

Community Impact Statement on CEQA appeal hearings (Council File Number: 08-3074)

Regarding City Attorney Report No. R08-0423 dated Nov. 10, 2008, the proposed ordinance should provide 30 calendar days to file an appeal after notice of the Environmental Determination or 180 days in the absence of any such notice, anyone should be able to appeal under CEQA, an appeal should not be limited to grounds raised before the non-elected decision-making body,

Additional information: City Council should provide at least 21 days notice before holding a CEQA appeal hearing, issue a staff report prior to the hearing, and provide the appellant with a reasonable amount of time during the hearing to present his/her grounds for appeal, there should be no appeal filing fee, and the ordinance should make clear that a decision is not final until all appeals have been withdrawn or decided by the City Council