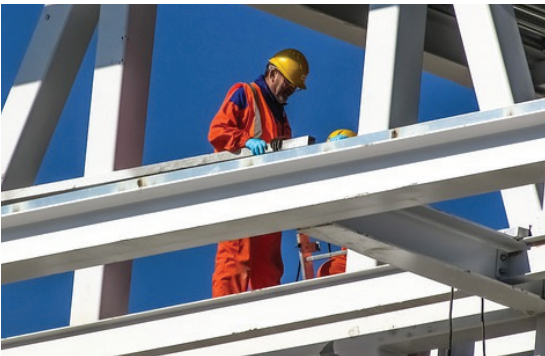




The California Environmental Quality Act

Protects our environment. Keeps Californians healthy. Promotes transparency.



The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), passed in 1970 and signed into law by then-Governor Ronald Reagan, is one of the foundational environmental laws in California.

CEQA requires that the environmental impacts of significant projects—from skyscrapers to freeways to sports stadiums—have been publicly disclosed, analyzed and, where feasible, mitigated.

It facilitates compliance with other environmental laws and regulations, and makes sure that responsible parties clean up their pollution.

CEQA BENEFITS

CEQA has a range of benefits for all Californians. It:

- **Sets up an orderly, manageable track that project proponents and residents can follow as projects are developed.** It helps remove surprise and unpredictability from the construction permitting process.
- **Helps California protect public health and reach its ambitious environmental goals.** The CEQA process has been used to help cut climate pollution, reduce air and water pollution and protect open space, wildlife habitats and farmlands.
- **Ensures that environmental justice and equity are part of the development decision-making process.**



- **It's about transparency.** CEQA gives all Californians the opportunity to know what is planned in their communities and then weigh in to help reduce health and environmental impacts.
- **Holds government agencies and developers accountable.** CEQA ensures that public agencies and private proponents comply with air and water standards.
- **Minimizes court challenges to projects.** CEQA allows concerns to be addressed early in the development process. As a result, numerous studies have routinely shown that CEQA litigation occurs for only about 1% of all projects that must comply with the law.
- **Supports California's economic growth.** Studies have documented that since its enactment in 1970, CEQA has not prevented California from building and thriving.
- **Reflects a changing California.** CEQA is a living document and has been amended continuously since its enactment to make the review process function efficiently.

CEQA is working to protect California's environment and communities.

Sierra Club California

909 12th Street, Suite 202, Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 557-1100 • Fax (916) 557-9669 • www.sierraclubcalifornia.org