



CEQA Works Talking Points/Tips for LTEs/Key Messages

Tips for responding to attacks on CEQA

- Avoid using the term “CEQA,” even in response to an article that relies on the acronym. Instead, spell out “the California Environmental Quality Act.”
- Emphasize that the push to weaken CEQA is coming from developers and polluting industries.
- When discussing proposed changes to CEQA, talk about “weakening California’s environmental laws” instead of “reforming CEQA.”

Talking/writing points for LTEs and speaking out against proposed changes

- We are committed to protecting CEQA’s core strengths, and we will remain vigilant on this effort throughout this legislative session.
- We stand behind legislative efforts to strengthen CEQA and the protections it provides for our environment, as well as for community participation in the development approval process.
- This law has served our state well for more than 40 years and has helped to make our state what it is today, a place where millions of people want to live, raise their families, and vacation.
- The California Environmental Quality Act has allowed tremendous growth to take place in our state while also protecting the things we all value: clean air, clean water, and beautiful natural areas.
- The California Environmental Quality Act ensures that all Californians have a chance to weigh in on major projects affecting our communities and our environment.
- California’s environmental laws protect public health by requiring that major land use projects take all feasible steps to keep our air and water clean and our environment safe.
- CEQA ensures that new projects limit threats to public health to the extent possible by mitigating any new air and water pollution the project will generate.
- It’s no surprise that big developers and major polluting industries are pushing the legislature to weaken California’s environmental laws while every major conservation group opposes sweeping changes.
- CEQA is a living document and has been updated to fit concerns of the time. We oppose broad changes that would dismantle the significant benefits this law has brought to Californians.
- Adding industry loopholes to exempt development projects and major polluting industries from real environmental review does not serve the best interests of a healthy California.
- By design, the California Environmental Quality Act allows concerned groups to hold industry accountable when public agencies fail to conduct a thorough environmental review. That’s not abuse of the law, it’s using it as it was intended.