



VIA EMAIL: CEQA.Guidelines@resources.ca.gov

October 12, 2015

Christopher Calfee, Senior Counsel
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on Proposed Updates to the CEQA Guidelines, Preliminary Discussion Draft ("PDD")

Dear Mr. Calfee:

The CEQA Working Group is a broad coalition of local government, affordable housing, business, agriculture, education and other organizations advocating for moderate reforms to CEQA that will preserve its original intent – environmental protection and public disclosure – while eliminating some of the misuses of CEQA that hurt job creation, community renewal and our environment.

The discussion of CEQA in the public forums of California has grown immensely over the past few years. And as this discussion has grown so has the call for ending abuses that stand in the way of meaningful useful projects that bring economic growth and job creation without negatively impacting the environment.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the PDD by sharing with you a compilation of just some these public comments from throughout the state for your review as you move further with developing the Updates.

We appreciate the substantial amount of time and energy that has already been put into drafting the PDD. Our reasoning in providing these comments is to once again reflect the difference between the use of a law and the abuse of a law comes down to its intended purpose.

We greatly appreciate the Governor and the entire Administrations intent to improve the CEQA process and are supportive of producing "a balanced package that is intended to make the process easier and quicker to implement, and better protect natural and fiscal resources consistent with other state environmental policies.

Thank you.

See attached CEQA press coverage from 2014 and 2015.