



May 22, 2014

Dear CEQA Stakeholder:

The Senate Environmental Quality and Judiciary Committees are exploring ways to improve the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and would appreciate your input by completing a brief questionnaire on your experience with the environmental review process. The intent of this questionnaire is to identify areas where stakeholders believe improvements to the current process are needed, and to better understand which components of CEQA work well from the perspective of the CEQA stakeholder community.

The California Supreme Court has recognized that CEQA's "purpose is to inform the public and its responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made," and in so doing CEQA "protects not only the environment but also informed self-government." (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 553, 564.) Keeping in mind the purpose of CEQA, we respectfully request that you provide us with your thoughts on the following:

- 1) What are the top three areas or issues in CEQA that you believe need to be improved? How would you improve each one?
- 2) What are the top three things that work well in CEQA and why?
- 3) If possible, please provide real-world examples from your experience with CEQA substantiating your responses to #1 and/or #2 above.

Feedback from stakeholders who participate in this questionnaire will help the Committees better understand how CEQA practitioners view the current environmental review process, and may aid the Committees in shaping future CEQA legislation. If you wish to participate in this questionnaire, please email your responses to joanne.roy@sen.ca.gov and tobias.halvarson@sen.ca.gov by September 1, 2014.

If you have any questions about this questionnaire, please contact the Committee staff at the email addresses listed above, or call Joanne Roy with the Senate Environmental Quality Committee at 916.651.4108 or Tobias Halvarson with the Senate Judiciary Committee at 916.651.4113.

Thank you for your thoughtful participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerry Hill
Senator, 13th District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator, 19th District

JH/HBJ:jr/th