

State of California – Opportunity Zones 2.0 Public Comment Period

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The following questions are regarding the State of California's Opportunity Zones 2.0 Public Comment Period, managed by the California Department of Finance. The first version of this document was posted on 07/24/2026 to the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) Opportunity Zones 2.0 web page (<https://business.ca.gov/resources/infrastructure-development/opportunity-zones-in-california/>).

This document may continue to be updated as the California Department of Finance and GO-Biz receive questions. Questions regarding the Public Comment Period process may be emailed to OZComments@dof.ca.gov. Submitted questions will be reviewed and incorporated into future FAQ updates, as appropriate.

New content will be indicated by the date posted. Previously answered questions may have updated answers, which will be indicated in red.

Please visit the GO-Biz Opportunity Zones 2.0 web page (<https://business.ca.gov/resources/infrastructure-development/opportunity-zones-in-california/>) for the latest version of this document.

(ADDED 08/04/2026) Review the Off-List Census Tract section at the end of the document for more information regarding off-list proposals.

Posted 07/24/2026

1. When will the State of California's Opportunity Zones 2.0 Public Comment Period take place?

The State's OZ 2.0 Public Comment Period will be from August 3, 2026, to August 28, 2026. The deadline for submitting comments is August 28, 2026, at 11:59 pm. Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline.

2. **(UPDATED 08/04/2026)** How does the Public Comment Period work?

Comments may be submitted through the [California Department of Finance OZ 2.0 Public Comment Portal](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b5d1295a4afb494ea4850d21ca82716f) (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b5d1295a4afb494ea4850d21ca82716f>). The app includes a map and list that identifies the census tracts that are recommended for Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination, as well as other eligible low-income communities as defined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Participants will select a tract and complete the public

comment form. The recommended tracts reflect an evaluation of socioeconomic data and recommendations received through the Local Authority Recommendation Form (LARF) process, which closed on July 20, 2026.

NOTE: Comments on off-list census tracts will not be accepted. Please see the Off-List Census Tract section below to review instructions regarding proposing off-list census tracts,

3. When will the draft list of census tracts for nomination be published?

The draft list of census tracts recommended for nomination was posted on the [Department of Finance Opportunity Zones website](https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/california-opportunity-zones/) on August 3, 20206. (<https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/california-opportunity-zones/>).

4. (UPDATED 08/04/2026) Who can submit comments during the Public Comment Period?

Anyone may submit a comment. When commenting on behalf of a government entity, business, or nonprofit, submitters should provide a contact email that reflects the submitting organization. The public comment form also includes a way to upload documents. People can upload a single PDF document, such as a support letter, or a .zip file containing multiple PDF documents. For example, a city representative may include a .zip file containing letters from elected officials, developers, private property owners, or other stakeholders.

5. (UPDATED 08/04/2026) What is the required format of submitted comments?

Comments must be submitted via a text box including any relevant information or local considerations that support your position. Submitters may also upload a single document (up to 10 MB in size) or a .zip file (up to 50 MB in size) containing multiple PDF documents as part of a comment.

6. Whom do comments need to be addressed to?

Comments should be addressed to the Governor.

7. What kinds of comments will be accepted?

Any comment in support or opposition, or in favor of a tract substitution, will be accepted.

8. (UPDATED 08/04/2026) Is there a limit on how many census tracts one submitter may comment on?

No. There is no limit on the number of census tracts that one submitter may comment on.

9. Can a comment supporting more than one census tract be submitted? i.e., may census tracts be grouped together during the Public Comment Period?

No. Public comments must be submitted for one tract at a time. Submissions should support or oppose the designation of one census tract only.

10. (ADDED 08/04/2026) Can a letter of support mention multiple census tracts?

Yes. A letter of support may mention multiple census tracts given that the letter of support mentions the specific census tract for which the comment is being submitted. For example, an individual submitting a comment for census tract A may attach a letter of support which mentions census tract A and census tract B.

11. How will comments impact a census tract's status?

All comments (positive or negative) will be reviewed, and the state will consider the information provided together with other factors (major demographic and socioeconomic indicators, local recommendations, etc.), when developing the final nominations.

12. Is there a limit on how many comments one census tract may receive?

No. There is no limit on how many comments one census tract may receive.

13. Will a currently recommended census tract be negatively impacted if no comments in support are received?

A census tract will not be negatively impacted if no comments in support are received.

14. Does a census tract need to receive comments to be nominated? If yes, how many?

No. A census tract does not need to receive comments to be nominated.

15. Is there a way to confirm my comment was received?

Yes. You will receive a confirmation email from OZComments@dof.ca.gov shortly after submission.

Posted 08/04/2026

16. Can comments be changed or retracted by the commenter?

Submitted comments cannot be changed. If you need to make changes, you may request that your comment be retracted by emailing OZComments@dof.ca.gov. The request must be sent from the same email address used to submit the original comment. Once the comment has been retracted, you may submit a new comment for that census tract.

17. Should organizations submit their own comment with their letter of support instead of providing their letter of support to another organization that is submitting a comment?

Organizations may include letters of support from other entities in their submission to provide additional context and demonstrate support for their comment. However, organizations are encouraged to submit their own comments to ensure their input is captured.

18. If an organization would like to suggest that another eligible census tract replaces a recommended census tract, should they oppose the recommended census tract?

Yes. In completing the public comment form for the recommended tract, the commenter would "Oppose" its inclusion as an opportunity zone. They would answer "Yes" to the question of whether there is a suitable replacement tract. In the next question, select the tract ID of the replacement tract. Note: Replacement tracts must be LIC-eligible and located in the same county.

19. Will the information submitted through the GO-Biz Local Authority Recommendation Form and the California Department of Finance Public Comment Period be made publicly available?

No. Information submitted through the Local Authority Recommendation Form and the Public Comment Period will not be made publicly available.

Posted 08/04/2026 Ineligible/Off-List Census Tracts

About the off-list tract proposal process:

The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) has provided guidance allowing states to submit off-list tracts (tracts not included on the Treasury's list of low-income community tracts, or LICs) for consideration by providing justification and supporting information demonstrating that the tract meets the statutory definition of LIC: median family income (MFI) at or below 70 percent of area median income (AMI), or a poverty rate of 20 percent or higher combined with a MFI that does not exceed 125 percent of AMI.

Treasury has indicated that tracts where available 2020-2024 American Community Survey (ACS) data show they do not meet the LIC criteria are generally not expected to be certified. Off-list tracts for which ACS data is unavailable are more likely to receive certification if alternative data demonstrates that the tract satisfies the statutory LIC requirements.

How to submit an off-list tract proposal:

From August 3, 2026, to August 14, 2026, at 11:59 pm, eligible entities (representatives of a city/municipality, county, special district, regional joint powers authority, council of government, or tribal government within California) may propose off-list census tracts for possible inclusion in California's Opportunity Zone 2.0 tract nominations.

Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Submitting as early as possible is recommended, as proposals made later in the process may not receive a Treasury eligibility determination before California finalizes its OZ 2.0 nominations due to the Treasury by September 28, 2026. Proposals with the following information may be sent to OZComments@dof.ca.gov:

- **Census Tract Identification:** the full 11-digit census tract geographic identifier. Census tracts may not be grouped together for recommendation.
- **Submitter Contact Information:** including first and last name, email address, phone number, job title, and organization. The recommending entity MUST be submitted by an eligible entity (described above).
- **Supporting Documentation:** must demonstrate the census tract meets the LIC criteria outlined above. Raw data with a replicable methodology is preferred, but Treasury may consider narratives, maps, and other documentation. Data must be at the census tract level. Please note that Treasury has indicated that alternative data used to challenge ACS results MUST clearly show that the tract meets the income or poverty criteria.

Citing a high ACS margin of error is not enough to override the ACS estimate. Additionally, an ACS estimate that is close to the median family income or poverty thresholds does not support eligibility.

The Department of Finance will review off-list tract proposals and may request additional information if needed. Reviewed off-list tract proposals will also receive a request to complete a form addressing how the tract includes projects or activities aligned with regional and statewide economic development priorities, consistent with the process used for the initial round of local tract recommendations.

NOTE: Proposing an off-list tract does not mean California will automatically submit it to the Treasury. Any off-list tract submitted to Treasury is subject to Treasury review and may not be certified as eligible or included in California's final OZ 2.0 nomination package.