

**Approval (Section 15352(a))** The decision by a public agency which commits the agency to a definite course of action in regard to a project intended to be. Carried out by any person. The exact date of approval of any project is a matter determined by each public agency according to its rules, regulations, and ordinances. Legislative action in regard to a project often constitutes approval.

**CEQA (Section 15353)** The California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.

**Environment (Section 15360)** The physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance. The area involved shall be the area in which significant effects would occur either directly or indirectly as a result of the project. The “environment” includes both natural and man-made conditions.

**Environmental Impact Report or EIR (Section 15362)** A detailed statement prepared under CEQA describing and analyzing the significant environmental effects of a project and discussing ways to mitigate or avoid the effects. The contents of an EIR are discussed in Article 9, commencing with Section 15120 of the State CEQA Guidelines. The term “EIR” may mean either a draft or a final EIR depending on the context.

**Mitigation (Section 15370)** Mitigation includes:

- a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment.
- d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
- e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments, including through permanent protection of such resources in the form of conservation easements.

**Notice of Completion (Section 15372)** A brief notice filed with the Office of Planning and Research by a Lead Agency as soon as it has completed a draft EIR and is prepared to send out copies for review.

**Notice of Determination (Section 15373)** is a brief notice to be filed by a public agency after it approves or determines to carry out a project which is subject to the requirements of CEQA.

**Significant effect on the environment (Section 15382)** means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment.

Additional CEQA resources are available at <https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>.

The State CEQA Guidelines are available at [https://www.califaep.org/statute\\_and\\_guidelines.php](https://www.califaep.org/statute_and_guidelines.php).