

SB 5912 - DIGEST

Finds that not all critical areas must be protected in the same manner or to the same degree, as long as there is no net loss of the structure, value, and functions of the natural systems to which the critical areas contribute.

Declares an intent to ensure that local governments are guided by reliable scientific information when they adopt policies and development regulations regarding critical areas.

Does not intend to establish specific state or regional standards or specific sources of scientific information.

Provides that counties and cities shall identify, collect, and assess the available scientific information relevant to the critical areas within their jurisdictions and determine which of that information constitutes the best available science. Counties and cities may generate scientific information through their own efforts or accept or solicit scientific information from state and federal agencies, universities, tribes, subject matter experts, and the public participation process.

Requires counties and cities to identify the specific critical areas policies and regulations adopted and the sources of best available science used in the decision-making process.