

From: Caitlin Vega, Legislative Advocate, California Labor Federation

Subject: CEQA Guidelines

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the implementation of SB 226. We strongly support the CEQA Guidelines that limit CEQA streamlining to commercial retail projects of less than 75,000 square feet. That size limit recognizes the unique impact of supercenters on local communities. Supercenters have a complex and dramatic impact on everything from traffic flow to worker wages, from mom and pop shops to large retail chains. Their environmental footprint is both bigger and more pronounced. Many supercenters are open 24 hours, resulting in increased noise and higher crime. In addition, as anchor tenants, supercenters often exercise significant control over which other businesses can be located in a specified area, depriving residents of access to competing retailers. Because of their size and market power, supercenters often decimate nearby shopping centers and small business districts, causing environmental ripple effects that should be understood prior to approval.

For these reasons, we think it is appropriate that supercenter developments fall outside the scope of CEQA streamlining.

Thanks, Caitlin Vega

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