

California Environmental Quality Act

Scoping Meeting

California Environmental Quality Act Scoping Meeting

What is the California Environmental Quality Act?

- An objective process to disclose and minimize environmental damage associated with proposed projects.
- California's broadest environmental law (1970), modeled after the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 1969)
- Applies to public agencies, carrying out or approving a "project"

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- **What's a project?**

A project is an action that is subject to discretionary approval by a public agency

Examples

Construction of retail stores

Housing developments

General Plans

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ARB's Proposed Project

Amending Passenger Vehicle Fleet Regulations

- Integrated analysis of these regulations
 - Low Emission Vehicle (LEV III)
 - Greenhouse Gases (GHG)
 - Criteria Pollutants
 - Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV)
 - Clean Fuels Outlet (CFO)
 - Environmental Performance Label (EPL)

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ARB has a Certified Regulatory Program
under CEQA

- ARB prepares functionally equivalent to standard CEQA documents

Environmental Analysis requirements

- Describe potential adverse and beneficial impacts associated with proposed project
- Identify potential adverse impacts
- Identify feasible mitigation or alternatives that reduce impacts

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- **CEQA checklist used to identify potential environmental impacts**
 - Air Quality
 - Aesthetics
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Hazards
 - Land Uses, etc.
- **Environmental Analysis to include**
 - Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts
 - Mitigation
 - Alternatives

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Environmental Impact Analysis

- **Focuses on likely compliance responses**
 - Greenhouse gas emissions reductions
 - Engine and transmission improvements
 - Improve drivetrain and catalysts
 - Mass reduction
 - Air conditioning improvements
 - Low rolling resistance tires
 - Increase plug-ins, hybrids and fuel cells vehicles

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Environmental Impact Analysis (cont.)

- Criteria Air Pollutant emissions reductions
 - Catalyst improvements
 - Air injection improvements
- Indirect impacts
 - Consumer responses related to fleet turnover, vehicle miles travelled (rebound)
 - Upstream effects (e.g. less fuel processed in and moved through state)

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- Collaborative Partners
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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- Your input at the community level is essential to a successful partnership and regulation
- We welcome your input as we develop the Environmental Analysis to meet the requirements of CEQA
- CEQA analysis will be part of the Staff Report
- Link to be established

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Next Steps

- September, 2011
 - Release of Draft Environmental Analysis with Proposed Regulations and Staff Report for public review
 - 45-Day review period
- November, 2011
 - Board consideration

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Questions?

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