



Broad CEQA Exemptions Threatens Workers, Communities and Public Health

There is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) proposal disguised as “reform” that would fundamentally gut that important law and limit the ability of local communities to have a voice in the development process.

We oppose the draft exemption proposal for the following reasons:

- ❑ **The proposal undermines the structure of AB 900 (Buchanan/Gordon 2011), a bill Labor supported.** AB 900 created a process by which certain environmentally friendly projects would receive expedited judicial review if there is a legal challenge under CEQA. AB 900 contained important standards that promote the values of California. These criteria include a requirement that the project have no net greenhouse gas emissions and create high-wage, high-skill jobs for Californians.
- ❑ **The new CEQA exemption being proposed is far too broad and lacks those important protections.** It would apply to virtually all types of projects: residential, commercial, industrial, public works. This would include oil refineries, power plants, hazardous waste dumps, incinerators freeways, sewage treatment plants, port and airport expansions and many others. Projects would be exempted whether or not the project met any standards for good jobs or environmental safety.
- ❑ **This broad exemption being discussed will lead to new lawsuits that slow development and jobs.** The exemption is based upon outdated planning and zoning decisions, creating new avenues of litigation against those decisions. At the same time, the exemption provides no limitations on standing, timelines for lawsuits to be disposed, mandatory mediation, or other streamlining currently available under the CEQA process.

For these reasons, we oppose this far-reaching CEQA exemption and ask for your NO vote.