



The Northwest Environmental Training Center presents:

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

Course ID: CAPOL-301 ( 2 days )  
 October 21-22, 2009, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
 The Washington Inn  
 495 10th Street  
 Oakland, CA 94607

**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:

#### Review of CEQA Basics

- History of CEQA
- Walk-through of CEQA process
- How/when NEPA fits in

#### CEQA Documents - hands-on examination and discussion

- Initial study and environmental assessment
- Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, and Findings of No Significant Impact
- Draft Environmental Impact Reports
- Final Environmental Impact Reports
- The CEQA findings
- Relevant NEPA documents

#### Overview of the Analytical Process for Environmental Impact Assessment

Identifying: setting, impacts, mitigations, alternatives

#### California Land Use Regulations and Other Common Permits - and their relationship to CEQA (and NEPA)

- General plan
- Zoning
- Other entitlements

#### Common Environmental Impact Review Deficiencies

#### CEQA's Environmental Impact Assessment Process

- Identifying the project under CEQA
- Scoping
- Determining significance
- Screening
- Public review of the draft EIR
- Preparation of the final EIR
- EIR certification, findings, and project approval under CEQA
- Post-decision monitoring
- CEQA time limits
- Summary of major differences between CEQA & NEPA processes
- Citizens' remedies

#### Key Players and their Roles in the CEQA Process

- Public agencies
- Environmental consultants and other experts
- Political players
- The public
- Interacting with the players
- Successful project management strategies

#### Critical Review of CEQA Documents

- Reviewing documents for content and regulatory compliance
- Identifying deficiencies in environmental impact

**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 (GECO), 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 the day prior to the event. Registration may occur up to the day prior to the event provided that space is available.

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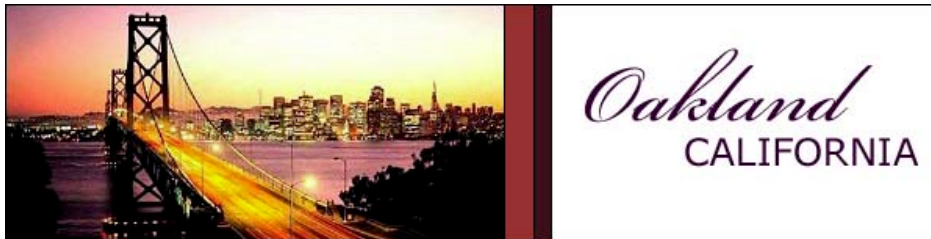
**Northwest Environmental Training Center**

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)



**Directions to:**

**The Washington Inn**

495 10th Street  
Oakland, California 94607  
(510) 452-1776  
www.thewashingtoninn.com

**Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART):** <http://www.bart.gov>

**FROM OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (OAK)**

Head southeast toward Airport Dr.  
Turn left at Airport Dr.  
Slight right to stay on Airport Dr (signs for Doolittle Dr/CA-61/Rentyl Car Center)  
Turn left at Doolittle Dr.  
Turn right at Hegenberger Rd  
Merge onto I880 N via ramp to Downtown Oakland  
Take Broadway exit toward Downtown  
Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Alameda and merge onto Broadway  
Turn left at 10th Street

**FROM SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT (SFO)**

Head East  
Slight left (signs for all freeways)  
Merge onto US-101 N via the ramp to San Francisco  
Slight right at I-80 E  
Take exit onto I-580 E toward Downtown Oakland/Hayward-Stockton/CA-24  
Take the I980 W exit toward Downtown Oakland  
Keep right at the fork, follow signs for W Grand Ave/27th Street  
Slight left at Northgate Ave.  
Turn left at West Grand Ave.  
Turn right at Telegraph Ave.  
Slight right at Broadway  
Turn right at 10th St.

**FROM POINTS WEST (via I-80 W)**

Merge onto I-80 W  
Continue on I-580 E (signs for San Jose/I-580/Downtown Oakland)  
Take I-980 W exit toward Downtown Oakland  
Keep right at the fork, follow signs for W Grand Ave/27th St  
Slight left at Northgate Ave.  
Turn left at West Grand Ave.  
Turn right at Telegraph Ave.  
Slight right at Broadway  
Turn right at 10th St.

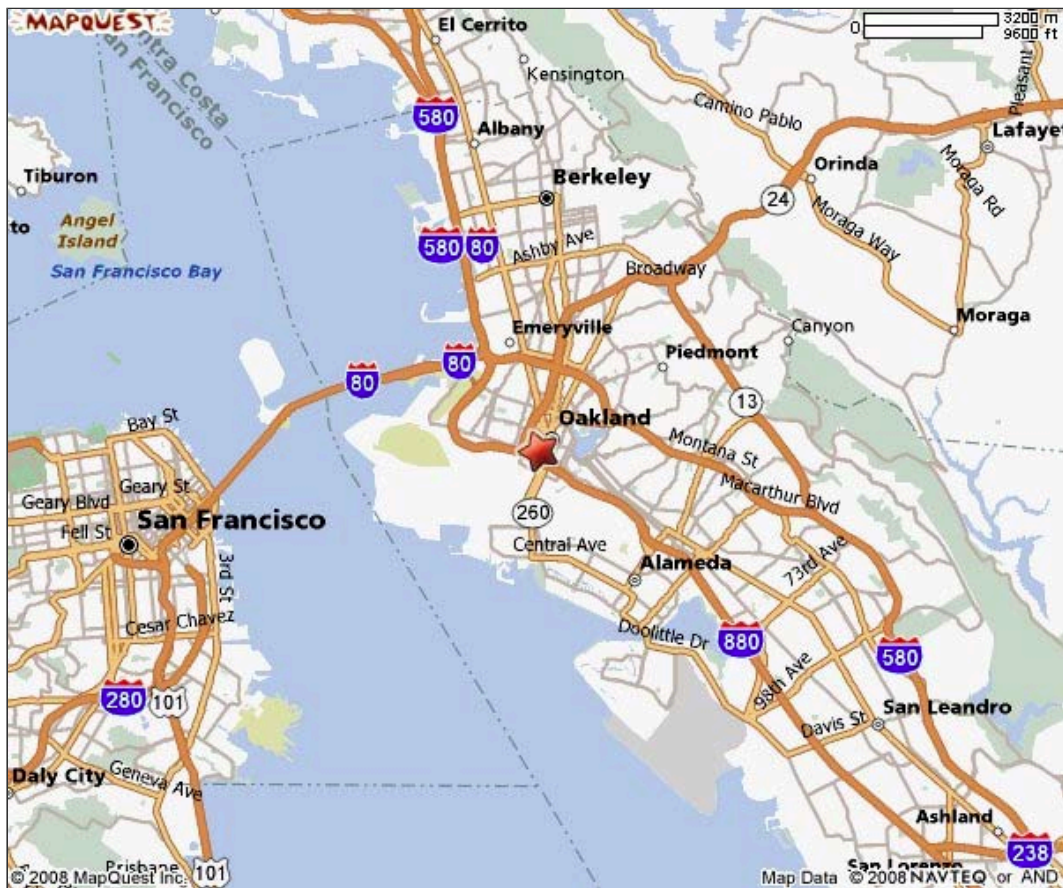
**FROM POINTS NORTH (via US-101 S)**

Merge onto US-101 S via the ramp to San Francisco  
Take exit onto I580 E toward Oakland/Richmond Bridge  
Take the I-980 W exit toward Downtown Oakland  
Keep right at the fork, follow signs for W Grand Ave./27th Street  
Slight left at Northgate Ave.  
Turn left at West Grand Ave.  
Turn right at Telegraph Ave.  
Slight right at Broadway  
Turn right at 10th St.

**FROM POINTS SOUTH (via Santa Cruz)**

Merge onto CA-17 N toward Oakland/San Jose  
Continue on I-880 N  
Take Broadway exit toward Downtown  
Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Alameda and merge onto Broadway  
Turn left at 10th Street

REGIONAL MAP:



CITY MAP:



**STREET MAP:**



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**Oakland, CA | ACCOMMODATIONS near the Washington Inn**

**Washington Inn**

(Workshop Location)  
 495 10th Street  
 Oakland, CA 94607  
 (510) 452-1776  
[www.thewashingtoninn.com](http://www.thewashingtoninn.com)

<p><b>Oakland Marriott City Center</b>            1001 Broadway            Oakland, California 94607</p> <p><a href="http://www.marriott.com/oakdt">www.marriott.com/oakdt</a></p>	510-451-4000	<p><b>Washington Inn</b>            495 10th Street            Oakland, CA 94607</p> <p><a href="http://www.thewashingtoninn.com">www.thewashingtoninn.com</a></p>	(510) 452-1776
<p><b>Jack London Inn</b>            444 Embarcadero West            Oakland, CA 94607</p> <p><a href="http://www.jacklondoninn.com">www.jacklondoninn.com</a></p>	800-549-8780	<p><b>Waterfront Plaza</b>            10 Washington Street            Oakland, California 94607</p> <p><a href="http://www.jdvhotels.com">www.jdvhotels.com</a></p>	(510) 836-3800
<p><b>Claremont Resort &amp; Spa</b>            41 Tunnel Road            Berkeley, CA 94705</p> <p><a href="http://www.claremontresort.com">www.claremontresort.com</a></p>	800-551-7266	<p><b>Executive Inn &amp; Suites</b>            1775 Embarcadero            Oakland, CA 94606</p> <p><a href="http://www.executiveinnoakland.com">www.executiveinnoakland.com</a></p>	(800) 346-6331
<p><b>Rose Garden Inn</b>            2740 Telegraph Ave.            Berkeley, CA 94705</p> <p><a href="http://www.rosegardeninn.com">www.rosegardeninn.com</a></p>	(510) 549-2145	<p><b>Four Points by Sheraton San Francisco Bay Bridge</b>            1603 Powell Street            Emeryville, CA 94608</p> <p><a href="http://www.starwoodhotels.com">www.starwoodhotels.com</a></p>	(510) 547-7888

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NORTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING CENTER

650 S Orcas Street, Suite 220, Seattle, Washington 98108

Ph: (206)762-1976, Fax: (206)762-1979

www.nwetc.org

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Course ID: CAPOL-301 (2 days)

October 21-22, 2009, 9 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The Washington Inn

495 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, California

### Registration: \$495 (\*\$395)

\*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.

**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.