

# CEQA

The California  
Environmental Quality Act



## WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)?

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a state law created in 1970 that requires state and local agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project, and to mitigate these impacts to the extent feasible.

## WHAT “PROJECTS” ARE SUBJECT TO CEQA?

CEQA applies to any discretionary activity proposed to be conducted or approved by a public agency that has the potential to cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. This includes, for example, applications for zoning changes, use permits, variances, minor subdivisions, and any other authorization that the County Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, or Board of Supervisors has the choice to approve, conditionally approve, or deny.

## WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE COUNTY’S DETERMINATION ON A CEQA MATTER?

You may file a written letter of appeal to the Director of Resource Management or a hearing body within 10 days of the decision issuance. The letter shall state reason(s) and include supporting information for the appeal. It shall be acted upon within 35 days.

## WHAT ARE THE FEES?

There is no fee for exempt projects. The preparation of an Initial Study, Negative Declaration, and Mitigation Monitoring Plans are subject to fees from the Northwestern Information Center (NWIC), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Solano County. Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) typically require hiring a private consultant. Please refer to the current [fee schedule](#) or contact the planning department for specific fee amounts.

## CATEGORIES THAT CAN BE EVALUATED IN CEQA REVIEW

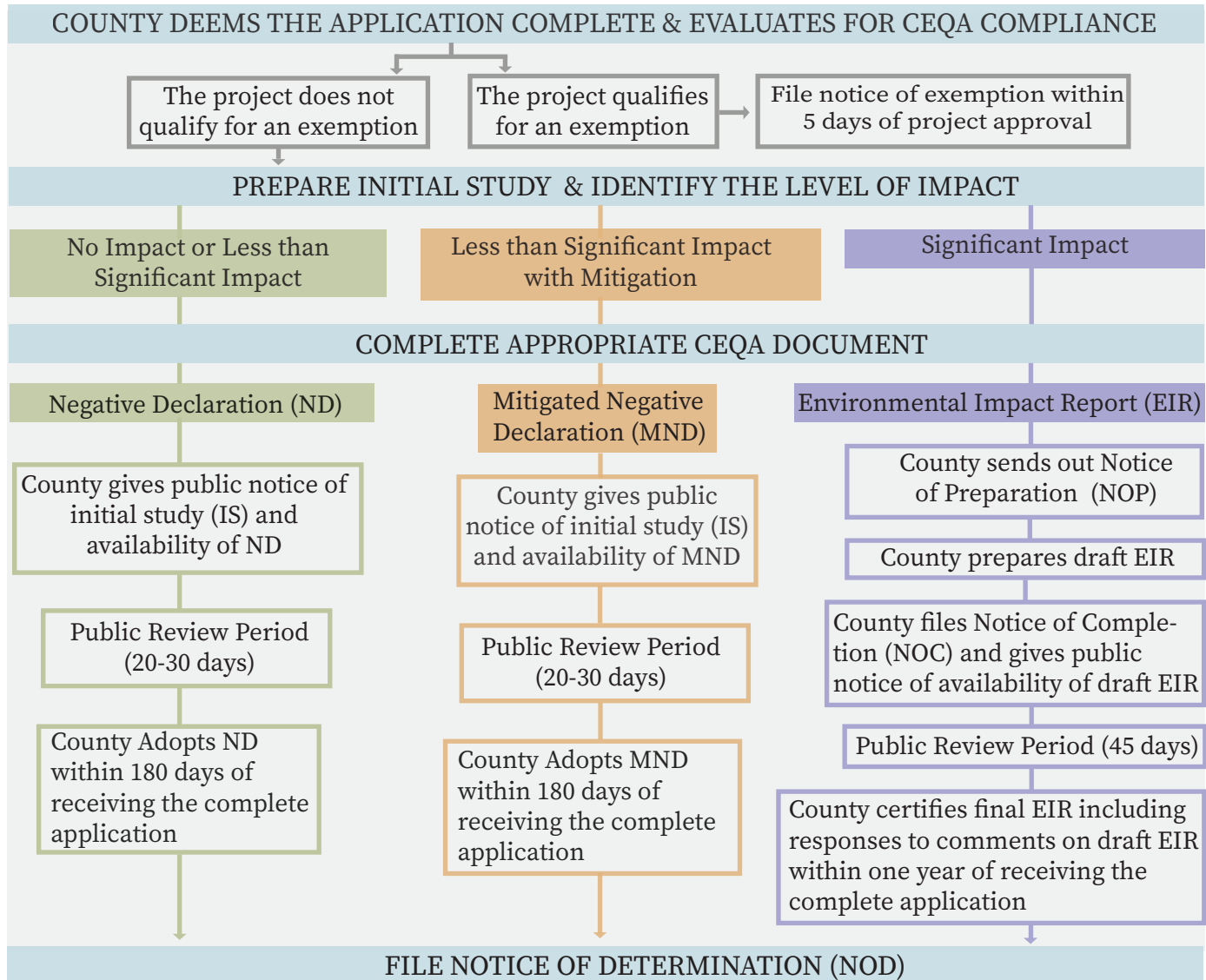
- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfires



SOLANO  
COUNTY

# THE CEQA PROCESS

\*Ministerial actions are not subject to CEQA



## DEFINITIONS

**EXEMPTION:** A project is exempt if it qualifies for one of the listed exemptions in Public Resources Code Section 21080. A project can qualify for a statutory or categorical exemption.

**MINISTERIAL PROJECT:** A project that requires little or no personal judgment by a public official, as there is an established fixed standard.

**LEAD AGENCY:** The public agency which has the primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project.

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCY:** Includes all public agencies other than the lead agency which have discretionary approval power over the project.

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION:** A brief sent by the lead agency to notify the public and other stakeholders that an EIR will be prepared for a project.

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION:** A brief filed by the lead agency within five days of project approval.

**INITIAL STUDY (IS):** A preliminary analysis prepared by the lead agency to determine the level of potential impact of the proposed activity and which environmental report applies to the project.

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ND):** Completed when it is found that the project will have no significant, or less than significant adverse impact on the environment.

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND):** Completed when the project can avoid potentially significant impacts to the environment through implementation of identified mitigation measures.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR):** An intensive environmental report prepared if the lead agency determines the project may have a significant impact on the environment that can not be mitigated.

**MITIGATION MONITORING & REPORTING PLAN (MMRP):** Is made to insure that the approved CEQA project is in full compliance with the adopted program.