


Relevant Laws



SB 1291 (Archuleta, 2022), codified in Government Code Section 65850.7, required all California cities and counties to develop an expedited, streamlined permitting process for hydrogen fueling stations that meet certain criteria. The law was developed to further the availability of hydrogen fueling infrastructure to help drive the deployment of zero emission vehicles—the faster hydrogen fueling stations are deployed, the sooner California’s air quality improves, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, and local economic benefits are captured.

SB 1291 was updated and superseded by SB 1418 (Archuleta, 2024), which includes additional requirements for jurisdictions to create an expedited permitting ordinance and checklist for hydrogen fueling stations. Jurisdictions are required to **limit hydrogen fueling station project review to health and safety requirements**. A hydrogen fueling station is defined as the equipment and structural design components necessary to ensure the safety of the fueling station, including hydrogen-refueling canopies, that are used to store and dispense hydrogen fuel to vehicles according to industry codes and standards that are open to the public.

Current city and county streamlining status is reflected on the [Hydrogen Fueling Station Map](#) and jurisdictions are graded based on the Permitting Hydrogen Fueling Stations Scorecard, which includes the streamlining requirements of SB 1418 provided below.

Hydrogen Permit Streamlining Overview

Scoring Criteria

Streamlining Ordinance for Expedited Hydrogen Fueling Station Permit Process

Approval Limited to Health & Safety Review

Permitting Checklist Online

Electronic Signatures Accepted

Administrative Approval of Hydrogen Fueling Station

One Complete Deficiency Notice if Application is Incomplete

The city or county should provide one complete set of comments detailing all application deficiencies, which the applicant should address in a streamlined and complete manner through modifications to the existing application.

To avoid the need for corrections, project applicants should communicate with local permitting jurisdictions to ensure application compliance with building, electrical, accessibility, and any health and safety requirements.

Permit Streamlining Law Applicability

All jurisdictions must comply with SB 1418. Cities or counties with a population of 250,000 or more residents shall comply on or before September 30, 2025. Cities or counties with fewer than 250,000 residents shall comply by September 30, 2028.

SB 1418 applies to all hydrogen fueling stations that are located on a parcel that is either (1) zoned for industrial or commercial development and does not contain any residential units or (2) was previously developed with a service station, meaning any establishment which offers for sale or sells gasoline or other motor vehicle to fuel the public.



Hydrogen Permit Streamlining Overview

Station Permitting Resources

For resources on how to become a streamlined jurisdiction, refer to the [Hydrogen Fueling Station Readiness website](#). The [Hydrogen Station Permitting Guidebook](#) covers in detail the permitting and development process. The Guidebook will be updated in 2025 to include SB 1418.

For all legal requirements and appropriate city/county permitting considerations, please refer to SB 1418.



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Questions?

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