



The Northwest Environmental Training Center presents:

## Introduction to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Course ID: CAPOL-301 ( 2 days )  
 March 25-26, 2009, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
 Courtyard Marriott - Old Pasadena  
 180 North Fair Oaks Avenue  
 Pasadena, California

**Instructor:** Richard Grasseti, Principal GECO

**Description:** This workshop provides an applied overview of the California Environmental Quality Act with an emphasis on the process and technical requirements for environmental impact assessment. Starting with a brief background of environmental impact assessment in the U.S. and a review of CEQA's regulatory context, the course will discuss the various approaches used in scoping and preparing environmental impact assessments under CEQA. The documents required under CEQA will be examined and the roles of key players explored. Emphasis will also be placed on determining the adequacy of CEQA documents in terms of environmental settings, impact assessment, mitigation development, significance thresholds, and data sources. The documents and process for projects regulated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will also be briefly explained and discussed.

### Course Topics:

<p><b>Review of CEQA Basics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of CEQA</li> <li>• Walk-through of CEQA process</li> <li>• How/when NEPA fits in</li> </ul> <p><b>CEQA Documents</b> - hands-on examination and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial study and environmental assessment</li> <li>• Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, and Findings of No Significant Impact</li> <li>• Draft Environmental Impact Reports</li> <li>• Final Environmental Impact Reports</li> <li>• The CEQA findings</li> <li>• Relevant NEPA documents</li> </ul> <p><b>Overview of the Analytical Process for Environmental Impact Assessment</b></p> <p>Identifying: setting, impacts, mitigations, alternatives</p> <p><b>California Land Use Regulations and Other Common Permits</b> - and their relationship to CEQA (and NEPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General plan</li> <li>• Zoning</li> <li>• Other entitlements</li> </ul>	<p><b>CEQA's Environmental Impact Assessment Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying the project under CEQA</li> <li>• Scoping</li> <li>• Determining significance</li> <li>• Screening</li> <li>• Public review of the draft EIR</li> <li>• Preparation of the final EIR</li> <li>• EIR certification, findings, and project approval under CEQA</li> <li>• Post-decision monitoring</li> <li>• CEQA time limits</li> <li>• Summary of major differences between CEQA &amp; NEPA processes</li> <li>• Citizens' remedies</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Players and their Roles in the CEQA Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public agencies</li> <li>• Environmental consultants and other experts</li> <li>• Political players</li> <li>• The public</li> <li>• Interacting with the players</li> <li>• Successful project management strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Critical Review of CEQA Documents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing documents for content and regulatory</li> </ul>
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## Common Environmental Impact Review Deficiencies

- compliance
- Identifying deficiencies in environmental impact documents
- Lessons learned from CEQA case law

### After completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand and participate in CEQA evaluations
- Integrate CEQA environmental review into project approval processes
- Explain the environmental impact assessment requirements of CEQA
- Effectively review and comment on CEQA documents
- Identify and work with the various players in resolving CEQA issues

**About the Instructor:** Richard Grassetto 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, Grassetto Environmental Consulting (GEC), 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. Grassetto 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.

**Intended Audience:** This course is designed for professionals seeking a greater understanding of CEQA to achieve publicly acceptable and legally defensible results. Environmental professionals, planners, engineers, consultants, public officials, decision-makers, and others faced with the task of understanding and interpreting the adequacy of environmental impact reports and studies required under CEQA will benefit. Members of citizen's organizations who want to develop technical skills in the review of CEQA documents and gain an in-depth understanding of the CEQA process will also benefit from this workshop.

**Prerequisites:** Some experience working with CEQA documents or public process will be helpful, but is not required.

**Education Level:** Introductory/Review

**Course Materials:** Participants will receive course proceedings, 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 Grassetto, 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 3 business days prior to the event. No refunds are issued for cancellations occurring less than 3 business days before the start day. Course registration fees and cancellation policy are subject to change without notice.

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### 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](http://www.nwetc.org)



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

**Courtyard Marriott - Old Pasadena**

*(Workshop Location)*

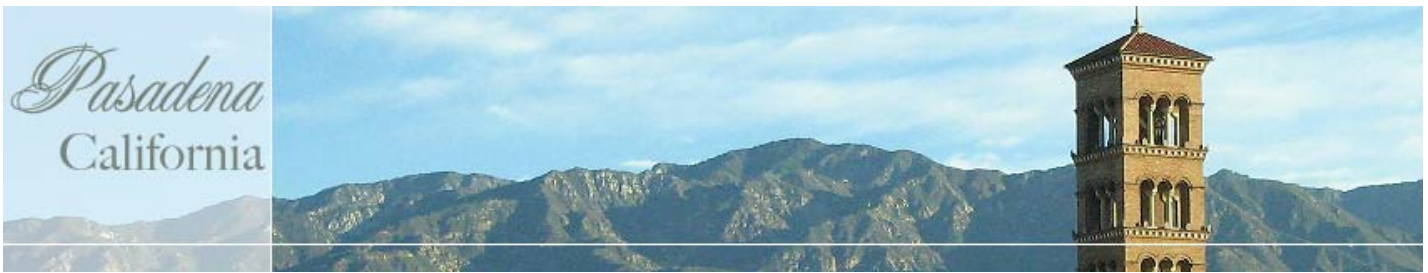
180 North Fair Oaks Avenue  
Pasadena, California 91103  
(626) 403-7600

[www.marriott.com/laxot](http://www.marriott.com/laxot)

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

**Pasadena Area Rapid Transit System:** [www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/trans/transit/trans\\_arts.asp](http://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.

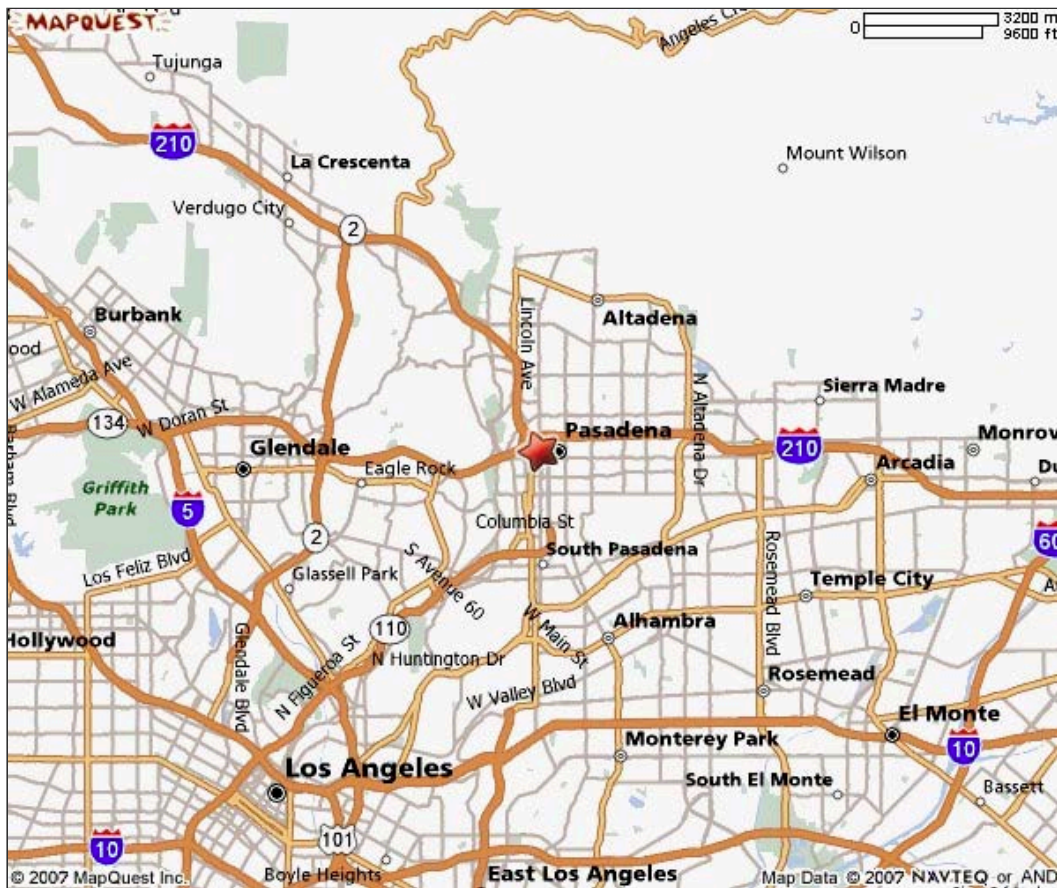
**FROM POINTS NORTH (via I-210 E)**

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.

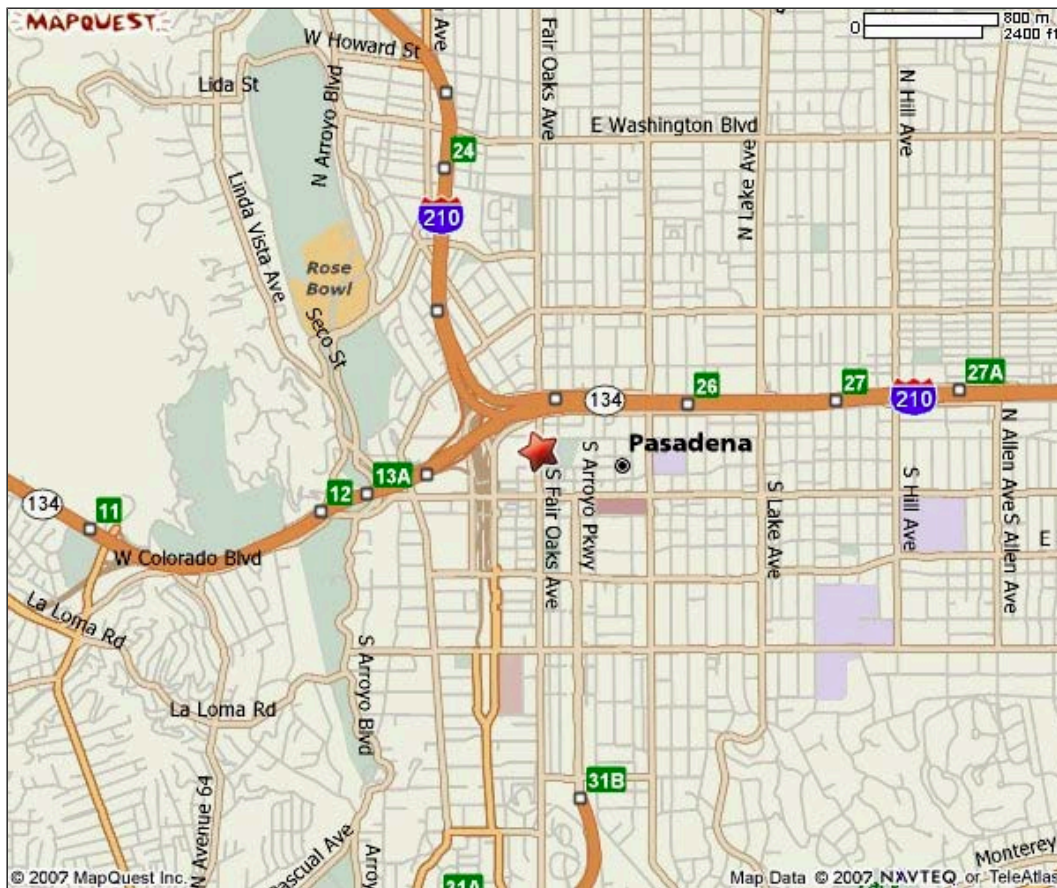
**FROM POINTS SOUTH (via I-5 N)**

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.

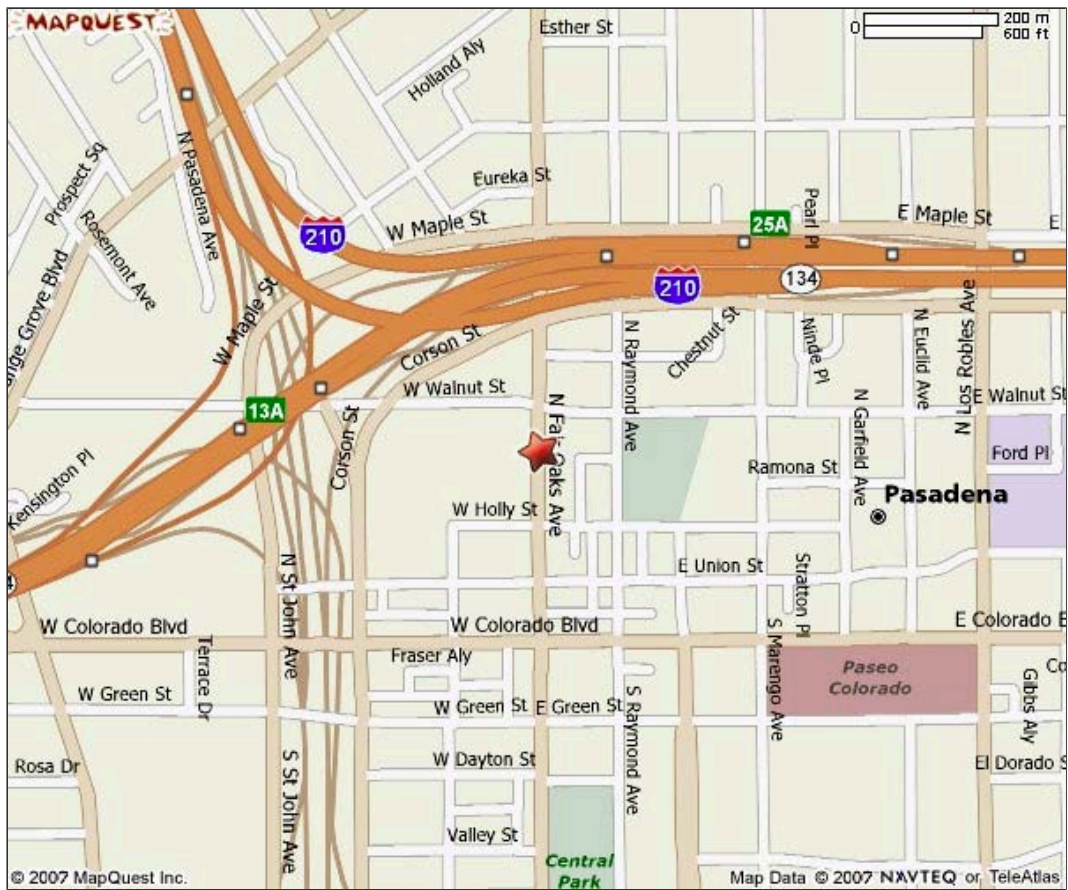
REGIONAL MAP:



CITY MAP:



**STREET MAP:**



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## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (cont'd): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Reduced rates for Native American Tribes; nonprofits; government; students; and NEBC and NAEP members.

Payment Method: Check  PO  Credit Card ( Visa  MasterCard) Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card or PO #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** Please make checks payable to Northwest Environmental Training Center.

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