

Ballot Initiative Resource Doc (BIRD)

Prop 45 Dismantle CEQA

[Ballotpedia Summary](#)

Brief description & BAA Support or Oppose position:

BAA should oppose. Prop 45 undermines the fundamental public health and environmental protections provided by CEQA, California's foundational environmental law. Prop 45 shifts control over project review from public agencies to developers, weakens the standards of judicial review, and gives developers the right to sue cities that deny environmentally harmful projects. Prop 45 applies to an expansive range of projects, including data centers and heavy industrial projects, making it nearly impossible for local communities to meaningfully oppose or improve these projects. In the face of federal environmental rollbacks, CEQA is a key backstop that local communities rely on for protection of the environment and their health and welfare. Prop 45 would be a sweeping rollback of CEQA's foundational protections that would harm communities, burden public agencies, and empower developers at the expense of the public interest.

2-Sentence description for 350 BAA website:

This measure guts the CEQA process by limiting the review to compliance with laws rather than potential impacts, severely reducing public comment periods, providing more control to developers, and allowing developers to sue if permits are denied. The proposition applies to an expansive range of projects, including data centers, industrial facilities, and housing.

Proposition Authors & Proponents:

- **Author:** California Chamber of Commerce
- **Key Proponents:** California Building Industry Association, Associated General Contractors of California, California Business Roundtable, Agricultural Council of California
- Major funders include investor-owned utilities like SoCal Edison and PG&E, and warehouse developers like Prologis

Opposition Groups or Key Individuals:

- Endorsed by [250+](#) environmental, climate, and political groups including Sierra Club California, Earthjustice, Center for Biological Diversity, Clean Air Coalition, and California Environmental Voters

Why this is important for the climate (refer to our BA-BAA [platform](#)): CEQA requires agencies to consider and mitigate projects' significant environmental impacts, including impacts on air quality, greenhouse gases, water quality, and public health. By severely limiting CEQA's critical environmental standards, Prop 45 would allow developers to emit toxic pollution into local communities and water supplies, and limit the ability of local communities to oppose harmful projects that threaten their health and welfare.

Our case for our position (short, in dot-point format): reference how it fits into our platform

- CEQA requires public agencies to limit projects' significant impacts on air quality, wildlife, public health, and other environmental impacts, to the extent feasible. Prop 45 overhauls CEQA, removing critical environmental standards and making it difficult for the public to weigh in on harmful new projects.
- CEQA is the only law that requires analysis of how pollution from a project actually affects nearby communities, and provides tools to limit impacts. CEQA is often the only legal tool environmental justice

communities have to oppose toxic projects and achieve material protections for water quality, air quality, and public health. For example, the low-income community of Arvin used CEQA to halt oil and gas drilling right in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

- Prop 45 would severely limit environmental review for data centers, CO2 and natural gas pipelines, landfill gas facilities, fossil fuel power plants, highway expansions, and industrial projects that emit toxic chemicals.
- Under Prop 45, agencies are no longer required to meaningfully consider less harmful project alternatives. Prop 45 also gives developers the right to sue agencies for project denial, which could pressure local officials into approving harmful projects without proper mitigation, in order to avoid expensive litigation.
- Especially in light of federal environmental rollbacks, we should be filling the gaps by strengthening our state environmental protections, not gutting them.

Key Links/Resource “Library”

- [CalMatters analysis](#)
- [People Over Polluters: No on Prop 45 website](#)
- [Yes on Prop 45 website](#)
- [Environmental coalition letter on Prop 45](#)
- CEQA scholar Eric Biber on [how Prop 45 may be used to facilitate data center construction](#)

Communications Support Ideas: How can the Comms Team help?

Building Blocks for Toolkits - Comms Team to Complete

Background (a succinct summary that captures the proposition's potential, why it's important, and the case for our position)

Any **Graphic elements**?

Insert graphics here

Actions we're asking our supporters to take (vote, garner support via email, social media, LTEs,...)

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Spread the Word on Social Media

Tweet #1

Example: Streets are for people too. Vote Yes on AB2097 to make room for affordable housing and people to walk and bike....

Tweet #2

Example: Eliminate parking requirements near transit to encourage cleaner air and healthier people. Vote Yes on AB2097 and help CA reduce emissions from transportation...

Facebook Post

Instagram

Ask Your Friends to Join In

Sample Email or FB Post to Friends

Write a Letter to the Editor