Draft
Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
for
Draft Ag Order 4.0
Presented by Shanta Keeling
Topics

- Recap of Events
- CEQA background
- Impacts
- Alternatives
Recap of Events

- February 2018 – Initial Study published
- March 2018 – Held four CEQA scoping meetings
- April 2018 – Comment period closes

Picture credit: https://www.clipart.email/download/1046638.html
CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

- Passed in 1970
  - Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 – 21189.3
  - California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, sections 15000 – 15387

Picture credit: http://www.supercoloring.com/silhouettes/california-map
CEQA Background

CEQA objectives

- Develop and maintain a high-quality environment now and in the future.
- Take all action necessary to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance the environmental quality of the state.
- Identify ways to avoid, reduce, and prevent environmental damage by requiring mitigation measures and alternatives.
- Public disclosure and participation

(PrC 21000, 21001, 21002, 21003.1)
"Significant effect on the environment" means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including:

- Land
- Agricultural resources
- Air
- Water
- Minerals
- Flora
- Fauna
- Ambient noise
- Objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

**CEQA Background**

Picture credit: Water Board staff, Peter Osmolovsky’s presentation circa 2015
The only area we identified significant and unavoidable environmental impacts:

Agricultural Resources

A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.

B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.
Less than significant with mitigation:

- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Tribal Cultural Resources

Impacts
CEQA regulations require evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives:

- Analysis of a no project alternative is required.
- For other alternatives, the range of alternatives should:
  - Meet most of the Project objectives,
  - Be potentially feasible, and
  - Avoid, or reduce, one or more significant impact.
Alternatives evaluated:

- No project
- Agricultural organization alternative
- Environmental advocate alternative

The proposed project (Ag Order 4.0) was considered the environmentally superior alternative.
Thank You