



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **STATEWIDE COALITION NAMES ATTORNEY ANDREW GRUNDMAN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CALLS ON GOVERNOR/LEGISLATURE TO STOP EFFORTS TO DIMINISH CALIFORNIA’S KEY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug. 10, 2016 – Protect CEQA is proud to announce the appointment of attorney and non-profit veteran **Andrew Grundman** as executive director. The hire comes at a critical time in the organization’s efforts to protect California’s environment and the state’s most important environmental law – the California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA. Grundman will join Protect CEQA on August 15.

“I am honored at the opportunity to lead Protect CEQA during this critical time when politicians and mega-developers continue their efforts to eradicate CEQA,” Grundman said. “We hear time and time again that CEQA is impeding growth and progress in California, yet large scale development projects are happening in all of our major cities. San Francisco’s skyline has literally changed over the past decade and yet these developers want more and more. CEQA is not why projects fail; projects fail because they are not right for a community and not right for the environment. CEQA helps decision makers and the public understand the implications of a project.”

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Grundman, active with Protect CEQA since its inception in 2014, will be tasked with increasing the organization's profile, membership and coalition efforts that will better position the organization in major attacks against the environment and CEQA, such as Governor Brown's Trailer Bill 707 and State Senator Cathleen Galgiani's Senate Bill 734. "Brown's trailer bill or 'as of right' bill allows developers to circumvent CEQA altogether if they meet a certain affordable housing threshold. It's a classic smoke-and-mirrors, with the premise being the Governor is taking necessary steps to increase affordable housing in the state, when really it is opening the door for major developments to happen in communities with no environmental impact studies and no community input," stated Grundman. "We have many challenges facing and ahead of us to maintain a healthy balance of development with environmental stewardship and protections. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Over the past decade, Grundman has held many leadership positions. He served as Director and Officer for a variety of publicly-traded and private companies in addition to non-profit organizations. He holds the office of President for the Judicial Integrity Project, a 501(c)(4) non-profit, and Officer of Pacific Air Well, Inc., a new company providing water and water recycling solutions. He continues as a business consultant to mining operations and serves as Special Counsel to an alternative energy publicly-reporting company.

## **ABOUT PROTECT CEQA**

Since 2014, Protect CEQA is a statewide coalition of environmentalists, labor members, and concerned residents committed to protecting the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to promoting smart growth development.

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