



ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT SUBMISSION FACT SHEET



Environmental Program

For all projects that are anticipated to be funded through a program under the purview of the Commission, full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required. Commission action is formally taken with respect to environmental documents completed in accordance with CEQA. When federal requirements are applicable, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is also required. NEPA related documents are coordinated through Caltrans and are not submitted to the Commission for formal action.

The Commission will not allocate funds to projects for design, right of way or construction until the final environmental document is complete and the Commission has approved the environmentally cleared project for consideration of future funding.

CEQA Lead Agency Responsibility for Document Submission

When CEQA Lead Agencies are other than the Department of Transportation (Department), the CEQA Lead Agency must contact and work with the Commission directly to ensure that the necessary environmental documents, including the Notice of Preparation (NOP), Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) are brought forward to the Commission for action.

When the Department is the Lead Agency, the Department will ensure that the necessary environmental documents are brought forward to the Commission for action.

- Submission Transmittal Form for Notices of Preparation and Draft Environmental Impact Reports
- Submission Transmittal Form for Final Environmental Documents (Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations and Final Environmental Impact Reports)
- Project Exempt from CEQA

CEQA Regulatory References

Public Resources Code Section 21102 requires that "No state agency, board, or commission shall request funds, nor shall any state agency, board, or commission which authorizes expenditures of funds, other than funds appropriated in the Budget Act, authorize funds for expenditure for any project, other than a project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted or funded, which may have a significant effect on the environment unless such request or authorization is accompanied by an environmental impact report. Feasibility and planning studies exempted by this section from the preparation of an environmental impact report shall nevertheless include consideration of environmental factors."

Public Resources Code Section 21150 requires that "State agencies, boards, and commissions, responsible for allocating state or federal funds on a project-by-project basis to local agencies for any project which may have a significant effect on the environment, shall require from the responsible local governmental agency a detailed statement setting forth the matters specified in Section 21100 prior to the allocation of any funds other than funds solely for projects involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded."

Specific procedures and timelines are also provided for in California Code of Regulations, Title 21 Section 1505 provides specific Commission circulation, review and timeline requirements.

Questions:

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