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GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH



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DIRECTOR

Solicitation for Input

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency invite your input into what revisions, if any, should be made to the Guidelines Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act.

Background

The CEQA Guidelines are administrative regulations governing implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 and following). The CEQA Guidelines reflect the requirements set forth in the Public Resources Code, as well as court decisions interpreting the statute and practical planning considerations. Among other things, the CEQA Guidelines explain how to determine whether an activity is subject to environmental review, what steps are involved in the environmental review process, and the required content of environmental documents. The CEQA Guidelines apply to public agencies throughout the state, including local governments, special districts, and state agencies.

Public Resources Code section 21083 requires the Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency to periodically update the CEQA Guidelines. In recent years, updates have responded to specific statutory directives to address, for example, greenhouse gas emissions (SB 97, 2007) and streamlining for infill development (SB 226, 2011). This year, the Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency will undertake a comprehensive review of the CEQA Guidelines. Because CEQA applies to such a diverse range of activities and decision-makers, and affects communities and project applicants throughout the state, your input is a crucial step in that review.

Input Sought

As part of the update process, the Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency seek suggestions for improvements to the CEQA Guidelines that accomplish the following goals:

- Make the environmental review process more efficient and meaningful
- Reflect California's adopted policy priorities, including, among others, addressing climate change, promoting of infill development, and conserving natural and fiscal resources
- Reflect statutory changes to CEQA and cases interpreting CEQA

While all suggestions are welcome, input is particularly sought addressing the following categories:

1. **Mandatory Updates.** SB 1241 (2012) requires the next update to address fire hazards. SB 97 (2007) further requires periodic updates to address new information regarding greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **Process Improvements.** Suggestions in this category might address the use of technology to generate and distribute environmental documents, clarifying noticing requirements, document submissions, etc.
3. **Substantive Improvements.** Suggestions in this category might address the topics in the Appendix G environmental checklist, the role of regulatory standards in a CEQA

analysis, the role of regional plans in a CEQA analysis, clarifying rules on mitigation and alternatives analysis, etc.

4. **Technical, Non-Substantive Updates.** Such updates might address cross-references, changes to conform to recent statutory updates, etc.

Since the CEQA Guidelines are administrative regulations that must conform to the statute, input that is accompanied by specific suggestions for regulatory text and that includes statutory and case-law support is particularly encouraged. Given limitations in time and staff resources, consider identifying your top priorities rather than providing an exhaustive list of improvements.

How to Provide Input

The Office of Planning and Research and the Natural Resources Agency will host a public workshop on Monday, July 29, 2013, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The workshop will be held in the Coastal Hearing Room on the second floor of the California Environmental Protection Agency building at 1001 "I" Street, Sacramento, California. [Instructions for viewing a webcast of the workshop are available online at: http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/.](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/) The purpose of the workshop is to provide information regarding the update process and to invite any preliminary public input.

Suggestions may be submitted electronically to CEQA.Guidelines@ceres.ca.gov. While electronic submission is preferred, suggestions may also be mailed or hand delivered to:

Christopher Calfee, Senior Counsel
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please submit all suggestions before **August 30, 2013 at 5:00pm.**