

PREPARING, REVIEWING, CHALLENGING, AND
DEFENDING DOCUMENTS PREPARED UNDER
NEPA AND CEQA

NEPA / CEQA



The Northwest Environmental Training Center presents:

NEPA / CEQA Workshop

Preparing, Reviewing, Challenging, and Defending Documents Prepared Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Course ID: CAPOL-304 (2 days)
July 15-16, 2008, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Courtyard Marriott - Old Pasadena
180 North Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, California

Instructors: Richard Grassetti, Principal GECO & Owen Schmidt, BA, MA, JD

Description: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is perhaps the best-known of our Nation's environmental laws. It applies whenever federal agencies propose to take action or when they propose to fund or approve the actions of others, if environmental impacts are likely to result. NEPA opened federal agency planning and decision-making to the public, and promotes decisions with better environmental values. The procedures and documents required by NEPA may at times form the only administrative record of federal decision-making.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) parallels NEPA for State and local agency actions. It is a system of environmental review that requires agencies considering project approval to also analyze and take action to protect California's environment. It applies to any project requiring State or local agency action that may have a significant effect on the environment, whether on State, local agency, or private lands.

The success or failure of many actions will depend on compliance with NEPA and CEQA. Using models and case studies and a sample NEPA/CEQA document, this workshop will help you understand the procedural requirements of the NEPA/CEQA process, including how to determine when these processes apply, deciding which document to prepare, determining the scope and content of NEPA/CEQA documents, preparing an adequate cumulative impacts analysis, and integration of this process with other laws.

Course Topics:

Exemptions and exclusions

All the reasons why an agency would not prepare any NEPA or CEQA document, or follow any NEPA or CEQA process.

Considerations in preparing adequate EAs and EISs

Eight plain-language questions any EA or EIS should readily answer.

Finding of No Significant Impact / Negative Declaration

How to make any "finding" required by law, specifically the Finding of No Significant Impact and/or Negative Declaration

Common problems and solutions in preparing adequate EIS's / EIR's

- Setting / Existing Conditions - the baseline or affected environment
- Impacts / Effects - environmental consequences and the methods of deriving them
- Mitigation Measures - mitigation incorporated into the alternatives, and mitigation as an alternative

Timing the NEPA / CEQA process to the decision making process

Understanding the essential markers of agency decision making, and matching them to the essential phases of the NEPA / CEQA process

Alternatives

Alternative places to go, alternative ways to get there

Cumulative Impacts

A model for conducting the "perfect" cumulative impacts analysis - everything necessary, and not one thing more

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting

After decisions are made and actions are taken

Administrative record

What is required for support for the decisions that are made, and findings that are made.

After completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Determine whether a NEPA / CEQA process is necessary
- Determine which process to following: Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact / Negative Declaration (or Mitigated Negative Declaration), or Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report
- Study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives
- Complete an adequate cumulative impacts assessment
- Prepare an Administrative Record to support agency decisions

About the Instructors: **Richard Grasseti** is an environmental planner with over 23 years experience in environmental impact analysis and regulatory compliance. He is a recognized expert in the CEQA process, and has served as an expert witness on CEQA and planning issues in California. Through his firm, Grasseti Environmental Consulting (GECco), he manages the preparation of CEQA and NEPA documents, as well as the numerous local agency planning and permitting documents. In addition to his consulting practice, Mr. Grasseti serves as adjunct faculty in environmental studies at California State University, East Bay. He has presented numerous papers on environmental impact assessment at statewide and international conferences.

Owen L. Schmidt, BA, MA, JD, has more than 32 years of service with the Federal Government. He has served as Senior Counsel with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel in Portland, Oregon, where he advised the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other USDA agencies in Washington and Oregon. He was also a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Oregon. Before joining USDA in 1991, he was an attorney for the Bonneville Power Administration, where he joined the legal staff after several years as an Environmental Specialist. Mr. Schmidt received his J.D. from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College (1977), and a B.A. (1969) and M.A. (1973) in biology from St. Cloud State University, Minnesota. Mr. Schmidt is a frequent author and lecturer on the National Environmental Policy Act. He served as a Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association's Book Publication Committee for the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources and as a Vice President for the Ninth Circuit, The Federal Bar Association. He was the Editor of Oregon Birds, a quarterly journal of Oregon Field Ornithologists, for 14 years (1985-99), and is a long-time member of the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

Intended Audience: Whether you work for an agency of the Federal Government or the State of California, seek a permit, grant, or approval from one of these agencies, or are otherwise interested in government decision making, you need to know about NEPA and CEQA. This workshop is designed to serve both as a comprehensive introduction for those new to these statutes and an update for more experienced professionals. The workshop is beneficial to agency staff and decision makers, attorneys, consultants, and members of environmental organizations, as well as interested citizens. Updates on recent cases will be valuable to any practitioner. Even those who have worked with NEPA and CEQA their entire careers will stand to learn more about the secrets to successful compliance.

Prerequisites: None.

Education Level: Applicable to all levels.

Course Materials: Participants will receive course proceedings prepared by Owen Schmidt and Richard Grasseti, tutorials, reference materials, and a copy of *Understanding Environmental Impact Assessment - A Layperson's Guide to Environmental Impact Documents and Processes*, a 147 page reference book by Richard Grasseti, 2003.

Continuing Education Units: 1.3

What to Bring: Pen or pencil, coffee mug, and a water bottle (to reduce waste). Please wear comfortable clothes appropriate for the prevailing weather. Lunch will be on your own. There are numerous restaurants within walking distance. Drinks and snacks will be provided each day.

Registration: **\$495** (***\$395** reduced tuition is available for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members). You may register via the link below or by calling the Northwest Environmental Training Center at 206-762-1976.

Cancellation Policy: Registration fees are fully refundable up to 30 days prior to the event and 50 percent refundable (or 100% credit) thereafter up to the day prior to the event. Registration may occur up to the day prior to the event provided that space is available.

Northwest Environmental Training Center

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) program of the Northwest Environmental Education Council
650 S. Orcas Street, Suite 220, Seattle, Washington 98108
Phone: (206)762-1976, Fax: (206)762-1979

www.nwetc.org



Pasadena, CA | ACCOMMODATIONS near the Courtyard Marriott - Old Pasadena

Courtyard Marriott - Old Pasadena

(Workshop Location)

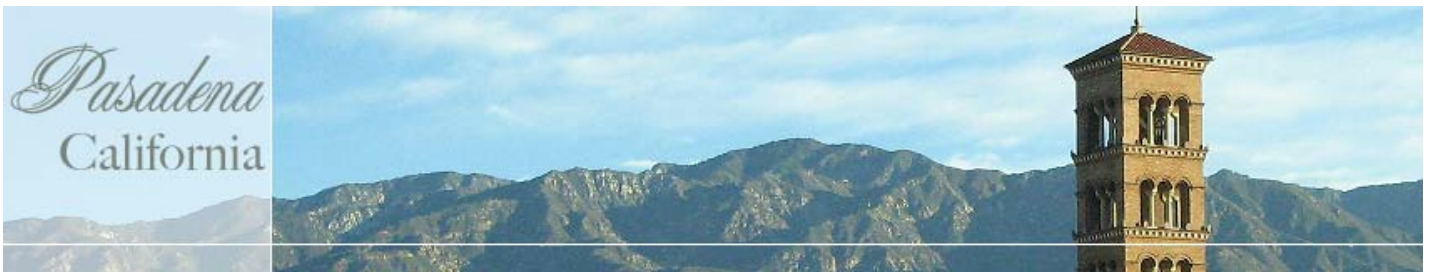
180 North Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, California 91103
(626) 403-7600

www.marriott.com/laxot

<p>Pasadena Inn 400 South Arroyo Parkway Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.pasadenainn.net</p>	(626) 795-8401	<p>Vagabond Inn Pasadena West 1203 East Colorado Boulevard Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.vagabondinn.com</p>	(626) 449-3170
<p>Westin Pasadena 191 North Los Robles Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.westin.com</p>	(626) 792-2727	<p>Travelodge Pasadena Central 2131 East Colorado Boulevard Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.travelodge.com</p>	(626) 796-3121
<p>Sheraton Pasadena Hotel 303 East Cordova Street Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.sheraton.com</p>	(626) 449-4000	<p>Best Western Colorado Inn 2156 East Colorado Boulevard Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.bestwestern.com</p>	(626) 793-9339
<p>Hilton Pasadena 168 South Los Robles Avenue Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.hilton.com</p>	(626) 577-1000	<p>Comfort Inn Pasadena 2462 East Colorado Boulevard Pasadena, CA</p> <p>www.comfortinn.com</p>	(626) 405-0811

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Directions to:

Courtyard Marriott - Old Pasadena

180 North Fair Oaks Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103
(626) 403-7600
www.marriott.com/laxot

Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System: www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/trans/transit/trans_arts.asp

FROM BURBANK AIRPORT

1. Start out going EAST on W EMPIRE AVE toward N AVON ST.
2. Turn LEFT onto N LINCOLN ST.
3. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto N SAN FERNANDO BLVD.
4. Merge onto I-5 S toward LOS ANGELES.
5. Merge onto CA-134 E toward GLENDALE / PASADENA.
6. Take the exit toward FAIR OAKS AVE / MARENGO AVE.
7. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto CORSON ST.
8. Turn RIGHT onto N FAIR OAKS AVE.

FROM LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (LAX)

1. Start out going EAST on WORLD WAY / CENTER WAY.
2. Merge onto S SEPULVEDA BLVD / CA-1 S toward I-105.
3. Take the IMPERIAL HWY WEST / I-105 E ramp toward IMPERIAL TERMINAL
4. Merge onto I-105 E toward NORWALK.
5. Merge onto I-110 N toward LOS ANGELES.
6. I-110 N becomes CA-110 N.
7. Turn LEFT onto E COLORADO BLVD.
8. Turn RIGHT onto N FAIR OAKS AVE.

FROM POINTS WEST (via Hwy 101 S)

1. From Hwy 101 S, keep LEFT to take CA-134 E toward BURBANK / GLENDALE.
2. Take the exit toward FAIR OAKS AVE / MARENGO AVE.
3. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto CORSON ST.
4. Turn RIGHT onto N FAIR OAKS AVE.

FROM POINTS EAST (via CA-210 W)

1. CA-210 W becomes I-210 W.
2. Take the FAIR OAKS AVE SOUTH exit - EXIT 25A
3. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto E MAPLE ST.
4. Turn LEFT onto N FAIR OAKS AVE.

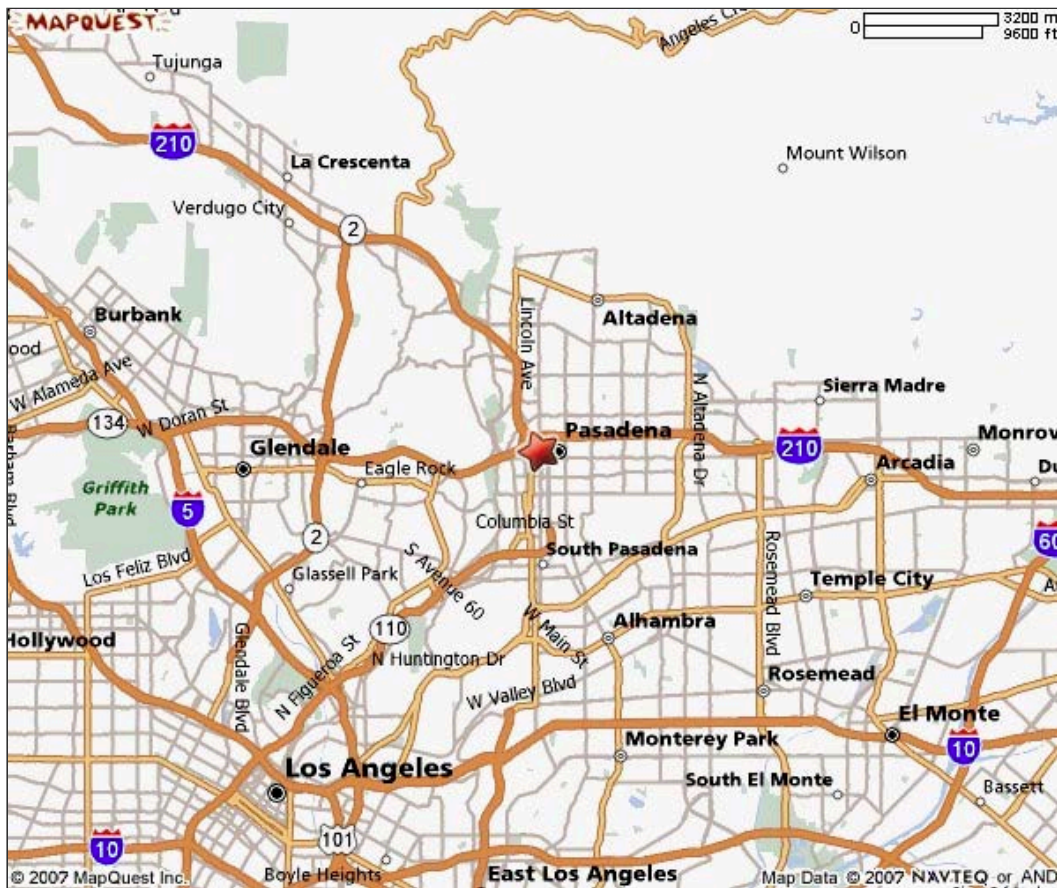
FROM POINTS NORTH (via I-210 E)

1. Take the exit on the LEFT toward CA-7 S / DEL MAR BL / CALIFORNIA BL / COLORADO BLVD / PASADENA
2. Take the ramp toward COLORADO BLVD / PASADENA.
3. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto W MAPLE ST.
4. Turn LEFT onto W WALNUT ST.
5. Turn RIGHT onto N FAIR OAKS AVE.

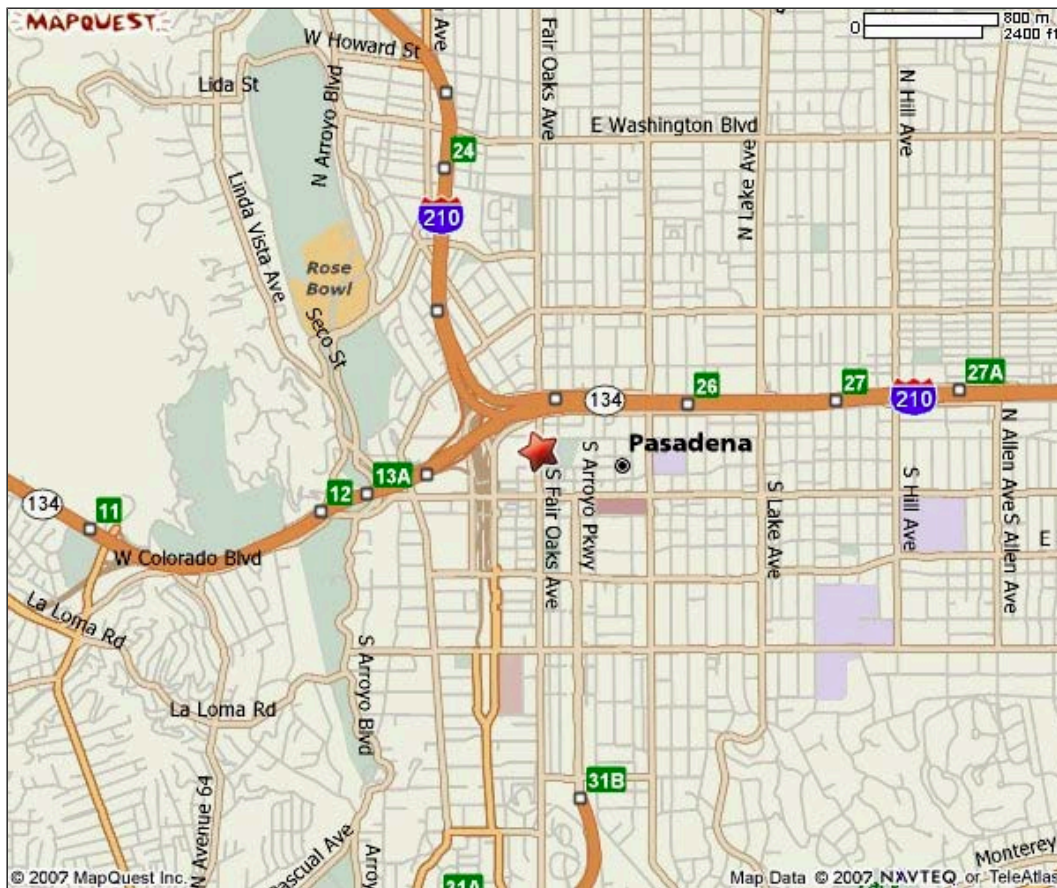
FROM POINTS SOUTH (via I-5 N)

1. Merge onto CA-57 N via EXIT 107A toward POMONA.
2. CA-57 N becomes CA-60 E.
3. Keep RIGHT to take CA-57N.
4. Merge onto I-210 W via the exit on the LEFT toward PASADENA.
5. Take the FAIR OAKS AVE SOUTH exit - EXIT 25A.
6. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto E MAPLE ST.
7. Turn LEFT onto N FAIR OAKS AVE.

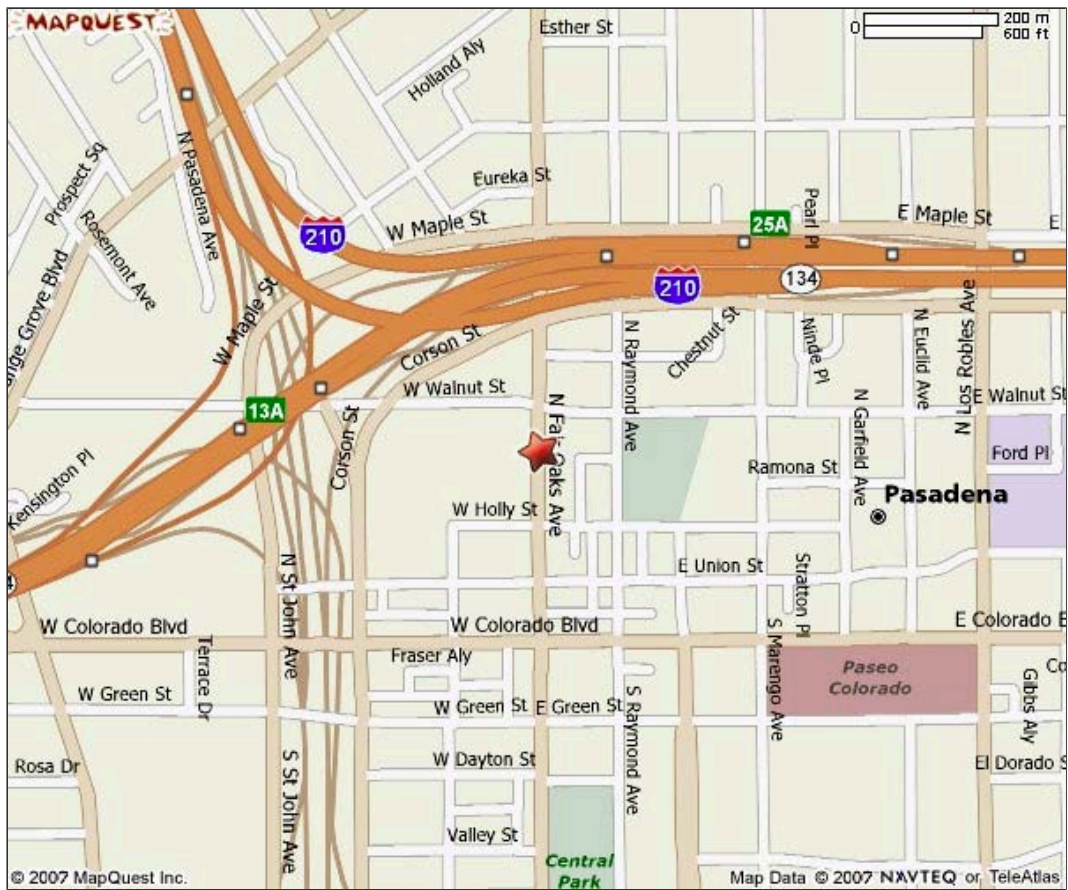
REGIONAL MAP:



CITY MAP:



STREET MAP:



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