



ASSOCIATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROFESSIONALS

Public Policy Program 2009-10 Goals, Principles and Priorities

[REVISED DRAFT, 06/19/08]

Legislative Goals:

- Encourage and promote legislative proposals that enhance, maintain, and protect the quality of natural and human environment; through smart environmental planning, analysis and assessment, and eliminate inefficiencies in the environmental planning, analysis and evaluation process.
- Broaden public awareness that the environmental review process is one part of an information continuum decision-makers rely on when deciding the future of land use, the environment, public health and safety, and the economic well-being of Californians. Other parts of this continuum include general and specific land use planning, zoning, community values and economic interests.
- Provide the expertise of environmental professionals on how to improve California's environmental protection laws and regulations.

Legislative Principles:

- Environmental impact assessment and mitigation is the heart of the environmental review process.
- Effective environmental planning, analysis and assessment are the product of an interdisciplinary planning process.
- A sustainable community is the product of a healthy economy and protection of the natural environment.
- Full disclosure of accurate and complete information in an open and public process is essential to fair and impartial decision-making concerning land use, natural resource management and environmental protection.
- Good science is essential to protecting the public interest in the built and natural environments we live in.

Primary Areas of Interest:

[Short summary statement to be inserted per subtitle below, supported by separate and more complete one-pagers.]

#1. CEQA

#2. Environmental Affairs

#3. Natural Resources Management and Conservation

#4. Biological Resource Conservation

#5 Global Warming and Climate Change

Let the professionals in the field provide you with the "ground truth" on how the system works.

Notes on “Primary Areas of Interest from 05/31/08 Meeting

- *Primary Areas of Interest include:*

#1: CEQA.

- A public disclosure process – nothing more, nothing less – keep it simple.
- Political imperative: preserve the integrity of the law;
- Objectivity, fairness, complete absence of bias, transparency, etc., measure the adequacy, efficacy of CEQA documents;
- CEQA, when applied as the law intends, is a part of the solution, not a part of the problem; etc.
- Purpose of CEQA (for AEP Legislative interests), include: procedures defined; public disclosure; lead to informed decisions; maintain integrity of CEQA process.
 - *Drafting Team: Ian Forest, Bruce Webb, Brian Holt (Lead)*

#2: Environmental Planning

- Incorporating environmental analysis, evaluation, assessment in land use, open space, and general plans;
- Includes cultural resources [*After thought: suggest moving “cultural resources to #3, below – a.l.”*];
- Includes transportation/traffic impacts [?]
- Scope of issues bounded by jurisdiction of Cal EPA boards, offices and departments (CARB, SWRCB, IWMB, OEHHA, DTSC).
 - *Drafting Team: Cheryl Degano (Lead), Robert Mansfield, Brian Holt, Terri Mc Cracken*

#3: Natural Resources Management and Conservation

- Sustainability of building materials {?}
- Water quality (regulatory control and enforcement of surface and ground water resources) [*After thought: suggest moving water quality to #2 above – a.l.*]
- Water supply (DWR responsibilities for conveyance, storage issues, and Reclamation Board responsibilities for flood protection)
- Agricultural lands
- Scope of issues defined generally by domain of departments, boards and commissions of the Resources Agency (i.e., DF&G,* CDFFP, DP&R, DWR, CCC, conservancies, DB&W, CEC, WCB, TRPA, and excluding WCB and state conservancies, and others?)
 - *Drafting team: Betty Dehoney (Lead), Kelli Morgantini, Roger Turner*

#4: Biological Resource Conservation

- Assessing and protecting environments of special status species, areas of special biological significance, and biological diversity.
- Scope of issues defined by CESA as well as domain of DF&G,* Wildlife Conservation Board, state conservancies.
- [Should the scope of issues also include Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act?]
 - *Drafting Team: Bruce Webb (Lead), Betty D., Kelli M.*

#5: Global warming and climate change

- Most important emerging issue of concern to AEP
- Regulatory issues defined primarily by CARB AB 32 implementation but also including CEC and numerous other governmental entities.
- Significance to AEP established in precedent set by A.G. settlement with County of San Bernardino.
- Mitigation measures for compliance
- How state agencies weigh in on local EIRs.
- Water supply, conveyance, storage.
- Drought impacts.
- Flood impacts.
- Coastal inundation.
- Estuary impacts.
- Seawater intrusion.
 - *Drafting Team: Ian F., (Lead), Robert M., Cheryl D.*



* Since DF&G activities seem to be divided between both #3, *Natural Resources Management* (e.g., fish and game species management) and #4, *Biological Resource Management* (CESA, habitat protection, etc.), I'm suggesting that the two drafting groups both think of DF&G as part o their domain.