

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What are the benefits of judicial streamlining?

Projects certified by the Governor can use special rules of court that shorten the trial court and court of appeal process to approximately 270 days if the projects are sued under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This resolves the litigation up to three years sooner than standard CEQA cases. The certainty provided by judicial streamlining can help projects receive financing and makes them more competitive for federal grant funding.

2. Do projects that receive judicial streamlining still have to analyze and mitigate their environmental impacts?

Yes. Projects must be analyzed in a full environmental impact report (EIR) to qualify for judicial streamlining. Any significant environmental impacts must be mitigated to the extent feasible, pursuant to the CEQA statute.

3. What is OPR's role in judicial streamlining?

OPR serves as the hub for submitting applications, posting them for public review, developing submission guidelines, and setting fees. Certification decisions are ultimately made by the Governor and are subject to review and concurrence by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

For information on how to apply, visit [Judicial Streamlining Application](#).

4. What is the new infrastructure streamlining process established through SB 149 (Caballero, 2023)?

Like judicial streamlining for Environmental Leadership Development Projects, which has existed in some form since 2012, applicants for certain defined infrastructure projects—deemed critical to the state's future by the Legislature and Governor—can now apply for judicial streamlining.

5. How is this different from judicial streamlining under previous legislation?

Both Environmental Leadership Development Projects (SB 7) and infrastructure projects (SB 149) are eligible for the same streamlined judicial review benefits and must meet specified requirements, including greenhouse gas emission mitigation and labor requirements, to qualify. However, there are differences in terms of the types of projects included:

- **SB 7:** Applies to residential, retail, commercial, sports, cultural, entertainment, or recreational use projects, as well as certain affordable housing projects, clean renewable energy projects, and renewable energy manufacturing projects.

- [SB 149](#): Focuses entirely on infrastructure projects, including energy infrastructure projects, electrical transmission facility projects, semiconductor and microelectronics projects, transportation infrastructure projects, and water-related projects.

In total, there are eight project types under the Judicial Streamlining Program:

- a. Small Infill Housing
- b. Large Infill Housing
- c. Clean Renewable Energy Manufacturing
- d. Clean Renewable Energy Regeneration
- e. Energy Infrastructure
- f. Transportation-related Infrastructure
- g. Water-related Infrastructure
- h. Semiconductor and Microelectronics Manufacturing

For information about the statutory requirements for each project type, please visit the [Judicial Streamlining](#) webpage.

6. Does the public have an opportunity to provide comments on applications for judicial streamlining?

Yes. Once an application for judicial streamlining is submitted to OPR, it is posted on the [Judicial Streamlining webpage](#). An email is sent out notifying the public where to access the information and the length of the public comment period. If the application is substantively amended after posting, a subsequent email is sent out alerting the public and a new public comment period is triggered.

To sign up to receive notifications, please join [the judicial streamlining e-list](#).

Still have questions? Please email us at california.jobs@opr.ca.gov