


City of Brisbane




Public CEQA Training

A Brief Introduction to CEQA

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Ground Rules

- No judgment, critique or criticism
- Listen carefully
- Be respectful of others' opinions and viewpoints
- Share the floor – allow everyone time to speak
- Wait to be recognized before speaking
- Stay on topic and be specific
- Verify assumptions – ask questions
- Please hold questions of substance for after the presentation

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Section 1 BACKGROUND AND POLICY OF CEQA

A Brief History of CEQA

- Born from the Ecology Movement
- Enacted in 1970 – modeled on NEPA
- California public agencies' responsibility
- Fully realized after "Friends of Mammoth" decision in 1972:
 - CEQA applies to public agency actions, including approval of private projects
- CEQA Guidelines establish a state-wide process
- The primary venue 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

CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15002

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

What CEQA is, and What it Isn't

- CEQA requires mitigation, but doesn't give an agency mitigation superpowers:
 - Agencies adopt the mitigation that is within their power to implement or require as a condition of project approval
 - CEQA gives no new powers to any agency

What CEQA is, and What it Isn't

- 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
 - An EIR does not “deny” a project:
 - An agency may approve a project with significant, unavoidable impacts

What CEQA is, and What it Isn't

- CEQA requires reasonable disclosure of project impacts:
 - But, an EIR is not a technical report:
 - It's intended to be accessible to the general public
 - Technical reports are often prepared to inform and provide the basis for the EIR's conclusions
 - Agency must describe the disposition of all significant effects



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

One Project, One Document

- The EIR prepared for a project by the Lead Agency must also be used by the Responsible Agency(ies):
 - A Responsible Agency may prepare a subsequent EIR in limited situations
- Each agency is responsible for imposing the mitigation measures within its powers:
 - Except when the agency finds that the mitigation is infeasible for specific reasons

One Project, One Document

- The Lead Agency is responsible for preparing an adequate EIR:
 - The EIR must reflect its independent judgment
 - The Lead Agency must consider the comments of Responsible Agencies
 - The EIR should incorporate the mitigation measures that the Responsible Agencies will impose on the project

One Project, One Document

- Responsible Agencies will comment on the adequacy of the Draft EIR
- Unless they sue the Lead Agency over the adequacy of the EIR, Responsible Agencies must use the Final EIR as the basis for their decision-making:
 - They must adopt findings and a statement of overriding considerations, if applicable

One Project, One Document

- Responsible Agencies are not bound by the decision of the Lead Agency:
 - A Responsible Agency may impose additional conditions that are within its regulatory authority, or deny a project if it chooses
- Responsible Agencies can only prepare a subsequent CEQA document if permissible under Guidelines Section 15162 (limitation on preparation of subsequent EIRs)

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

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



Section 3

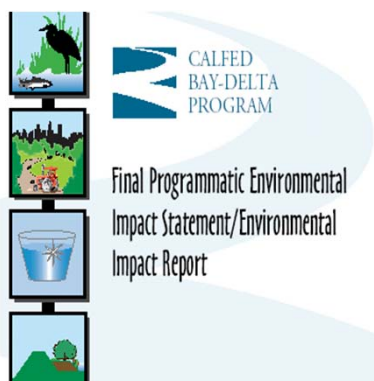
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS IN GENERAL

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.

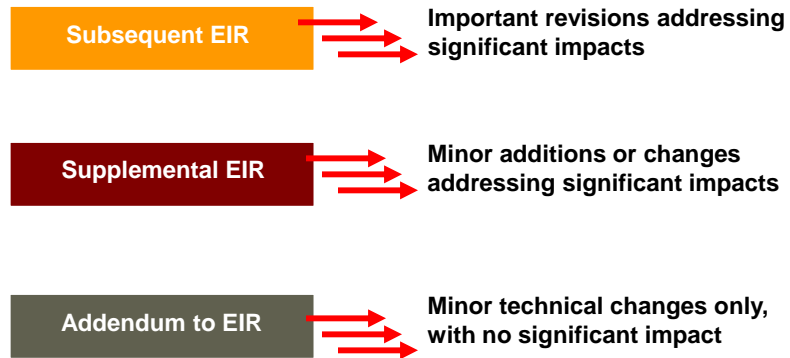
Program EIRs

- 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

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

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

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
- Baylands EIR review period: 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:
 - Typically in writing, but verbal if there's a public scoping meeting
- 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

- The EIR must describe the 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

- 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 as Baseline

- Environmental setting is the physical environmental conditions at time of NOP release
- 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

CEQA Guidelines sec. 15125

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.)

- 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 in the environment
- EIR discloses the significance of each of the project’s impacts:
 - 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

Cumulative Impacts

- Some significant impacts 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 accessible 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 analyze potential impacts and employ technical experts as may be necessary to study the impact mechanisms

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

The Role of the Public



NOP Review

- Notice of Preparation:
 - Issued December 10, 2010 (revised NOP)
 - Written comments received
 - Scoping meeting in January 2011
 - Written and verbal comments received
- Formal comment period is closed
 - Comments were considered during preparation of the Draft EIR

Draft EIR Review

- DEIR to be released soon:
 - Formal comment period will be at least 120 days
- Planning Commission DEIR hearing:
 - Opportunity for verbal comments
 - No need to reiterate written comments on DEIR
- Formal Review Period is Not a Strict Cut Off:
 - Comments received after 120 days must also be considered
 - But... Final EIR might not respond in writing

The Final EIR

- There's no formal comment period on the FEIR
- You can still comment:
 - In writing before or at City Council hearing(s)
 - Verbally at Council hearing(s)
- Focus comments on the FEIR:
 - The FEIR will revise the DEIR
- City Council must consider comments on the FEIR before certifying it
 - Comments received afterward may not count

A Few Words About Comments

- Effective comments:
 - Are concise, focusing on the DEIR
 - Relate to the project's potential for impact
 - Identify the specific part of the DEIR at issue
 - Include supporting evidence/facts
 - References – copies of references or citations to specific website, if available
- Written comments are better than verbal ones:
 - Your comment is documented
- Timely comments are appreciated by the City

Commenting at Hearings

- Provide concise testimony on the EIR:
 - Be fair to others who may want to speak
 - Don't be repetitive
 - Submit written comments with details
- Focus on environmental issues – not personalities or perceived intentions:
 - The EIR is about the impacts on the environment, it doesn't decide whether to approve the project
- Please don't spring "late hits"

Thank you for attending

Public CEQA Training

A Brief Introduction to CEQA

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 (11th 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

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

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
- Tsunamis
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/

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/

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

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/
- 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