

California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

CEQA and Housing
in the
2020 Environmental Regulatory Landscape

California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

Public Resources Code §§21000 *et seq.*

The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

- (a) The maintenance of a quality environment for the people of this state now and in the future is a matter of statewide concern.
- (b) It is necessary to provide a high-quality environment that at all times is healthful and pleasing to the senses and intellect of man.
- (c) There is a need to understand the relationship between the maintenance of high-quality ecological systems and the general welfare of the people of the state, including their enjoyment of the natural resources of the state.
- (d) The capacity of the environment is limited, and it is the intent of the Legislature that the government of the state take immediate steps to identify any critical thresholds for the health and safety of the people of the state and take all coordinated actions necessary to prevent such thresholds being reached.
- (e) Every citizen has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment.
- (f) The interrelationship of policies and practices in the management of natural resources and waste disposal requires systematic and concerted efforts by public and private interests to enhance environmental quality and to control environmental pollution.
- (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that all agencies of the state government which regulate activities of private individuals, corporations, and public agencies which are found to affect the quality of the environment, shall regulate such activities so that major consideration is given to preventing environmental damage, while providing a decent home and satisfying living environment for every Californian. (PRC §21000)

CALIFORNIA REGULATORY AGENCIES

California Environmental Protection Agency	California Natural Resources Agency
Air Quality Management Districts	CalFire – Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Air Resources Board (CARB)	Coastal Commission
Department of Pesticide Registration	Coastal Conservancy
Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery – CalRecycle	Department of Conservation
Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)	Department of Parks and Recreation
Regional Water Quality Control Boards	Department of Water Resources
State Water Resources Control Board	Energy Commission
	Mining and Geology Board
	San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Other Agencies	State Historical Resources Commission
Department of Food and Agriculture	State Lands Commission
Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	
Health and Human Services (HHS)	Building Code
Metropolitan Planning Organizations	Energy Code
Public Utilities Commission (PUC)	Fire Code

Federal Environmental Statutes

- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
- Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (Ocean Dumping)
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (asbestos, lead, formaldehyde-composite wood emissions)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Noise Control Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)

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POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Aesthetics	Land Use / Planning
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Mineral Resources
Air Quality	Noise
Biological Resources	Population / Housing
Cultural Resources	Public Services
Energy	Recreation
Geology /Soils	Transportation/Traffic
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Tribal Cultural Resources
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Utilities / Service Systems
Hydrology / Water Quality	Wildfire

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

<u>Public Health and the Environment</u>	<u>Capacity Issues</u>
• Agriculture and Forestry Resources	• Energy
• Air Quality	• Population / Housing
• Biological Resources	• Public Services
• Geology /Soils	• Recreation
• Greenhouse Gas Emissions	• Utilities / Service Systems
• Hazards & Hazardous Materials	
• Hydrology / Water Quality	<u>Archaeological/Historical Resources</u>
• Mineral Resources	• Cultural Resources
• Noise	• Tribal Cultural Resources
• Transportation/Traffic	
• Wildfire	<u>Community Development</u>
	• Land Use / Planning
	• Aesthetics