



Protect the environment. Improve the economy.

www.CEQAWorkingGroup.com

Leading Newspapers Agree: It's Time to Modernize CEQA

San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

"It's time to refocus the California Environmental Quality Act on protecting the environment. It must no longer be allowed to become a free pass into court for those whose real agendas involve the ecosystems of their pocketbooks or property values."

4/7/13

"While this landmark law has done much to protect California resources- forcing policymakers to consider the cumulative and localized effects of projects that meet the letter of all other regulations on the books – it needs revision to stop these shakedowns."

4/18/13

Los Angeles Times

"Over the years, the law has successfully compelled many builders to improve their proposals, but it also has been used at times as a tool to stop development by opponents whose objectives have nothing to do with protecting the environment."

"Reforming the law, then, requires striking a delicate balance between preserving its protections and curbing its unnecessary job-killing costs and delays."

5/20/13

San Jose Mercury News

"...it is too often abused by a whole range of interests: NIMBYs to protect their personal interests, labor unions as a weapon to demand contracts and businesses to stop competition, to name just a few... These challenges often prevent development that could create jobs or help businesses survive without harming the environment, and they contribute to California's reputation as unfriendly to business."

"Reforms could actually enhance some environmental protections."

11/19/12



The Sacramento Bee

"...CEQA is ripe for manipulation and needs updating. It is too often abused to slow down projects for reasons that have nothing to do with environmental protection."

8/26/12

UT San Diego

"The state's landmark environmental law has become an all-purpose tool for anyone with an agenda to block construction, business expansion and much more. Even completely groundless CEQA litigation can tie projects up for years."

4/21/13

"The fact that Gov. Jerry Brown, Senate President Darrell Steinberg and a bipartisan group of state lawmakers say it's time for substantial reform of the California Environmental Quality Act is good news."

8/25/12

Los Angeles



"The goal should be to prevent CEQA from being abused by local governments, agricultural land owners, business rivals and labor unions to block or delay projects they don't like for reasons that may have nothing to do with concerns about the effects on air, water, wildlife and residents' quality of life."

4/7/13

"It is indeed not the time, nor will it ever be, to gut California's environmental protections against inappropriate development. But, given how often CEQA is either entirely thrown out or merely bogs down a process, this legislative session is the time to finally strike the right balance."

2/7/13

"Even when CEQA lawsuits have failed to stop projects, they've too often added delays and costs."

8/22/12

The Bakersfield Californian

"The concern is the political use of CEQA by groups that use the act as a hammer, stalling and eventually killing projects they oppose with litigation. The ripple effect can be extensive -- a chief casualty, of course, being job creation."

4/6/13

"...CEQA is employed as a sort of development filibuster, an abusive misuse of the law that intentionally creates delays and paperwork headaches that slow and ultimately kill projects. Some of these efforts are motivated by legitimate environmental concerns, but increasingly they are seen as roadblocks created by self-interested parties."

"One of the consequences of these CEQA lawsuits is a furtherance of California's reputation as an overly regulated, business-unfriendly state."

1/27/13



"We are here to agree with the ex-governors, and as it happens, the current governor, Jerry Brown. All of them think CEQA must be modernized and reformed if this state is to return as an economic powerhouse."

"Permitting is everything in any infrastructure project, and CEQA holds the whip hand for all such projects."

2/14/13

Santa Cruz Sentinel

www.santacruzsentinel.com

"CEQA, however, has too often been used by a variety of interests acting out of self-interest more than first wanting to further environmental protections. CEQA lawsuits have contributed to California's reputation as a state unfriendly to business and overly regulated. The threat of lawsuits gets in the way of job creation and necessary development. Economic growth must be a top priority. The new Democratic supermajority in the Legislature should take up the governor's call to reform the California Environmental Quality Act."

1/27/13

THE ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTER

"More than 120 state and federal environmental laws have been added since CEQA was adopted in 1970. Nevertheless, some lawsuits based on CEQA, under the guise of protecting the environment, have been used to coerce concessions from developers, and even to block environmentally friendly developments like clean energy."

"The environment must be protected, but CEQA has been used as a hammer to unfairly punish even environment-friendly development. Such over-reaching intrusion violates private property rights. The Legislature should approve the reform to balance property rights with environmental protection, which are both legitimate goals."

8/24/12

Long Beach Press Telegram

Press-Telegram

"Whether or not their objections are really about the environment, they've been able to use CEQA as a legal speed bump."

2/7/13

THE SUN

San Bernardino County's Newspaper

"Even when CEQA lawsuits have failed to stop projects, they've too often added delays and costs."

2/7/13

SAN
GABRIEL
VALLEY

TRIBUNE



"There is a renewed effort [to reform CEQA] early in the 2013 session and it is welcome."

"When regular exemptions are the correct political stance to apply a law, something is wrong."

2/7/13

PASADENA STAR-NEWS

"That makes now a good time to start the discussion about how best to revise the important environmental quality laws."

2/7/13

WHITTIER DAILY NEWS

"...it is one of those laws whose effects sometimes stray beyond the intent."

2/7/13

Torrance

Daily Breeze
DailyBreeze.com

"It's been clear to many Californians of all political stripes for some years now that the California Environmental Quality Act is in need of reform."

2/7/13

San Francisco **Business Times**

"...California Environmental Quality Act, more often known as CEQA, is badly in need of reform because it presents a potential roadblock to desperately needed renewable energy projects."

"...over the past four decades CEQA has grown labyrinth in its process and grievous in its costs."

12/14/12

PACIFIC  COAST
BUSINESS TIMES

Proudly serving San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties

"Further improvements to CEQA are urgently needed at the state level..."

"With 40 years of court decisions and administrative "guidelines" laid on top of a statute that was well-meaning but impossibly vague to begin with, there is a need for far greater clarity on what CEQA should be used to prohibit and what it should allow, and to greatly reducing the bureaucratic effort and expense in reaching a decision one way or the other."

11/30/12

Record Searchlight

"Reform – not to gut environmental laws, but to make the procedures efficient and workable – is long overdue."

8/28/12