

# A Message to Governor Brown

**SB 226 will worsen traffic  
and air pollution across the  
state of California.  
It is not real CEQA reform.  
Please veto the bill, Governor.**

While many have been focused on bills in the legislature that would exempt a finite number of development projects (including the proposed downtown LA stadium) from some requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act, legislators quietly passed a separate bill that would do even more lasting damage across the state. Governor Brown, please veto SB 226.

The bill's "infill" provisions (proposed new California Public Resources Code Sections 21094.5 and 21094.5.5) are dangerous and destructive. Specifically, these provisions would:

- Enable cities and counties to use decades-old environmental impact reports as the basis of new zoning decisions, without updating the old EIRs
- Allow, if not require, cities and counties to ignore "growth-inducing impacts" when approving projects, including impacts on local fire service, streets, schools, parks and libraries
- Divorce land use and transportation planning in the interest of inducing development — even in areas where there is insufficient transportation infrastructure to support growth, or where planned transportation and mobility improvements have not yet come on line
- Apply to communities as small as 100,000 people

Said one environmental attorney last week: "The infill provisions in SB 226 are unacceptable from an environmental perspective ... It is a half-baked, poorly thought out proposal that lacks precision or clarity."

## **Governor Brown, please do not be misled by the "Gut CEQA Crowd."**

They would have you believe that CEQA can be used to stop by-right projects. Not true. Cities and counties that have done a good job keeping their General Plans up to date are well positioned to accommodate growth through current zoning. There is time for everyone to step back, take a deep breath, and reform CEQA the right way. Gutting CEQA by defining down environmental standards will push more middle-class people out of our state, and attract only companies that want to exploit the state and our people. So much for keeping California California.

SB 226 will worsen traffic and increase pollution, undermining AB 32, California's landmark greenhouse gas law, and SB 375, the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

LA Neighbors United would support constructive CEQA reform that includes a reasonable tiering system for environmental review, but tiering off of 30-year-old EIRs is nowhere near reasonable.

**Read the bill for yourself at [www.LAneighbors.org](http://www.LAneighbors.org), and  
call the Governor's Office (916-445-2841) to urge a veto of SB 226.**



Cary Brazeman  
Founder

**LA NEIGHBORS  
UNITED**  
For The Love of Our City *and Our State*