

## CEQA Sample Letter to Legislators

Dear

The California Environmental Quality Act, which became law in 1970, is our state's landmark environmental law. Its purpose is to foster transparency and integrity in public decision-making while ensuring land use decisions take the full impacts of development on our natural and human environments into account. It is one of the most powerful environmental protection laws in the nation and was modeled after the federal National Environmental Policy Act

Our state has seen dramatic times of growth, with this law firmly in place.

If special interests succeed in weakening CEQA, a likely outcome would be a less robust public review process, fewer environmental protections (and more damage to the environment), and more unchecked growth. Current bills are being pushed through where CEQA is being streamlined or even eliminated.

CEQA also provides the important service of ensuring that project costs are internalized; that is, the project applicants can be made to pay for their share of funding for the infrastructure of their project, including roads, water lines, and other public services, not to mention putting up-front the costs of potential long-term environmental harm.

Don't short change your constituents and don't short change our environment. Protect California's quality of life and don't streamline the CEQA process.

Thank you,