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February 16, 2012

CEQA Guidelines Update  
c/o Christopher Calfee  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95815

**Re: CEQA Streamlining for Infill Projects (SB 226)**

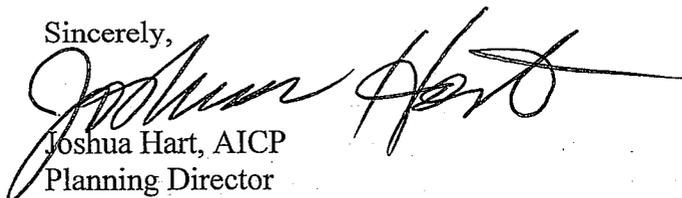
Mr. Calfee,

I understand that SB226 precludes streamlining under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for infill projects in Inyo County. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to opine that CEQA streamlining for infill projects in Inyo County would be beneficial to meet County and the State goals to facilitate appropriate projects while minimizing environmental impacts. Specifically, parcels in Inyo County inside the towns of Lone Pine, Independence, and Big Pine, and several areas of unincorporated Bishop, offer excellent reutilization opportunities with no significant environmental impacts in already developed areas on highly disturbed infill sites with existing utility and transportation infrastructure and access to public services.

Due to the urban area definition in SB226, the infill CEQA exemption would not apply to any projects in Inyo County. Projects on infill sites that do not result in potentially significant environmental impacts should be encouraged, and I urge the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to consider supporting future efforts to develop an appropriate infill exemption for rural areas.

Thank you. I would be happy to provide concrete examples of specific parcels in Inyo County that would be particularly attractive for reutilization and appropriate for exemption under CEQA, and can assist with crafting language that achieves this important goal while protecting the environment. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call me at (760) 878-0268 or email me at [jhart@inyocounty.us](mailto:jhart@inyocounty.us).

Sincerely,



Joshua Hart, AICP  
Planning Director

cc: Board of Supervisors  
County Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
California State Association of Counties