



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6

City and County of San Francisco

JANE KIM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Supervisor Kim Declares CEQA Victory

Year-long Community Process Yields Kumbaya Compromise

San Francisco – Supervisor Jane Kim went to bat for substantive community led-improvements to San Francisco’s implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in February of 2013, after discussions had stalled between Supervisor Wiener and planning advocates. The legislative reforms preserved critical tools for community members to weigh in on development projects while establishing clear deadlines and noticing requirements for the City.

Many pieces of Supervisor Kim’s legislation were adopted into Supervisor Wiener’s version of the legislation amended by President David Chiu. One remaining sticking point was determining how to treat projects that have been modified since the Environmental Review Officer’s (ERO) original CEQA determination. Supervisor Kim introduced trailing legislation that would provide a mechanism for appealing the ERO’s determination to the Planning Commission.

Residents can now expect the Planning Department to provide both web-based and subscription-based notification, in an effort to streamline what has been widely considered to be a tedious process for digging out details of the status of individual projects in a vast data dump posted on the Planning Department’s website. In addition, Supervisor Kim is especially proud to have crafted language that ensures priority consideration for affordable housing projects, as well as bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements.

“Community process and input is one of the most valuable tools to improve projects in San Francisco,” said Supervisor Jane Kim. “This legislation provides both residents and developers with a clear process for environmental review and project tracking. It has been a heavy lift to pass substantive reforms, but we moved mountains with the dedicated work of the CEQA Improvement Coalition. We are adopting CEQA legislation that is stronger and fully vetted by community stakeholders, the stewards and watchdogs who maintain our neighborhoods’ character and safety, while the City continues to grow and evolve through new development.”

Supervisor Wiener and Supervisor Chiu both acknowledged the hard work of the advocates in attaining a legislative compromise that would balance concerns from both the City and the community. Supervisor Kim also acknowledged the work of the legislation's co-sponsors, Supervisors Campos, Avalos, Mar and Yee.

"Prioritizing project delivery for critical pedestrian safety improvements was key to my support," said Supervisor Norman Yee. "The residents in my district are extremely engaged around neighborhood development, so providing a clear and efficient process for community planning was incredibly important to me."

The legislation passed unanimously at today's Board of Supervisors meeting.

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