



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

February 22, 2012

Via email: ceqa.guidelines@ceres.ca.gov

Dear CEQA Guidelines Commission:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the voice of the Palisades since 1973.

PPCC is concerned with continual attempts to weaken or streamline CEQA. SB 226 sets forth a streamlined CEQA review process for infill projects. Los Angeles, in particular, is already a dense traffic clogged urban city with an almost unlivable congested environment. The Supreme Court of California ruled that cumulative impacts from proposed projects must be evaluated and PPCC has consistently urged the upholding of CEQA guidelines.

Joel Reynolds wrote in the Sacramento Bee op-ed piece Oct. 2, 2011, "CEQA Guidelines must be specific and promote specific public health standards applicable to all projects. CEQA has served Californians well by providing communities a line of self-defense when elected officials become advocates for, not regulators of, significant projects. Highways, incinerators, refineries, sewage treatment plants, power stations, prisons, stadiums, and commercial or residential developments are all subject to environmental and judicial scrutiny before they can be built. ...California is a more livable place because of its environmental standards. Reform of our most important environmental law must be handled with care as we strive to create jobs and promote green energy technology. Each of us has a personal stake in CEQA's integrity -- none of us can afford to lose its protection."

The PPCC stance regarding SB 226 follows:

- The standards, as proposed, are insufficient to protect public health from air pollution, noise, and traffic hazards in infill areas;
- Infill standards for residential uses need to include standards for infrastructure necessary for complete, walkable neighborhoods;
- Infill standards need to avoid the demolition and loss of affordable housing;
- Standards must recognize that increased vehicle traffic density in infill areas can still lead to significant environmental degradation;
- Infill standards should be sufficiently specified to be objectively and consistently evaluated.

We hope that there will be more time to comment as our Land Use Committee is examining this material and will want to submit suggestions for specific language changes.

Sincerely,

Janet Turner, President

Pacific Palisades Community Council

cc: Senator Fran Pavley, Assemblywoman Julie Brownley, Assemblywoman Betsy Butler