



# Grassroots Guide to CEQA's Purpose, Power, and Process

The **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** is California's preeminent environmental law, and has helped safeguard the state's lands, air, waters and communities for more than four decades. The law requires state and local agencies to assess and disclose environmental impacts of proposed projects, and to minimize or mitigate those impacts to the greatest extent possible. It is an environmental 'bill of rights' that ensures the public is engaged in the decisions that impact them most directly. And it is a law that has fostered more environmentally sound projects in virtually every community throughout California.

This workshop will be an introduction to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with a focus on its purpose and implementation. An emphasis will be placed on practical use and application to give attendees an understanding of the law and CEQA process. **It is especially intended to empower local residents and local environmental and social justice groups with the ability to affect decisions at the local level.**

This course with case studies will cover the following topics. Question and answer sessions will follow each segment:

- Definition of a project under CEQA
- CEQA's 3-step evaluation process
- Use of exemptions to CEQA
- Negative declaration / Mitigated negative declaration
- Contents of an Environmental Impact Report
- Public review of and commenting on an Environmental Impact Report
- Final Environmental Impact Report
- Statement of Overriding Considerations
- What CEQA can and cannot do
- Legal challenge of an agency's decision

## Speakers:

**Amy Minter, Esq.**, Partner at Chatten-Brown and Carsten Environmental Law, Hermosa Beach  
<http://www.cbcearthlaw.com/amy-minter.html>

**David Morrison**, Director, Planning, Building and Environmental Services, County of Napa  
<http://countyofnapa.org/PBES/>

**Sean de Courcy**, California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation, Historian II, Local Government and Environmental Compliance Unit, CEQA Specialist  
[http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21721](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21721)

## Grassroots Guide to CEQA's Purpose, Power, and Process

**Saturday, June 6, 2015**

**10AM to 4PM**

Napa Valley College, Community Room  
 2277 Napa Vallejo Hwy  
 Napa, CA 94558

### Registration fee:

\$35 (includes lunch)

### Register Online:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1577941>

### Register by mail:

Use the form on the back of this page

## Sponsored by:

### The Defenders of East Napa Watersheds



The Defenders of East Napa Watersheds educates and informs our citizens and government leaders about the impact of development on our fragile watersheds.

The Defenders of East Napa Watersheds is a 501 [c] 3, non-profit organization. Visit our website at: [www.DENW.info](http://www.DENW.info)

## Co-sponsors:

Vision 2050—Napa County  
 California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation  
 California Preservation Foundation  
 Protect Rural Napa  
 Napa Sierra Club

**For more information, contact us by email at  
 CEQAWorkshop@gmail.com**

