

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4011
Fax (916) 323-4529

E-MAIL
Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

WEBSITE
<http://www.sen.ca.gov/simitian>

California State Senate



SENATOR
S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
ELEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
160 Town & Country Village
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 688-6384
Fax (650) 688-6370

SATELLITE OFFICE
701 Ocean Street, Room 318A
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 425-0401
Fax (831) 425-5124

Fact Sheet **Senate Bill 226 (Simitian)** **California Environmental Quality Act**

Summary:

SB 226 revises the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by:

Allowing public agencies to comment on planning and zoning matters, as required under Planning and Zoning Law, concurrently with project scoping meetings under CEQA. (Public Resources Code §21083.9).

Prohibiting a project's greenhouse gas emissions from causing a categorical exemption to be inapplicable if the project complies with regulations adopted to implement related statewide, regional, or local plans as provided in the CEQA guidelines. (§21084).

Exempting the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of a building or at an existing parking lot, if certain conditions are met. (§21080.35).

Adding streamlined CEQA procedure for certain infill and walkable communities. (§21094.5 and 21094.5 and 21094.5.5).

Authorizing the owner of a proposed solar thermal powerplant certified by the California Energy Commission to petition the Commission to review an amendment to the facility's certificate to convert the facility from solar thermal technology to photovoltaic technology without the need to file an entirely new application. Certain related time limits must be met, and the Commission must prepare a supplemental environmental review document. (§25500.1).

Need for the bill:

SB 226 responds to concerns relating to scoping meetings for certain projects, use of categorical exemptions for projects resulting in greenhouse gas emissions, and environmental review procedures for infill and solar projects.

Staff Contact: Randy Pestor (916) 651-4108

Date: 9/12/11