

Senate Bill No. 97

CHAPTER 185

An act to add Section 21083.05 to, and to add and repeal Section 21097 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to the California Environmental Quality Act.

[Approved by Governor August 24, 2007. Filed with Secretary of State August 24, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 97, Dutton. CEQA: greenhouse gas emissions.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project, as defined, that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA requires the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to prepare and develop proposed guidelines for the implementation of CEQA by public agencies.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming in order to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

The bill would require the OPR, by July 1, 2009, to prepare, develop, and transmit to the Resources Agency guidelines for the feasible mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, as required by CEQA, including, but not limited to, effects associated with transportation or energy consumption. The Resources Agency would be required to certify and adopt those guidelines by January 1, 2010. The OPR would be required to periodically update the guidelines to incorporate new information or criteria established by the State Air Resources Board pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

This bill would provide that in an environmental impact report, negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or other document required by CEQA for either transportation projects funded under the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act of 2006, or projects funded under the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006, the failure to analyze adequately the effects of greenhouse gas emissions otherwise required to be reduced pursuant to regulations adopted under the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 does not create a cause of action for a violation of CEQA. The bill would provide that this provision shall apply retroactively for any of the above documents that are not final and shall be repealed on January 1, 2010.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 21083.05 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

21083.05. (a) On or before July 1, 2009, the Office of Planning and Research shall prepare, develop, and transmit to the Resources Agency guidelines for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or the effects of greenhouse gas emissions as required by this division, including, but not limited to, effects associated with transportation or energy consumption.

(b) On or before January 1, 2010, the Resources Agency shall certify and adopt guidelines prepared and developed by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) The Office of Planning and Research and the Resources Agency shall periodically update the guidelines to incorporate new information or criteria established by the State Air Resources Board pursuant to Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.

SEC. 2. Section 21097 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

21097. (a) The failure to analyze adequately the effects of greenhouse gas emissions otherwise required to be reduced pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Air Resources Board under Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code in an environmental impact report, negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or other document required pursuant to this division for either a transportation project funded under the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 (Chapter 12.49 (commencing with Section 8879.20) of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code), or a project funded under the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Chapter 1.699 (commencing with Section 5096.800) of Division 5), does not create a cause of action for a violation of this division.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation to comply with any other requirement of this division or any other provision of law.

(c) This section shall apply retroactively to an environmental impact report, negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or other document required pursuant to this division that has not become final.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2010, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2010, deletes or extends that date.