

Name: Cara Finken
Organization: Public
Date Received: August 21, 2009

Subject: ATTN: CEQA Guidelines- Comments

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendment of regulations implementing the California Environmental Quality Act.

As an avid bicyclist in the Los Angeles area who relies on safe "on street" bicycle lanes to get to and from work every day, I would strongly urge you to remove "impacts on motor vehicle traffic flows" from the list of significance thresholds. Common CEQA mitigation measures for potential impacts on traffic include widening roads, removing pedestrian crossings and eliminating bike lanes. Draft guidelines submitted by OPR would preserve the preference given to motor vehicle traffic flows. The California Bicycle Coalition and other groups are also urging the Natural Resources Agency to drop impacts on motor vehicle traffic flows from the list of significance thresholds. Elimination of this particular threshold would remove an obstacle to projects that would afford greater reliance on walking, bicycles and public transit for everyday transportation, which would reduce GHG emissions.

More bike and pedestrian friendly streets would greatly improve the quality of life for myself and my neighbors who would love to utilize these healthy, environmentally friendly alternatives. I have one close friend in particular who has stopped commuting by bicycle because they feel it has become too dangerous in their area of the city. This has added yet one more car to the already overcrowded streets - a vicious circle that will only get worse as more bike & ped friendly options are removed from the picture.

thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Cara Finken