This section shall apply only to a provision in a governing document or a provision in an amendment to a governing document that becomes effective on or after January 1, 2012.~~

Effective January 1, 2021 of the Section 4741 was added to the Civil Code, to read:

**4741.**

(a) An owner of a separate interest in a common interest development shall not be subject to a provision in a governing document or an amendment to a governing document that prohibits, has the effect of prohibiting, or unreasonably restricts the rental or leasing of any of the separate interests, accessory dwelling units, or junior accessory dwelling units in that common interest development to a renter, lessee, or tenant.

(b) A common interest development shall not adopt or enforce a provision in a governing document or amendment to a governing document that restricts the rental or lease of separate interests within a common interest to less than 25 percent of the separate interests. Nothing in this subdivision prohibits a common interest development from adopting or enforcing a provision authorizing a higher percentage of separate interests to be rented or leased. (c) This section does not prohibit a common interest development from adopting and enforcing a provision in a governing document that prohibits transient or short-term rental of a separate property interest for a period of 30 days or less.

(d) For purposes of this section, an accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit shall not be construed as a separate interest.

(e) For purposes of this section, a separate interest shall not be counted as occupied by a renter if the separate interest, or the accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit of the separate interest, is occupied by the owner.

(f) A common interest development shall comply with the prohibition on rental restrictions specified in this section on and after January 1, 2021, regardless of whether the common interest development has revised their governing documents to comply with this section. However, a common interest development shall amend their governing documents to conform to the requirements of this section no later than December 31, 2021.

(g) A common interest development that willfully violates this section shall be liable to the applicant or other party for actual damages, and shall pay a civil penalty to the applicant or other party in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(h) In accordance with Section 4740, this section does not change the right of an owner of a separate interest who acquired title to their separate interest before the effective date of this section to rent or lease their property.

Effective January 1, 2020, Section 65852.22 of the Government Code was amended to read:

**65852.22.**

(a) Notwithstanding Section 65852.2, a local agency may, by ordinance, provide for the creation of junior accessory dwelling units in single-family residential zones. The ordinance may require a permit to be obtained for the creation of a junior accessory dwelling unit, and shall do all of the following:

- (1) Limit the number of junior accessory dwelling units to one per residential lot zoned for single-family residences with a single-family residence built, or proposed to be built, on the lot.
- (2) Require owner-occupancy in the single-family residence in which the junior accessory dwelling unit will be permitted. The owner may reside in either the remaining portion of the

structure or the newly created junior accessory dwelling unit. Owner-occupancy shall not be required if the owner is another governmental agency, landtrust, or housing organization.

(3) Require the recordation of a deed restriction, which shall run with the land, shall be filed with the permitting agency, and shall include both of the following:

(A) A prohibition on the sale of the junior accessory dwelling unit separate from the sale of the single-family residence, including a statement that the deed restriction may be enforced against future purchasers.

(B) A restriction on the size and attributes of the junior accessory dwelling unit that conforms with this section.

(4) Require a permitted junior accessory dwelling unit to be constructed within the walls of proposed or existing single-family residence.

(5) Require a permitted junior accessory dwelling to include a separate entrance from the main entrance to the proposed or existing single-family residence.

(6) Require the permitted junior accessory dwelling unit to include an efficiency kitchen, which shall include all of the following:

(A) A cooking facility with appliances.

(B) A food preparation counter and storage cabinets that are of reasonable size in relation to the size of the junior accessory dwelling unit.

(b)(1) An ordinance shall not require additional parking as a condition to grant a permit.

(2) This subdivision shall not be interpreted to prohibit the requirement of an inspection, including the imposition of a fee for that inspection, to determine if the junior accessory dwelling unit complies with applicable building standards.

(c) An application for a permit pursuant to this section shall, notwithstanding Section 65901 or 65906 or any local ordinance regulating the issuance of variances or special use permits, be considered ministerially, without discretionary review or a hearing. The permitting agency shall act on the application to create a junior accessory dwelling unit within 60 days from the date the local agency receives a completed application if there is an existing single-family dwelling on the lot. If the permit application to create a junior accessory dwelling unit is submitted with a permit application to create a new single-family dwelling on the lot, the permitting agency may delay acting on the permit application for the junior accessory dwelling unit until the permitting agency acts on the permit application to create the new single-family dwelling, but the application to create the junior accessory dwelling unit shall still be considered ministerially without discretionary review or a hearing. If the applicant requests a delay, the 60-day time period shall be tolled for the period of the delay. A local agency may charge a fee to reimburse the local agency for costs incurred in connection with the issuance of a permit pursuant to this section.

(d) For purposes of any fire or life protection ordinance or regulation, a junior accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered a separate or new dwelling unit. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a city, county, city and county, or other local public entity from adopting an ordinance or regulation relating to fire and life protection requirements within a single-family residence that contains a junior accessory dwelling unit so long as the ordinance or regulation applies uniformly to all single-family residences within the zone regardless of whether the single-family residence includes a junior accessory dwelling unit or not.

(e) For purposes of providing service for water, sewer, or power, including a connection fee, a junior accessory dwelling unit shall not be considered a separate or new dwelling unit.

(f) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a local agency from adopting an ordinance or regulation, related to parking or a service or a connection fee for water, sewer, or power, that applies to a single-family residence that contains a junior accessory dwelling unit, so long as

that ordinance or regulation applies uniformly to all single-family residences regardless of whether the single-family residence includes a junior accessory dwelling unit.

(g) If a local agency has not adopted a local ordinance pursuant to this section, the local agency shall ministerially approve a permit to construct a junior accessory dwelling unit that satisfies the requirements set forth in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of Section 65852.2 and the requirements of this section.

(h) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Junior accessory dwelling unit" means a unit that is no more than 500 square feet in size and contained entirely within a single-family residence. A junior accessory dwelling unit may include separate sanitation facilities, or may share sanitation facilities with the existing structure.

(2) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

Effective January 1, 2020 Section 17980.12 was added to the Health and Safety Code, immediately following Section 17980.11, to read:

**17980.12.**

(a)(1) An enforcement agency, until January 1, 2030, that issues to an owner of an accessory dwelling unit described in subparagraph (A) or (B) below, a notice to correct a violation of any provision of any building standard pursuant to this part shall include in that notice a statement that the owner of the unit has a right to request a delay in enforcement pursuant to this subdivision:

(A) The accessory dwelling unit was built before January 1, 2020.

(B) The accessory dwelling unit was built on or after January 1, 2020, in a local jurisdiction that, at the time the accessory dwelling unit was built, had a noncompliant accessory dwelling unit ordinance, but the ordinance is compliant at the time the request is made.

(2) The owner of an accessory dwelling unit that receives a notice to correct violations or abate nuisances as described in paragraph (1) may, in the form and manner prescribed by the enforcement agency, submit an application to the enforcement agency requesting that enforcement of the violation be delayed for five years on the basis that correcting the violation is not necessary to protect health and safety.

(3) The enforcement agency shall grant an application described in paragraph (2) if the enforcement agency determines that correcting the violation is not necessary to protect health and safety. In making this determination, the enforcement agency shall consult with the entity responsible for enforcement of building standards and other regulations of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 13146.

(4) The enforcement agency shall not approve any applications pursuant to this section on or after January 1, 2030. However, any delay that was approved by the enforcement agency before January 1, 2030, shall be valid for the full term of the delay that was approved at the time of the initial approval of the application pursuant to paragraph (3).

(b) For purposes of this section, "accessory dwelling unit" has the same meaning as defined in Section 65852.2.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2035, and as of that date is repealed.

**CIVIL CODE: DIVISION 4, PART 5, CHAPTER 5,  
ARTICLE 1  
AB 670 Accessory Dwelling Units**

Effective January 1, 2020, Section 4751 was added to the Civil Code, to read (AB 670 (Friedman)):

**4751.**

(a) Any covenant, restriction, or condition contained in any deed, contract, security instrument, or other instrument affecting the transfer or sale of any interest in a planned development, and any provision of a governing document, that either effectively prohibits or unreasonably restricts the construction or use of an accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit on a lot zoned for single-family residential use that meets the requirements of Section 65852.2 or 65852.22 of the Government Code, is void and unenforceable.

(b) This section does not apply to provisions that impose reasonable restrictions on accessory dwelling units or junior accessory dwelling units. For purposes of this subdivision, "reasonable restrictions" means restrictions that do not unreasonably increase the cost to construct, effectively prohibit the construction of, or extinguish the ability to otherwise construct, an accessory dwelling unit or junior accessory dwelling unit consistent with the provisions of Section 65852.2 or 65852.22 of the Government Code.

**GOV. CODE: TITLE 7, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 3,  
ARTICLE 10.6  
AB 671 Accessory Dwelling Units**

Effective January 1, 2020, Section 65583(c)(7) of the Government Code was added to read (sections of housing element law omitted for conciseness) (AB 671 (Friedman)):

**65583(c)(7).**

Develop a plan that incentivizes and promotes the creation of accessory dwelling units that can be offered at affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053 of the Health and Safety Code, for very low, low-, or moderate-income households. For purposes of this paragraph, "accessory dwelling units" has the same meaning as "accessory dwelling unit" as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (i) of Section 65852.2.

Effective January 1, 2020, Section 50504.5 was added to the Health and Safety Code, to read (AB 671 (Friedman)):

**50504.5.**

(a) The department shall develop by December 31, 2020, a list of existing state grants and financial incentives for operating, administrative, and other expenses in connection with the planning, construction, and operation of an accessory dwelling unit with affordable rent, as defined in Section 50053, for very low, low-, and moderate-income households.

(b) The list shall be posted on the department's internet website by December 31, 2020.

(c) For purposes of this section, "accessory dwelling unit" has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (i) of Section 65852.2 of the Government Code.

**GOV. CODE: TITLE 7, DIVISION 1, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 2 & TITLE 7, DIVISION 2,  
CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1  
SB 9 Housing development: approvals**

Effective January 1, 2022, Section 65852.21 was added to the Government Code, to read:

**65852.21.** (a) A proposed housing development containing no more than two residential units within a single-family residential zone shall be considered ministerially, without discretionary review or a hearing, if the proposed housing development meets all of the following requirements:

(1) The parcel subject to the proposed housing development is located within a city, the boundaries of which include some portion of either an urbanized area or urban cluster, as designated by the United States Census Bureau, or, for unincorporated areas, a legal parcel wholly within the boundaries of an urbanized area or urban cluster, as designated by the United States Census Bureau.

(2) The parcel satisfies the requirements specified in subparagraphs (B) to (K), inclusive, of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of this section or any local law, the proposed housing development would not require demolition or alteration of any of the following types of housing:

(A) Housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income.

(B) Housing that is subject to any form of rent or price control through a public entity's valid exercise of its police power.

(C) Housing that has been occupied by a tenant in the last three years.

(4) The parcel subject to the proposed housing development is not a parcel on which an owner of residential real property has exercised the owner's rights under Chapter 12.75 (commencing with Section 7060) of Division 7 of Title 1 to withdraw accommodations from rent or lease within 15 years before the date that the development proponent submits an application. 94 — 3 — Ch. 162

(5) The proposed housing development does not allow the demolition of more than 25 percent of the existing exterior structural walls, unless the housing development meets at least one of the following conditions:

(A) If a local ordinance so allows.

(B) The site has not been occupied by a tenant in the last three years.

(6) The development is not located within a historic district or property included on the State Historic Resources Inventory, as defined in Section 5020.1 of the Public Resources Code, or within a site that is designated or listed as a city or county landmark or historic property or district pursuant to a city or county ordinance.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any local law and except as provided in paragraph (2), a local agency may impose objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design review standards that do not conflict with this section.

(2)(A) The local agency shall not impose objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design standards that would have the effect of physically precluding the construction of up to two units or that would physically preclude either of the two units from being at least 800 square feet in floor area. (B)(i) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), no setback shall be required for an existing structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure.

(ii) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), in all other circumstances not described in clause (i), a local agency may require a setback of up to four feet from the side and rear lot lines.



(c) In addition to any conditions established in accordance with subdivision (b), a local agency may require any of the following conditions when considering an application for two residential units as provided for in this section:

(1) Off-street parking of up to one space per unit, except that a local agency shall not impose parking requirements in either of the following instances:

(A) The parcel is located within one-half mile walking distance of either a high-quality transit corridor, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, or a major transit stop, as defined in Section 21064.3 of the Public Resources Code.

(B) There is a car share vehicle located within one block of the parcel. (2) For residential units connected to an onsite wastewater treatment system, a percolation test completed within the last 5 years, or, if the percolation test has been recertified, within the last 10 years.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a local agency may deny a proposed housing development project if the building official makes a written finding, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the proposed housing development project would have a specific, adverse impact, as defined and determined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon public health and safety or the physical environment and for which there is 94 Ch. 162 — 4 — no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact.

(e) A local agency shall require that a rental of any unit created pursuant to this section be for a term longer than 30 days.

(f) Notwithstanding Section 65852.2 or 65852.22, a local agency shall not be required to permit an accessory dwelling unit or a junior accessory dwelling unit on parcels that use both the authority contained within this section and the authority contained in Section 66411.7.

(g) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), an application shall not be rejected solely because it proposes adjacent or connected structures provided that the structures meet building code safety standards and are sufficient to allow separate conveyance.

(h) Local agencies shall include units constructed pursuant to this section in the annual housing element report as required by subparagraph (l) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65400.

(i) For purposes of this section, all of the following apply:

(1) A housing development contains two residential units if the development proposes no more than two new units or if it proposes to add one new unit to one existing unit.

(2) The terms “objective zoning standards,” “objective subdivision standards,” and “objective design review standards” mean standards that involve no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and are uniformly verifiable by both the development applicant or proponent and the public official prior to submittal. These standards may be embodied in alternative objective land use specifications adopted by a local agency, and may include, but are not limited to, housing overlay zones, specific plans, inclusionary zoning ordinances, and density bonus ordinances.

(3) “Local agency” means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

(j) A local agency may adopt an ordinance to implement the provisions of this section. An ordinance adopted to implement this section shall not be considered a project under Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code.

(k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or in any way alter or lessen the effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code), except that the local agency shall not be required to hold public hearings for coastal development permit applications for a housing development pursuant to this section.

Section 66411.7 is added to the Government Code, to read:

66411.7. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this division and any local law, a local agency shall ministerially approve, as set forth in this section, a parcel map for an urban lot split only if the local agency determines that the parcel map for the urban lot split meets all the following requirements:

(1) The parcel map subdivides an existing parcel to create no more than two new parcels of approximately equal lot area provided that one parcel shall not be smaller than 40 percent of the lot area of the original parcel proposed for subdivision.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), both newly created parcels are no smaller than 1,200 square feet. (B) A local agency may by ordinance adopt a smaller minimum lot size subject to ministerial approval under this subdivision.

(3) The parcel being subdivided meets all the following requirements:

(A) The parcel is located within a single-family residential zone.

(B) The parcel subject to the proposed urban lot split is located within a city, the boundaries of which include some portion of either an urbanized area or urban cluster, as designated by the United States Census Bureau, or, for unincorporated areas, a legal parcel wholly within the boundaries of an urbanized area or urban cluster, as designated by the United States Census Bureau.

(C) The parcel satisfies the requirements specified in subparagraphs (B) to (K), inclusive, of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.

(D) The proposed urban lot split would not require demolition or alteration of any of the following types of housing: (i) Housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income.

(ii) Housing that is subject to any form of rent or price control through a public entity's valid exercise of its police power. (iii) A parcel or parcels on which an owner of residential real property has exercised the owner's rights under Chapter 12.75 (commencing with Section 7060) of Division 7 of Title 1 to withdraw accommodations from rent or lease within 15 years before the date that the development proponent submits an application.

(iv) Housing that has been occupied by a tenant in the last three years.

(E) The parcel is not located within a historic district or property included on the State Historic Resources Inventory, as defined in Section 5020.1 of the Public Resources Code, or within a site that is designated or listed as a city or county landmark or historic property or district pursuant to a city or county ordinance.

(F) The parcel has not been established through prior exercise of an urban lot split as provided for in this section. (G) Neither the owner of the parcel being subdivided nor any person acting in concert with the owner has previously subdivided an adjacent parcel using an urban lot split as provided for in this section.

(b) An application for a parcel map for an urban lot split shall be approved in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) A local agency shall approve or deny an application for a parcel map for an urban lot split ministerially without discretionary review.

(2) A local agency shall approve an urban lot split only if it conforms to all applicable objective requirements of the Subdivision Map Act (Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410)), except as otherwise expressly provided in this section.

(3) Notwithstanding Section 66411.1, a local agency shall not impose regulations that require dedications of rights-of-way or the construction of offsite improvements for the parcels being created as a condition of issuing a parcel map for an urban lot split pursuant to this section.

(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding any local law, a local agency may impose objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design review standards applicable to a parcel created by an urban lot split that do not conflict with this section.  
(2) A local agency shall not impose objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design review standards that would have the effect of physically precluding the construction of two units on either of the resulting parcels or that would result in a unit size of less than 800 square feet.  
(3) (A) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), no setback shall be required for an existing structure or a structure constructed in the same location and to the same dimensions as an existing structure.  
(B) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), in all other circumstances not described in subparagraph (A), a local agency may require a setback of up to four feet from the side and rear lot lines.  
(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a local agency may deny an urban lot split if the building official makes a written finding, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the proposed housing development project would have a specific, adverse impact, as defined and determined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 65589.5, upon public health and safety or the physical environment and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific, adverse impact.  
(e) In addition to any conditions established in accordance with this section, a local agency may require any of the following conditions when considering an application for a parcel map for an urban lot split:  
(1) Easements required for the provision of public services and facilities.  
(2) A requirement that the parcels have access to, provide access to, or adjoin the public right-of-way.  
(3) Off-street parking of up to one space per unit, except that a local agency shall not impose parking requirements in either of the following instances:  
(A) The parcel is located within one-half mile walking distance of either a high-quality transit corridor as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code, or a major transit stop as defined in Section 21064.3 of the Public Resources Code.  
(B) There is a car share vehicle located within one block of the parcel.  
(f) A local agency shall require that the uses allowed on a lot created by this section be limited to residential uses.  
(g) (1) A local agency shall require an applicant for an urban lot split to sign an affidavit stating that the applicant intends to occupy one of the housing units as their principal residence for a minimum of three years from the date of the approval of the urban lot split.  
(2) This subdivision shall not apply to an applicant that is a "community land trust," as defined in clause (ii) of subparagraph (C) of paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) of Section 402.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, or is a "qualified nonprofit corporation" as described in Section 214.15 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.  
(3) A local agency shall not impose additional owner occupancy standards, other than provided for in this subdivision, on an urban lot split pursuant to this section.  
(h) A local agency shall require that a rental of any unit created pursuant to this section be for a term longer than 30 days.  
(i) A local agency shall not require, as a condition for ministerial approval of a parcel map application for the creation of an urban lot split, the correction of nonconforming zoning conditions.  
(j) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of Section 65852.2, 65852.21, 65852.22, 65915, or this section, a local agency shall not be required to permit more than two units on a parcel created through the exercise of the authority contained within this section.  
(2) For the purposes of this section, "unit" means any dwelling unit, including, but not limited to, a unit or units created pursuant to Section 65852.21, a primary dwelling, an accessory dwelling unit as defined in Section 65852.2, or a junior accessory dwelling unit as defined in Section 65852.22.

(k) Notwithstanding paragraph (3) of subdivision (c), an application shall not be rejected solely because it proposes adjacent or connected structures provided that the structures meet building code safety standards and are sufficient to allow separate conveyance.

(l) Local agencies shall include the number of applications for parcel maps for urban lot splits pursuant to this section in the annual housing element report as required by subparagraph (l) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 65400.

(m) For purposes of this section, both of the following shall apply:

(1) "Objective zoning standards," "objective subdivision standards," and "objective design review standards" mean standards that involve no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development applicant or proponent and the public official prior to submittal. These standards may be embodied in alternative objective land use specifications adopted by a local agency, and may include, but are not limited to, housing overlay zones, specific plans, inclusionary zoning ordinances, and density bonus ordinances.

(2) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

(n) A local agency may adopt an ordinance to implement the provisions of this section. An ordinance adopted to implement this section shall not be considered a project under Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code.

(o) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or in any way alter or lessen the effect or application of the California Coastal Act of 1976 (Division 20 (commencing with Section 30000) of the Public Resources Code), except that the local agency shall not be required to hold public hearings for coastal development permit applications for urban lot splits pursuant to this section.

## **Attachment 2: ADU Resources**

### [ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS: CASE STUDY](#)

By the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research. (2008)

Introduction: Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) — also referred to as accessory apartments, ADUs, or granny flats— are additional living quarters on single-family lots that are independent of the primary dwelling unit. The separate living spaces are equipped with kitchen and bathroom facilities and can be either attached or detached from the main residence. This case study explores how the adoption of ordinances, with reduced regulatory restrictions to encourage ADUs, can be advantageous for communities. Following an explanation of the various types of ADUs and their benefits, this case study provides examples of municipalities with successful ADU legislation and programs. Section titles include: History of ADUs; Types of Accessory Dwelling Units; Benefits of Accessory Dwelling Units; and Examples of ADU Ordinances and Programs.

### [ADU UPDATE: EARLY LESSONS AND IMPACTS OF CALIFORNIA'S STATE AND LOCAL POLICY CHANGES](#)

By David Garcia (2017)

Terner Center for Housing and Innovation, UC Berkeley

As California's housing crisis deepens, innovative strategies for creating new housing units for all income levels are needed. One such strategy is building Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) by private homeowners. While large scale construction of new market rate and affordable homes is needed to alleviate demand-driven rent increases and displacement pressures, ADUs present a unique opportunity for individual homeowners to create more housing as well. In particular, ADUs can increase the supply of housing in areas where there are fewer opportunities for larger-scale developments, such as neighborhoods that are predominantly zoned for and occupied by single-family homes.

In two of California's major metropolitan areas -- Los Angeles and San Francisco -- well over three quarters of the total land area is comprised of neighborhoods where single-family homes make up at least 60 percent of the community's housing stock. Across the state, single-family detached units make up 56.4 percent of the overall housing stock. Given their prevalence in the state's residential land use patterns, increasing the number of single-family homes that have an ADU could contribute meaningfully to California's housing shortage.

### [ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AS LOW-INCOME HOUSING: CALIFORNIA' FAUSTIAN BARGAIN](#)

By Darrel Ramsey-Musolf (2018)

University of Massachusetts Amherst, ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst

In 2003, California allowed cities to count accessory dwelling units (ADU) towards low-income housing needs. Unless a city's zoning code regulates the ADU's maximum rent, occupancy income, and/or effective period, then the city may be unable to enforce low-income occupancy. After examining a stratified random sample of 57 low-, moderate-, and high-income cities, the high-income cities must proportionately accommodate more low-income needs than low-income cities. By contrast, low-income cities must quantitatively accommodate three times the low-income needs of high-income cities. The sample counted 750 potential ADUs as low-income housing. Even though 759 were constructed, no units were identified as available low-income housing. In addition, none of the cities' zoning codes enforced low-income occupancy. Inferential tests determined that cities with colleges and high incomes were more probable to count ADUs towards overall and low-income housing needs. Furthermore, a city's count of potential ADUs and cities with high proportions of renters maintained positive associations with ADU production, whereas a city's density and prior compliance with state housing laws maintained negative associations. In summary, ADUs did increase local housing inventory and potential ADUs were positively associated with ADU production, but ADUs as low-income housing remained a paper calculation.

#### [IMPLEMENTING THE BACKYARD REVOLUTION: PERSPECTIVES OF CALIFORNIA'S ADU OWNERS \(2022\)](#)

By Karen Chapple, Dori Ganetsos, and Emmanuel Lopez (2022)  
UC Berkeley Center for Community Innovation

The report presents the findings from the first-ever statewide ADU owner survey in California.

#### [JUMPSTARTING THE MARKET FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM PORTLAND, SEATTLE AND VANCOUVER](#)

By Karen Chapple et al (2017)  
Terner Center for Housing and Innovation, UC Berkeley

Despite government attempts to reduce barriers, a widespread surge of ADU construction has not materialized. The ADU market remains stalled. To find out why, this study looks at three cities in the Pacific Northwest of the United States and Canada that have seen a spike in construction in recent years: Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver. Each city has adopted a set of zoning reforms, sometimes in combination with financial incentives and outreach programs, to spur ADU construction. Due to these changes, as well as the acceleration of the housing crisis in each city, ADUs have begun blossoming.

#### [THE MACRO VIEW ON MICRO UNITS](#)

By Bill Whitlow, et al. – Urban Land Institute  
(2014)Library Call #: H43 4.21 M33 2014

The Urban Land Institute Multifamily Housing Councils were awarded a ULI Foundation research grant in fall 2013 to evaluate from multiple perspectives the market performance and market acceptance of micro and small units.

### [REACHING CALIFORNIA'S ADU POTENTIAL: PROGRESS TO DATE AND THE NEED FOR ADU FINANCE](#)

Karen Chapple, et al. – Turner Center (2020)

To build upon the early success of ADU legislation, the study argues that more financial tools are needed to facilitate greater ADU development amongst low to moderate income homeowners who do not have access to cash saving and cannot leverage home equity. The study recommends that the federal government create ADU-specific construction lending programs. In addition, California could lead this effort by creating a program to assist homeowners in qualifying for ADU construction loans.

### [RETHINKING PRIVATE ACCESSORY DWELLINGS](#)

By William P. Macht. Urbanland online. (March 6, 2015)

Library Location: Urbanland 74 (1/2) January/February 2015, pp. 87-91.

One of the large impacts of single-use, single-family detached zoning has been to severely shrink the supply of accessory dwellings, which often were created in or near primary houses. Detached single-family dwelling zones—the largest housing zoning category—typically preclude more than one dwelling per lot except under stringent regulation, and then only in some jurisdictions. Bureaucratically termed “accessory dwelling units” that are allowed by some jurisdictions may encompass market-derived names such as granny flats, granny cottages, mother-in-law suites, secondary suites, backyard cottages, casitas, carriage flats, sidekick houses, basement apartments, attic apartments, laneway houses, multigenerational homes, or home-within-a-home.

### [REGULATION ADUS IN CALIFORNIA: LOCAL APPROACHES & OUTCOMES](#)

By Deidra Pfeiffer (May 16, 2019)

Turner Center for Housing and Innovation, UC Berkeley

Accessory dwelling units (ADU) are often mentioned as a key strategy in solving the nation's housing problems, including housing affordability and challenges associated with aging in place. However, we know little about whether formal ADU practices—such as adopting an ordinance, establishing regulations, and permitting—contribute to these goals. This research helps to fill this gap by using data from the Turner California Residential Land Use Survey and the U.S. Census Bureau to understand the types of communities engaging in different kinds of formal ADU practices in California, and whether localities with adopted ordinances and less restrictive regulations have more frequent applications to build ADUs and increasing housing affordability and aging in place. Findings suggest that three distinct approaches to ADUs are occurring in California: 1) a more restrictive approach in disadvantaged communities of color, 2)

a moderately restrictive approach in highly advantaged, predominately White and Asian communities, and 3) a less restrictive approach in diverse and moderately advantaged communities. Communities with adopted ordinances and less restrictive regulations receive more frequent applications to build ADUs but have not yet experienced greater improvements in housing affordability and aging in place. Overall, these findings imply that 1) context-specific technical support and advocacy may be needed to help align formal ADU practices with statewide goals, and 2) ADUs should be treated as one tool among many to manage local housing problems.

## [SECONDARY UNITS AND URBAN INFILL: A LITERATURE REVIEW](#)

By Jake Wegmann and Alison Nemirow (2011)  
UC Berkeley: IURD  
Library Call # D44 4.21 S43 2011

This literature review examines the research on both infill development in general, and secondary units in particular, with an eye towards understanding the similarities and differences between infill as it is more traditionally understood – i.e., the development or redevelopment of entire parcels of land in an already urbanized area – and the incremental type of infill that secondary unit development constitutes.