



CALIFORNIA SENATE REPUBLICANS

LEGISLATIVE REPUBLICAN CEQA REFORM MEASURES OVER THE YEARS

*Cut Red Tape - Streamline Projects - Build More Housing - Invest In
Infrastructure – Build Water Storage*

** The list of Republican bills below is not an exhaustive list.**

- **AB 978 (Joe Patterson, 2023)** – Requires individuals suing housing projects under CEQA to post a bond of \$1 million. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **AB 1700 (Hoover, 2023)** – Specify that population growth resulting from a housing project and the noise impact from a housing project shall not be deemed to have an effect on the environment under CEQA. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **SB 239 (Dahle, 2023)** - Makes substantial changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These changes include: streamlining the CEQA process for housing projects, public works projects, or commercial projects located in disadvantaged communities so that lawsuits against these projects are resolved within 365 days, only allows the Attorney General to bring CEQA litigation, bars CEQA litigation for nonenvironmental purposes, limits the courts to only staying or delaying the parts of a project that are found to be in violation of CEQA, and prevents multiple lawsuits from being filed against the same project. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **SB 794 (Niello, 2023)** - Streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for housing projects, public works projects, or commercial projects over \$25 million so that lawsuits against these projects are resolved within 365 days. Requires the plaintiff in a lawsuit under CEQA to disclose the identity of any person who has contributed over \$100 towards the litigation. **FAILED IN SENATE EQ**
- **SB 861 (Dahle, 2023)** - Streamlines the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for specific water conveyance and storage projects so that lawsuits against these projects are resolved within 270 days. **HELD ON SUSPENSE IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**

- **AB 1154 (Patterson, 2022)** - Exempts egress routes near a residential subdivision from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This only applies to projects where the egress route has been identified to improve emergency access by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the community currently has insufficient egress routes. Sunsets this exemption in 2029. **HELD ON SUSPENSE IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**
- **AB 1774 (Seyarto, 2022)** – Provides streamlined judicial review under CEQA for water conveyance or storage projects. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **AB 1952 (Gallagher, 2022)** – Exempt projects financed by the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program of 2019 from CEQA. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **AB 2445 (Gallagher, 2022)** - Authorizes a court to require a petitioner seeking court review of a decision made by a local agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for an affordable housing project, to post a bond to cover the potential costs and damages to the housing project due to the delay, if the respondent shows that the CEQA lawsuit was brought in bad faith. **ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY FAILED TO SET THE BILL**
- **AB 2485 (Choi, 2022)** – Exempts emergency shelters and supportive housing projects from CEQA. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **AB 2719 (V. Fong, 2022)** – Exempts from highway safety improvement projects carried out by the CalTrans or a local agency from CEQA. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **SB 1118 (Borgeas, 2022)** - Codifies a California Supreme Court decision by stating that insubstantial or merely technical violations are not grounds for relief under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). **HELD ON SUSPENSE IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**
- **AB 1260 (Chen, 2021)** - Provides an exemption under CEQA to construct or maintain infrastructure to charge or refuel zero-emission trains. **HELD ON SUSPENSE IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**
- **SB 412 (Ochoa Bogh, 2021)** - Expands the definition of the term "emergency" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to include projects that prevent or mitigate damage or threats to life in areas deemed to have a high risk of a catastrophic fire. This change will allow these projects to be exempt from the requirements of CEQA. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **SB 506 (Jones, 2021)** - Prohibits CalFire or a lead agency from requiring a review under CEQA of greenhouse gas emissions for purposes of eligibility of funding for vegetation management projects that are funded from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). Defines “vegetation management projects” as projects that improve forest health, reduce

fuel loading, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by uncontrolled wildfires that involve the thinning of overgrown brush and trees, as specified, by mechanical thinning, piling, pile burning, chipping, prescribed fire, cultural fire, or grazing. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**

- **AB 2444 (Gallagher, 2020)** – Exempts from CEQA projects that thin vegetation and trees that are exhibiting signs of disease or pest infestation, by mechanical thinning, piling, pile burning, chipping, prescribed fire, cultural fire, or grazing. **NEVER HEARD IN COMMITTEE**
- **SB 1289 (Chang, 2020)** - Exempts specific housing projects from CEQA. **SENATE EQ FAILED TO SET THE BILL**
- **AB 231 (Mathis, 2019)** - Exempts from CEQA a project to mitigate drought conditions for which a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor. This would only apply to recycled water pipelines and groundwater replenishment. **FAILED IN ASSEMBLY NATURAL RESOURCES**
- **AB 394 (Oberholte, 2019)** - Exempts egress routes near a residential subdivision from CEQA. This only applies to projects where the egress route is specifically recommended as an action to improve fire safety by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the community currently has insufficient egress routes. **VETOED BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM**
- **AB 431 (Gallagher, 2019)** – Exempts the following activities from CEQA: 1. Improvement of evacuation routes from Paradise, 2. A sewer system for Paradise, and 3. Projects to provide water service in Paradise. **PULLED FROM HEARING**
- **AB 1901 (Oberholte, 2018)** - Extends the sunset date to January 1, 2023 on an existing exemption to CEQA for specified projects that make repairs, provide maintenance, or minor alterations to roadways. **PULLED FROM HEARING IN SENATE EQ**
- **AB 3020 (Flora, 2018)** – Would have exempted projects that mitigate an emergency or reduce the threat or intensity of a wildfire from CEQA. **PULLED BEFORE HEARING**
- **AB 1273 (Gallagher, 2017)** - Exempts from CEQA, until July 1, 2023, the repair of critical levees of the State Plan of Flood Control that are within an existing levee footprint and undertaken in order to meet public health and safety standards. **FAILED IN SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES**
- **AB 1589 (Mathis, 2016)** - Creates a CEQA Exemption (CEQA) for projects to mitigate the drought for which the Governor has proclaimed a state of emergency. **FAILED IN ASSEMBLY NATURAL RESOURCES**

- **AB 2438 (Waldron, 2016)** - Exempts from CEQA the installation of new recycled water pipelines of less than eight miles in length within a paved public street, highway, or right-of-way. **FAILED IN SENATE EQ**
- **AB 2578 (Bigelow, 2016)** - Expands an existing CEQA exemption for water distribution pipeline repairs that address water leakage. Creates a new CEQA exemption for projects undertaken by a local agency in response to a drought that are necessary to acquire water supplies, extend service, or provide water for drinking and sanitation to individuals and communities with groundwater wells that have run dry or where the only available groundwater exceeds primary or secondary drinking water standards. **PULLED FROM HEARING**
- **AB 311 (Gallagher, 2015)** - Streamlines CEQA litigation review for specified major surface water storage projects funded by Proposition 1 (The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014) by requiring resolution within 370 days, including appeals. **FAILED IN ASSEMBLY NATURAL RESOURCES**
- **SB 240 (Stone, 2015)** - Provides a CEQA exemption for specified renewable energy projects of limited duration on disturbed land that provides electric service through the Local Government Renewable Self-Generation Program. **FAILED IN SENATE EQ**
- **SB 389 (Berryhill, 2015)** - Creates the Sustainable Environmental Protection Act which integrates newer and more objective environmental and planning laws into the CEQA review process. **FAILED IN SENATE EQ**
- **SB 487 (Nielsen, 2015)** - Provides several important CEQA exemptions for the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies, the preparation, adoption, and amendment of a groundwater sustainability plan, and a project that implements a plan or coordinated plan under the state's new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). **PULLED FROM HEARING.**
- **SB 11 X1 (Berryhill, 2015)** - Creates a CEQA exemption for minor roadway repairs that do not lead to a significant change in an existing use and are not near a waterway or wetland. **COMMITTEE NEVER SET FOR HEARING.**
- **AB 1849 (Logue, 2014)** - Exempt from the requirements of CEQA, the maintenance, repair, or replacement of an existing levee. **PULLED FROM HEARING.**
- **SB 787 (Berryhill, 2013)** - Integrates newer and objective environmental and planning laws into the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process. **FAILED IN SENATE EQ**