



City of Brisbane

**BBCAG  
CEQA  
Training**  
A Brief Introduction  
to CEQA



**Presented by:**

**Terry Rivasplata**  
*Technical Director*  
ICF International

June 19, 2012

City of Brisbane

## Agenda

# BBCAG CEQA Training A Brief Introduction to CEQA

Tuesday June 19, 2012

7 PM to 10 PM

- |                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>7:00-7:15 p.m.</b>  | <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>  |
| <b>7:15-9:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>A Brief Introduction to CEQA</b> |
|                        | Background and Policy of CEQA       |
|                        | The Environmental Impact Report     |
|                        | Program EIRs in General             |
|                        | Typical EIR Preparation Process     |
|                        | EIR Considerations                  |
|                        | Technical Issues of Concern         |
|                        | The Limits of CEQA                  |
| <b>9:30-10:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Discussion and Questions</b>     |

# Contents

- Section 1. Background and Policy of CEQA**
- Section 2. The Environmental Impact Report**
- Section 3. Program EIRs in General**
- Section 4. Typical EIR Preparation Process**
- Section 5. EIR Considerations**
  
- Appendix A. A Short Glossary of CEQA Terms**
- Appendix B. CEQA Information Sources**

# Antero (Terry) Rivasplata

Terry Rivasplata is a senior environmental planner with ICF International, a consulting firm specializing in environmental planning and natural resource management. He specializes in CEQA compliance and general plan preparation. Before joining ICF International, Mr. Rivasplata was with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) from 1985 to 1998, including a stint as the chief of the state clearinghouse.

Mr. Rivasplata has worked on a variety of projects, including a review of County general plan consistency for Mariposa County; EIRs for general plan updates in Davis, Fairfield, Inyo County, and Union City; environmental documents for schools in Dixon, Livermore, and Watsonville, and redevelopment projects in the Cities of San Jose and Watsonville; NEPA documents for federal and local agencies; and the City of Modesto's Master EIR update. In addition, he is the editor of the "Environmental Assessor" for the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP).

Mr. Rivasplata is co-author of the 1998, 1990, and 1987 editions of *General Plan Guidelines*, as well as the author of several OPR publications, including *A Planner's Guide to Financing Public Infrastructure*. He also contributed to several reports issued by the Governor's Interagency Growth Management Council, including *Planning and Growth Management*.

Mr. Rivasplata was involved in drafting the 1998, 1997, and 1994 revisions to the CEQA Guidelines. In addition, he is the author of *Focusing on Master EIRs: Examining AB 1888 or 1993, Tracking CEQA Mitigation Measures Under AB 3180*, and five other publications in OPR's series of CEQA advisory memoranda.

Before joining OPR, Mr. Rivasplata spent seven years as a planner for the Kern County Planning and Development Services Department. He also has worked for the City of Davis and County of Sacramento planning departments. Mr. Rivasplata is a member of the American Planning Association, American Institute of Certified Planners, and the AEP. He received a B.S. in environmental planning and management from the University of California, Davis.

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City of Brisbane



# BBCAG CEQA Training

## A Brief Introduction to CEQA

Presented by:

**Terry Rivasplata**  
*Technical Director*  
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### Section 1

## BACKGROUND AND POLICY OF CEQA

## CEQA in 25 Words or Less



- 1970 vintage – predates many environmental protection laws
- California public agencies' must "look before they leap"
- Disclose, consider, and mitigate impacts
- A magnet for land use litigation

## CEQA's Guiding Policies



- Disclose to decision makers and the public significant environmental effects of proposed activities
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage
- Prevent environmental damage by requiring implementation of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures
- Disclose the public reasons for agency approval of projects with significant environmental effects
- Foster interagency coordination in review of projects
- Enhance public participation in planning process

## What CEQA is, and What it Isn't



- CEQA is a process, not a permit:
  - It doesn't prescribe development standards
  - It doesn't prescribe acceptable levels of risk
  - It doesn't specify regulations that projects must follow
  - It doesn't establish study methods



## Section 2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

## What is the EIR's Purpose?



- Examine the project's potential adverse effects on the environment:
  - Direct effects and indirect effects
- Disclose the significant effects to decision-makers and the public
- Specify feasible mitigation measures to reduce the significant effects
- Analyze project alternatives

## How Does an EIR Influence Decision-making?



- The Lead and Responsible Agencies must consider the information in the EIR before taking final action on the project
- Feasible mitigation must be incorporated into the approval, reducing the project's environmental impacts:
  - Mitigation becomes conditions of approval or other requirements enforced by the agency



## Disclosing the Reasons Behind the Decision





- “Findings” are adopted that describe the disposition of each significant impact:
  - Mitigated, the responsibility of another agency to mitigate, or infeasible to mitigate
  - Why the alternatives are infeasible
- “Statement of Overriding Considerations” if any impacts are unavoidable:
  - Specific benefits that outweigh the impacts

## One Project, One Document




- The Lead Agency is responsible for preparing the EIR:
  - Makes the key decisions: content, methods, impact significance, alternatives, etc.
  - It also certifies the EIR’s adequacy
- The Responsible Agencies are obligated to use that EIR for their decisions:
  - Limited exceptions to this rule
- A responsible agency may still deny the project if it so chooses:
  - It will also apply conditions of approval



**Section 3**  
**PROGRAM EIRS IN GENERAL**

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**Who Prepares the EIR?**

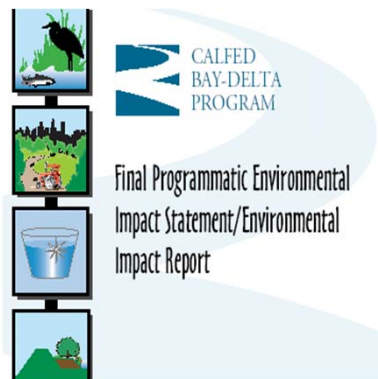
- The Lead Agency decides to either:
  - Prepare it in-house,
  - Hire a consultant to prepare it, or
  - Allow the developer to submit a preliminary draft and help on the final EIR
- The Lead Agency must exert its “independent judgment” over the public draft EIR and final EIR:
  - It is responsible for calling the shots regarding scope, format, mitigation, etc.

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## Program EIRs



- Program EIRs typically analyze activities that are:
  - Linked geographically or
  - Parts of a chain of planned events
- A program EIR is the foundation for additional CEQA analysis of later actions on the project
- The level of detail is commensurate with the project's level of detail
- Similarly, mitigation may lack details pending further expected refinement



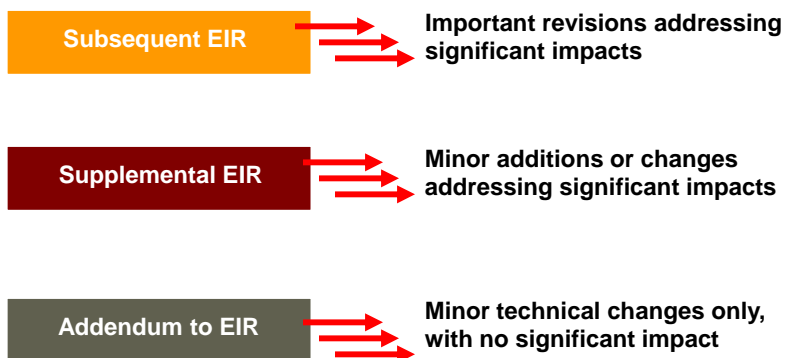
CEQA Guidelines sec. 15168

## PEIR Scope and Level of Detail



- Program EIR must examine the project and related actions
- Level of detail is commensurate with project's level of detail:
  - Reasonable analysis cannot be deferred
- Mitigation measures cannot be deferred to subsequent CEQA analyses:
  - Measures may be broad if they include performance standards for specific application

## Post-EIR Documents Sections 15162-15164



CEQA Guidelines secs. 15162-15164

## Program EIRs: Process for Subsequent Activities



- A subsequent activity within PEIR's scope:
  - Doesn't require a new EIR, unless Sections 15162-15164 apply
  - Feasible mitigation measures must be incorporated into the activity
- A subsequent activity not within PEIR's scope:
  - New Initial Study is required
  - Either EIR, ND, or MND is prepared

CEQA Guidelines sec. 15168

## Program EIRs: Subsequent Documents



- Within the PEIR's scope:
  - An activity within the same project as analyzed in the PEIR
  - An activity within the same geographic area encompassed by the PEIR
- Analysis of later activities is limited to what's new:
  - The original PEIR is not open for re-analysis
  - The need for subsequent analysis is limited to specific situations

## When Is a Subsequent EIR Required?



- One of the following circumstances occurs:
  - Substantial changes in project would result in new or worsened significant environmental impacts,
  - Substantial changes in circumstances would result in new worsened significant impacts, or
  - New information of substantial importance shows:
    - The project will have new or worsened significant effects
    - Mitigation measures or alternatives previously infeasible are now feasible, but project proponent declines to adopt them

CEQA Guidelines secs. 15162 and 15163

## PEIR Streamlines Later Approvals



- Courts have held that the interest of finality limits the preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR unless the above have occurred:
  - Decision whether to prepare a subsequent/supplemental EIR is subject to “substantial evidence” standard – not “fair argument” standard
- Any litigation over the subsequent document focuses on the Section 15162 process, not the original PEIR

CEQA Guidelines secs. 15162 and 15163



## Section 4 TYPICAL EIR PREPARATION PROCESS

## The Key Steps -- NOP



- Notice of Preparation:
  - Advance notice of EIR
  - “Scoping” of issues of interest
  - Minimum 30-day review period
  - Comments considered in preparing the Draft EIR
- Brisbane has completed this step

## The Key Steps -- DEIR



- Draft EIR:
  - Analyzes project’s potential impacts on the environment:
    - Incorporates available information and studies
  - Discloses significant impacts
  - Identifies feasible mitigation
  - Identifies potentially feasible alternatives
- Minimum review period of 45-days (City will provide 120 days)

## The Key Steps -- FEIR



- Final EIR:
  - Responds in writing to comments received on the DEIR:
    - Incorporates DEIR revisions if needed
  - Lists commenters
  - Includes the DEIR
- The FEIR must be “certified” before a project may be approved:
  - FEIR meets CEQA requirements; it reflects “independent judgment;” and is familiar

## DEIR Contents



- Basic contents of a typical DEIR
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Impact Chapters:
  - Environmental setting, impact analysis, impact conclusion, mitigation measures
- Project Alternatives
- Cumulative and Growth-Inducing Impacts
- Lists of Preparers and References
- Technical Appendices



## Public Involvement



- Comment during the NOP review period:
  - This stage is already completed
- Comment on the DEIR:
  - Submit written comments by mail or by e-mail
- Participate in any meetings on the DEIR:
  - Submit written or verbal comments
- Participate in the City's hearings on the project:
  - Submit written or verbal comments



## Section 5 EIR CONSIDERATIONS

## Environmental Setting/Baseline



- The EIR must describe the physical environment in the vicinity of the project as it exists before commencement of the project
- The setting will vary with the resource being examined
- The regional setting can be crucial to assessing impacts, especially for rare or unique resources, or resources that have a regional aspect (air quality, for example)

CEQA Guidelines sec. 15125

## Environmental Setting/Baseline



- Discuss any inconsistencies between the proposed project and applicable land use plans (general and regional):
  - Where the proposed project is compared with an adopted plan, the analysis shall examine existing physical conditions as well as potential future conditions
- Good practice: discuss the regulatory setting as well as the physical setting:
  - Provides context for impact analysis

CEQA Guidelines sec. 15125

## Environmental Setting/Baseline



- Environmental setting is *normally* the baseline for determining significance of impacts:
  - “Normally” provides flexibility to consider fluctuations in conditions
  - The baseline is very seldom past conditions
  - The baseline cannot be “hypothetical future” conditions
  - It may be reasonable projected future conditions
- Impact - Difference between baseline and project

CEQA Guidelines sec. 15125

## A Range of Alternatives



- The EIR must examine a range of reasonable, potentially feasible alternatives and the “no-project” alternative
- The alternatives must:
  - Meet most or all project objectives
  - Substantially reduce one or more significant impacts
- The Lead Agency chooses whether to examine alternatives at the same level of detail as the project

## Alternatives, cont'd.



- The EIR need not examine every possible alternative
  - The “rule of reason” governs
- The EIR must identify the “environmentally superior” alternative:
  - The Lead Agency is not obligated to select that alternative over the project
- The EIR must identify any alternatives that were considered and rejected from further analysis

## Significance Determinations



- Is the project’s impact “significant?”
  - “Significant” = a substantial adverse physical change from the baseline conditions that *results from the project*
- EIR discloses the significance each impact:
  - Feasible, fully enforceable mitigation measures must be adopted for each significant impact
- What makes an impact significant?
  - Exceeding a threshold or standard, certainly
  - Conflicting with community values, perhaps

## Study Methods



- CEQA does not specify or require any particular study method
- Analyses from air quality to utilities, and everything in between:
  - Methods based on professional practice
  - Methods recommended by responsible agencies
  - Methods required/indicated by other laws
- Lead agency selects study method:
  - EIR will disclose any competing studies

## Cumulative Impacts



- Significant impacts that result from the collective contributions of past, present, and foreseeable future actions
- The EIR describes the cumulative impacts to which the project will contribute:
  - List method
  - Plan or projections method
- The EIR determines whether the contribution is “considerable” in the cumulative context:
  - Even a less-than-significant individual impact may be considerable in the cumulative context

## Mitigation Measures



- Mitigation - An action that will avoid, minimize, reduce or eliminate, rectify, or compensate for a significant effect
- Mitigation must be feasible and fully enforceable
- Measures must be sufficiently detailed to be effectively implemented
- An EIR is not required to mitigate every impact below the level of significance
- The Lead Agency cannot defer its obligation to adopt feasible mitigation measures

## Mitigation Measures



- Where permitting is not yet completed or project design is not sufficiently advanced, detailed mitigation measures cannot be prepared
- In those situations, the mitigation measures must include:
  - A commitment to mitigate;
  - Performance standards that will ensure that adequate mitigation is implemented, or a menu of effective mitigation measures; and
  - Objective criteria for measuring success

## Technical Data



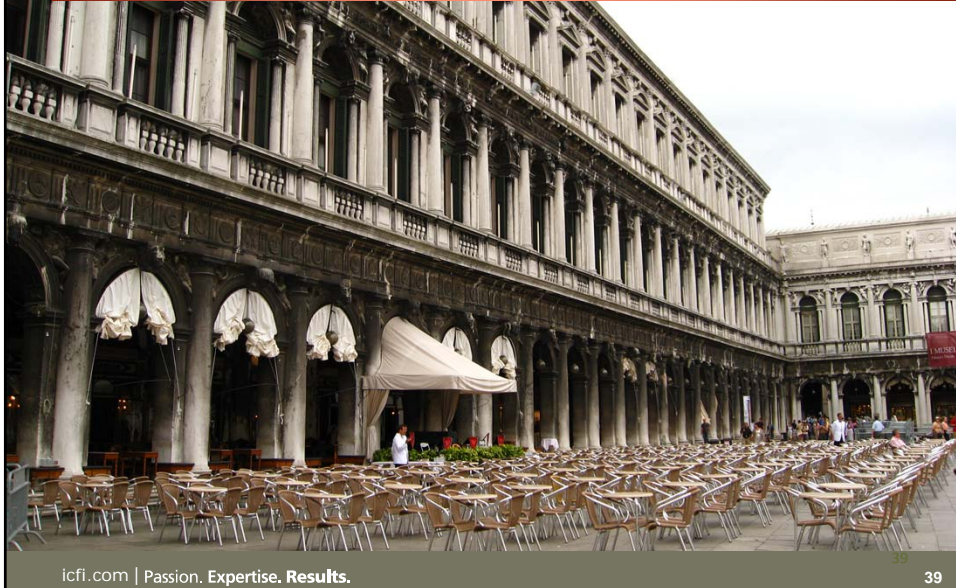
- An EIR is intended to be understandable to the average resident
- Technical data may be summarized and studies included as appendices:
  - Typical technical appendices include traffic, noise, and air quality analyses, and hazardous materials assessments
- A Lead Agency is not expected to undertake original research in preparing an EIR:
  - It is expected to present available information, including conflicting expert opinions, if any

## Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program



- The Lead Agency must adopt a MMRP that will ensure the mitigation measures imposed by the agency will be implemented
- Each Responsible Agency must adopt its own MMRP to ensure that the mitigation that it imposes will be implemented

## Technical Issues of Concern



### Brownfield Reuse



- Regulated by laws other than CEQA
- EIR discloses potential impacts from proposed development project
- EIR may specify mitigation measures in addition to regulatory requirements:
  - If the mitigation is within the agency's power to impose
  - City cannot *require* other agencies to take specific actions through CEQA



## Brownfield Reuse – Thresholds



- CEQA does not set thresholds of significance
- The Lead Agency generally sets thresholds based on:
  - Regulatory standards
  - Acceptable level of risk (as may be defined by standards)
- Agency may properly rely on technical experts to recommend thresholds
- Agency may rely on regulatory agencies too

## Brownfield Reuse – Typical Analytical Methods



- CEQA prescribes no specific analytical method
- Desired outcomes of analysis:
  - Characterization of existing contamination
  - Change resulting from the project:
    - Human health risk characterization
    - Environmental risk characterization
  - Recommended mitigation (acceptable risk)
- Screening for health and environ risk:
  - CalEPA and SF Bay RWQCB

## Brownfield Reuse – Responsible Agency Roles



- Considering permits/approvals for clean-up appropriate to the proposed project:
  - SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board:
    - Remedial Action Plans, Site Clean-up Order
  - Department of Toxic Substances Control:
    - Remedial Action Plans
  - San Mateo County:
    - Final closure plan for landfill

## “Rule of Reason”



- Level of detail in impact analysis
- Range of alternatives considered
- Deferring mitigation details:
  - Insufficient information to develop detailed mitigation measure?
    - Mitigation still required
    - Mitigation must include performance standards or menu of approaches and measures of effectiveness

## The Limits of CEQA



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## CEQA Doesn't Approve or Deny



- CEQA does not prescribe the outcome of the deliberations over a project:
  - An EIR does not “approve” a project:
    - The EIR provides enough information to enable informed decision-making
    - The Agency may choose to deny
  - An EIR does not “deny” a project:
    - An agency may approve a project with significant, unavoidable impacts

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## CEQA Provides no New Powers



- CEQA requires mitigation, but doesn't give an agency new powers
  - Agencies adopt the mitigation that is within their power to implement or require as a condition of project approval:
    - Limited by Constitution
    - Limited by feasibility
- Feasible: “capable of being successfully accomplished in a reasonable period of time...”

## CEQA Proceeds in Advance of Project Design



- Timing of CEQA analysis:
  - Early enough to influence project design
  - Not so late that the agency has already committed to the project
- CEQA doesn't require a project to be fully designed before analysis begins

## The Program EIR's Not the End of the Story



- Subsequent discretionary actions will require CEQA analysis (discussed earlier)
- For actions within the scope of the PEIR, this will be limited to new or substantially more severe impacts
- As RAPs are developed, additional CEQA review may be needed:
  - Mitigation refinements may also



Thank you for attending

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## A Short Glossary of CEQA Terms

**Alternative to the Project** – an alternative to the project or its location that meets most or all of the project’s objectives and substantially avoids or reduces one or more of its significant effects. An EIR must examine a range of reasonable alternatives to the project.

**Baseline** – the conditions against which the project-related changes are compared when determining whether those changes are significant. The baseline is normally existing conditions on the site and its surroundings. “Existing conditions” is not intended to be a single point in time –depending on the resource, it may represent a range of conditions.

**CEQA** – the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 – 21189.3).

**CEQA Guidelines** – regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for the implementation of CEQA by California’s public agencies (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, beginning with Section 15000).

**Cumulative Impact** – This is a significant impact that is the result of the combined contributions of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. Poor air quality is an example of a cumulative impact. A project may have an impact that is less than significant individually, but that makes a significant contribution to a cumulative impact. Where a cumulative impact is particularly severe, even a small individual contribution may be significant.

**Feasible** – the CEQA Guidelines define feasible as “capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15364)

**Findings** – CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 requires the agency approving the project to adopt findings describing the disposition of the impacts identified in the EIR. The findings disclose whether the impacts were mitigated below a level of significance, mitigation is the responsibility of another agency, or mitigation is infeasible. If none of the project alternatives are adopted, the findings must explain why the alternatives are infeasible.

**Lead Agency** – This is the agency “with the principle responsibility for carrying out or approving the project.” (Guidelines Section 15367) The Lead Agency is responsible for preparing and certifying the adequacy of the EIR.

**Mitigation or Mitigation Measure** – a feasible and fully enforceable measure that will avoid, minimize, reduce or eliminate, rectify, or compensate for a significant effect.

**No-Project Alternative** – An EIR is required to examine the alternative of not proceeding with the project. This alternative usually includes a description of how the project site could be used if the

project is not approved. Unlike other alternatives, the no-project alternative doesn't have to meet any of the project objectives or reduce any of the project's significant effects.

**Project** – a discretionary action taken by a public agency that has the potential to result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change. CEQA requires the project description to include “the whole of an action” in order to ensure that the EIR being prepared fully analyzes the project and its related actions and includes actions that will be taken by Responsible Agencies.

**Program EIR** – typically, this is an EIR prepared for a large project that will be developed in phases or over a long period of time. The program EIR is intended to be the foundation for later CEQA analyses, as may be necessary in order to analyze new or substantially more severe impacts that would result from later actions on the project (see “subsequent EIR” below).

**Responsible Agency** – This is any of the public agencies “other than the Lead Agency which have discretionary approval power over the project.” (Guidelines Section 15381)

**Significant Impact or Effect** – a substantial adverse change in the physical environment resulting from the project. An effect can be direct or indirect. Social or economic changes are not impacts under CEQA unless they are related to physical change. The terms “effect” and “impact” are interchangeable.

**Significant, Unavoidable Impact** – a significant impact that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance.

**Statement of Overriding Considerations** -- CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 requires the agency approving a project with one or more significant, unavoidable impacts to adopt a statement of overriding considerations that describes the specific benefits that justify approving the project. Benefits may be economic, legal, social, technological, or other.

**Subsequent EIR** – CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 provides that once an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence that either substantial changes are proposed in the project or substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of significant impacts identified in the previous EIR. Or, new information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous EIR was certified, shows any of the following: the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR; significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR; mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

**Substantial Evidence** – The CEQA Guidelines define this as “facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts, and expert opinion supported by facts” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15384). The conclusions in the EIR and the findings and statement of overriding considerations adopted for an EIR must be supported by substantial evidence in the record before the agency. Substantial evidence does not include “argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, evidence which is clearly erroneous or inaccurate, or evidence of social or economic impacts which do not contribute to or are not caused by physical impacts on the environment.”

**Threshold of Significance** – the point at which a project’s impact becomes a significant impact.

**Tiering** – this refers to relying on a previously certified EIR for all or a portion of the CEQA analysis of a later narrower or site-specific action that is part of the larger project analyzed in that EIR. The later analysis can be limited to examining those impacts of the later action that were not adequately analyzed in the previous EIR. There are several methods of tiering described in the State CEQA Guidelines, each with its own requirements.



## Selected Sources of Information for Impact Evaluations under CEQA

### CEQA Statute, Guidelines, Legislation, and Litigation

#### CERES Website

<http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/>

Current CEQA statute and State CEQA Guidelines; CEQA litigation to 2009

#### California Codes Website

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>

Search for Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.

#### CEQA Legislation Website

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>

Current bills; past bills – search by session year and bill number

#### Recent Litigation (past 120 days): Judicial Counsel Website

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/>

### CEQA Reference Books

*The Revised Community Guide to CEQA*. Planning and Conservation League Foundation. <http://pclfoundation.org/events/ceqaguide.html>

*Guide to CEQA (11<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Remy, Thomas, et al. Solano Press.  
<http://www.solano.com/books.asp>

Various Office of Planning and Research publications. Available online at:  
<http://opr.ca.gov/index.php?a=planning/publications.html>

### CEQA Checklist Issues

#### I. Aesthetics

Local General Plan – Policies regarding scenic corridors or unique visual resources

California Department of Transportation, California Scenic Highway Program  
[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic\\_highways/scenic\\_hwy.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm)

#### II. Agricultural Resources

California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Mapping Program  
<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/FMMP/>

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Publications.html/>

County Agricultural Commissioner

United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service,  
local Soil Survey maps

### **III. Air Quality**

California Air Resources Board  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov>

Air Quality Management Districts and Air Pollution Control Districts  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/capcoa/roster.htm>

### **IV. Biological Resources**

California Department of Fish and Game -- species information  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/>

California Department of Fish and Game -- California Natural Diversity Data Base  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>

U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service  
<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

California Department of Fish and Game -- California conservation activities  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/conplan/>

Local city or county - Tree Preservation Policy or Ordinance

### **V. Cultural Resources**

***\*\*Refer to CEQA Section 15064.5\*\****

California Office of Historic Preservation  
[http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21721](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21721)

National Register of Historic Places  
<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/CA/San+Bernardino/state.html>

California Native American Heritage Commission  
<http://www.nahc.ca.gov/ceqa.html>

## **VI. Geology and Soils**

California Geological Survey

- Earthquake Fault Hazard Maps (Alquist-Priolo Zones)  
Maps available at local city of County  
<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/rghm/ap/index.htm>
- Strong Ground Shaking  
<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/smip/shakemap.htm>
- Liquefaction Hazard Maps  
<http://www.conservaion.ca.gov/cgs/shzp/>
- Landslide Hazard Maps  
[http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/rghm/landslides/lis\\_index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/rghm/landslides/lis_index.htm)
- Tsunamis  
[http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/geologic\\_hazards/Tsunami/About\\_Tsunamis.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/geologic_hazards/Tsunami/About_Tsunamis.htm)

U.S. Geological Survey

<http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/>

Local General Plan – Safety element of the General Plan (geologic hazards)

Local city and county

- List of unreinforced masonry buildings or other unsafe structures

## **VII. Greenhouse Gases**

California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA)

Guidance on methods and mitigation measures

<http://www.capcoa.org/>

## **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

California Department of Toxic Substances Control

Lists of hazardous materials sites (“Cortese”) and cleanup data bases

<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

State Water Resources Control Board -- Regional Water Quality Control Boards

<http://waterboards.ca.gov/>

- Information on cleanup sites
- Water quality regulations
- Site specific information on soil, groundwater and soil vapor data

Local city or county health departments and/or fire departments-

- Information on leaking underground storage tanks and other hazardous materials concerns

Local General Plan – Safety Element for policies regarding use, storage and transport of hazardous materials.

## VIII. Hydrology and Water Quality

State Water Resources Control Board -- Regional Water Quality Control Boards

<http://waterboards.ca.gov/>

- Regional Basin Plans
- California's Plan for Non-Point Source Pollution Prevention  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/protecting.html>
- Impaired Water bodies (303(d) list) and Approved TMDLs  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/)

California Department of Water Resources – groundwater resource mapping

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Flood Hazard Maps

<http://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/FemaWelcomeView?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001&langId=-1>

Dept. of Water Resources – Flood Management, Best Available Maps (Central Valley)

[http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafmo/fmb/fes/best\\_available\\_maps/](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafmo/fmb/fes/best_available_maps/)

Dept. of Water Resources – Flood Management, Levee Protection Zones (Central Valley)

[http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafmo/fmb/fes/levee\\_protection\\_zones.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafmo/fmb/fes/levee_protection_zones.cfm)

Local General Plan – Safety Element of the General Plan (flood hazards)

Local General Plan – Conservation Element of the General Plan (water quality)

Sometimes there will be a Water Resources Element.

Local water district, flood control district or irrigation district

## **IX. Land Use/Planning**

Local city or county

- General Plan – Land Use Element of the General Plan
- Specific Plans
- Community Plans
- Local Coastal Program/Land Use Plan
- Zoning Ordinance
- Habitat Conservation Plan (usually applies to a County but may be a large landowner)

## **X. Mineral Resources**

California Geological Survey

- Surface Mining And Reclamation Act (SMARA) Mineral land Classification  
<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/CGS/minerals/mlc/index.htm>

Local city or county

- Local General Plan – Land Use and/or Conservation Element
- Specific Plans

## **XI. Noise**

Local city or county

- Noise Element of the General Plan
- Local Noise Ordinance
- Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans

## **XII. Population and Housing**

California Department of Finance

- Census data  
[http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/state\\_census\\_data\\_center/products-services/](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/state_census_data_center/products-services/)
- Population estimates and projections  
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/>

California Department of Housing and Community Development

- Local housing element status  
<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/>

Regional government (COG)

- Housing projections and Regional Housing Needs Allocations

Local city or county

- General Plan Housing Element

### **XIII. Public Services**

Local city or county

- General Plan Safety Element
- Police and fire departments

Local special districts

- Fire districts
- Community Services Districts
- School districts

### **XIV. Recreation**

California Departments of Parks and Recreation

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex/>

Local city or county

- General Plan Open Space Element
- Parks and recreation department

Park or open space district

### **XV. Transportation and Traffic**

Local city or county

General Plan Circulation Element

- Level of Service Thresholds
- Street width policies
- Policies regarding use of traffic calming devices
- Bicycle and pedestrian policies

Local ordinance

- Parking ordinance requirements by land use
- Density limits

Local public works/roads department

- Capital Improvements Program
- Street paving requirements

- Regional program for restoring pavement after road work or pipeline installation

## **XVI. Utilities and Service Systems**

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

- Landfill capacity and enforcement  
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Enforcement/Facilities.htm>

Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Basin Plan water quality standards
- History of violations

Local water and/or wastewater district

- Existing capacity, plans for expansion
- Urban Water Management Plan

City or County public works department

- Urban Water Management Plan
- Storm water drainage system information
- Wastewater treatment plant information
- Planned capital improvement programs