



August 15, 2012
For Immediate Release

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Sierra Club California Responds to Reports of Planned Rollbacks of Environmental Safeguards

Sacramento – News reports early today have suggested that legislators, including Assembly leadership, were preparing to introduce legislation that would further reduce environmental safeguards and weaken the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Later in the day, Assembly Speaker John Perez told reporters that he opposed a proposal that has been circulating that would throw out substantial portions of CEQA.

Statement of Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California:

"I have been distressed over the last ten days by the growing number of bills proposing CEQA exemptions that have been circulating in the Capitol in draft form. I am relieved that Speaker Perez has disavowed those proposals.

"Let there be no mistake about it, Californians want clean air, clean water and healthy natural areas. They want livable cities. They want the legislature to work to help them get these things--not to destroy their environment.

"Rolling back environmental safeguards is simply unacceptable. Whether early in the legislative session or late in the legislative session, cutting deals that create more pollution is not what voters want. We're pleased that Speaker Perez agrees, and we look forward to continuing to work with all of the legislature to protect California."

About Sierra Club California Sierra Club California represents the Club's 13 local chapters and 160,000 statewide members and advocates to protect California's natural resources and to improve the health and safety of Californians. Find us at www.sierraclubcalifornia.org and follow us at www.twitter.com/SierraClubCA.