

Why Clean Energy & Environmental Advocates **SUPPORT** the **Building an Affordable California Act**

Streamlines Approvals to Build Climate-Friendly Projects Faster & Make California More Affordable

The Problem

Lengthy Delays and Red Tape are Undermining California's Clean Energy Goals & Driving Up Costs for Everyone

California's outdated project approval system is too slow, too bureaucratic, and too costly—**imperiling the clean energy and environmental projects needed to meet the state's climate goals, increasing climate and wildfire risks, and driving up consumer costs.**

- X Clean Energy & Transit:** Permitting and approval delays for critical solar, wind, geothermal, transmission, storage, and clean transportation and electrification infrastructure interfere with California meeting its clean energy and emissions-reduction targets.
- X Environmental Restoration:** Multi-benefit restoration projects that protect native species, improve watershed health, and build climate resilience are stalled by years of procedural delays and litigation unrelated to environmental outcomes.
- X Wildfire Mitigation:** Forest health, fuel-reduction, and resilience projects that would prevent catastrophic wildfires and reduce emissions remain trapped in endless reviews and delays.

The Solution

The **Building an Affordable California Act** modernizes the state's outdated approval process to **build essential projects faster and more affordably—without weakening environmental protections.**

The Act will:

- ✓ Streamline reviews and eliminate costly delays.
- ✓ Curb frivolous lawsuits that block essential projects.
- ✓ Create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs.
- ✓ Maintain community input and local control.
- ✓ Protect California's strong environmental, worker and tribal cultural resources protection standards—without exemptions or rollbacks.

Streamlines approvals for essential projects, including:

-  Clean energy generation, transmission, storage and electrification infrastructure.
-  Clean drinking water and watershed restoration projects.
-  Wildfire prevention and resilience projects.
-  Public transit, bike lanes, and active transportation infrastructure.
-  Hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities.
-  Housing, including single and multi-family housing.
-  Schools, classrooms and educational facilities.
-  Broadband and telecommunications infrastructure.

How the Act Lowers Costs and Delivers the Projects Californians Need Most



Streamlined Approvals—More Predictability & Accountability

- **Reasonable, Enforceable Timelines:** Agencies must approve or deny project applications within **365 days**. If the deadline is missed, applicants may request a **public hearing or workshop** where a final decision must be made within 60 days.
- **Objective Standards:** Agencies must base their review on clear, written rules—like local ordinances, environmental laws or zoning standards—that were in place when the application was submitted.
- **Public Comment:** Establishes a **firm 45-day public comment period** with written responses to all timely comments—ensuring public participation and accountability.
- **Streamlined Alternatives:** Narrows the “alternatives” requirement to two: one feasible alternative project design that reduces environmental impacts, and one describing a “no project” scenario.



Fairer Reviews—Faster, Evidence-Based Process

- **Judicial Shot Clock:** Courts must fully resolve legal challenges within 270 days.
- **Fix What’s Broken:** If one part of an environmental review document is rejected, only that section must be fixed—allowing the rest of the project to move forward on schedule.
- **Objective Standards:** Courts may only overturn project approvals if agencies ignore clear, written rules—like zoning or environmental standards—that were in place when the application was submitted.
- **Evidence-Based Review:** Courts must uphold a project’s approval if the agency’s decision was supported by substantial evidence.

The Act does NOT exempt any project from environmental review or mitigation requirements.

Every year of delay means higher emissions, higher costs, and greater climate risk for Californians. It’s time to cut red tape, protect our ecosystems, and accelerate clean energy and climate resilience projects.

Vote YES on the Building an Affordable California Act

BuildAffordableCA.com

Ad paid for by Committee to Build an Affordable California, Sponsored by the California Chamber of Commerce. Ad Committee's Top Funders:

Building a Better California
Edison International & Affiliated Entities
California Building Industry Association
Funding Details at www.fppc.ca.gov