CEQA Process Flowchart

Public Agency determines whether the activity is a "project"

Not a project

Project

Public Agency determines if the project is exempt

Statutory exemption

Categorical exemption

Not Exempt

Public agency evaluates project to determine if there is a possibility that the project may have a significant effect on environment

No possible significant effect

Possible significant effect

Determination of lead agency where more than one public agency is involved

No further action required under CEQA

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

LEAD AGENCY

Lead agency prepares initial study

Respond to informal consultation

Consultation

Lead agency decision to prepare EIR or Negative Declaration

EIR

Negative Declaration

Lead agency sends Notice of Preparation to responsible agency

Respond to Notice of Preparation as to contents of draft EIR

Consultation

Lead agency prepares draft EIR

Lead agency files Notice of Completion and gives public notice of availability of draft EIR

Lead Agency gives public notice of availability of Negative Declaration

Comments on adequacy of draft EIR or Negative Declaration

Consultation

Public Review Period

Public Review Period

Lead agency prepares final EIR including responses to comments on draft EIR

Decision-making body considers final EIR or Negative Declaration prepared by lead agency

Consideration and approval of final EIR by decision-making body

Consideration and approval of Negative Declaration by decision-making body

Findings on feasibility of reducing or avoiding significant environmental effects

Findings on feasibility of reducing or avoiding significant environmental effects

Decision on permit

Decision on project

State Agencies

Local Agencies

State Agencies

Local Agencies

File Notice of Determination with Office of Planning & Research

File Notice of Determination with County Clerk

File Notice of Determination with Office of Planning & Research

File Notice of Determination with County Clerk