

**Introduced by Senator Gaines**February 5, 2015

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An act to amend Section 21000 of the Public Resources Code, relating to the California Environmental Quality Act.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 166, as introduced, Gaines. California Environmental Quality Act.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report (EIR) on a project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

CEQA makes various legislative findings and states the intent of the Legislature in enacting CEQA.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 21000 of the Public Resources Code is  
2 amended to read:  
3 21000. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:  
4 (a) The maintenance of a quality environment for the people of  
5 this state now and in the future is a matter of statewide concern.  
6 (b) It is necessary to provide a high-quality environment that at  
7 all times is healthful and pleasing to the senses and intellect of  
8 man.  
9 (c) There is a need to understand the relationship between the  
10 maintenance of high-quality ecological systems and the general  
11 welfare of the people of the state, including their enjoyment of the  
12 natural resources of the state.  
13 (d) The capacity of the environment is limited, and it is the  
14 intent of the Legislature that the government of the state take  
15 immediate steps to identify any critical thresholds for the health  
16 and safety of the people of the state and take all coordinated actions  
17 necessary to prevent ~~such~~ *those* thresholds *from* being reached.  
18 (e) Every citizen has a responsibility to contribute to the  
19 preservation and enhancement of the environment.  
20 (f) The interrelationship of policies and practices in the  
21 management of natural resources and waste disposal requires  
22 systematic and concerted efforts by public and private interests to  
23 enhance environmental quality and to control environmental  
24 pollution.  
25 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that all agencies of the state  
26 government ~~which that~~ regulate activities of private individuals,  
27 corporations, and public agencies ~~which that~~ are found to affect  
28 the quality of the environment, shall regulate ~~such~~ *those* activities  
29 so that major consideration is given to preventing environmental  
30 damage, while providing a decent home and satisfying living  
31 environment for every Californian.

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