

February 5, 2026 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

## **Report on 2026 UCLA Extension CEQA Seminars held in February, 2026**

Dear Members of the Commission

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive and file a report on the UCLA Extension Seminars held February 12 & 13, 2026 and CEQA Updates on February 20, 2026 and authorize reimbursements for Commissioner attendance.

### DISCUSSION

Typically, Commissioners and LAFCO's Legal Counsel attended the UCLA Planning and Land Use Conference. However, this year the conference has been replaced with UCLA Extension Seminars scheduled on February 12 & 13, 2026 and CEQA Updates on February 20, 2026 for remote instruction via zoom only. There is no in-person attendance option this year.

The UCLA Seminar & CEQA materials are attached as **Attachment A**.

The program, included practitioners from William Fulton as Keynote speaker, Margaret M. Sohagi, JD; Principal, Meyers Nave and Nicole Gordon, Principal, Meyers Nave, Jonathan Riker, Esq., LEED AP; Attorney-at-law, Atkinson Andelson Loya Ruud providing balanced analysis of critical legal cases and a step-by-step approach. The panelists provided their insight and perspective into land use issues.

**Please Note:** Seminars will **not** be recorded. To receive attendance credit, participants must attend the full session and be logged into Zoom under the exact name used at enrollment. The fee includes course materials, which will be available the morning of each seminar. Late enrollments are not permitted.

Per the Commissioner adopted Handbook, reimbursements for attending the annual UCLA Extension Land Use Law and Planning Conferences are specifically identified, however, attending other LAFCO-related conferences, meeting and events may be allowed with preapproval by the Commission or the Chair of the Commission.

It is recommended the Commission or Chair authorize reimbursements for Commissioners attendance to the UCLA Extension Seminars and CEQA Updates being offered this year.

Santa Barbara LAFCO seminar attendees will brief the Commission on perceptions of the presentations at a follow-up meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A      UCLA Seminar Materials

Attachment B      William Fulton Bio

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Prater", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Prater  
Executive Officer

# California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Seminars

## Successful CEQA Compliance: A Step-by-Step Approach

### LAW 866

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) forms the backbone of the state's system of environmental protection. CEQA requires governmental agencies to evaluate and consider the environmental impacts of a broad variety of projects that they carry out or approve. Thus, CEQA has important ramifications for both public entities and the private sector. CEQA also provides for public involvement, making it an important tool by which citizens and interest groups can participate in government planning and decision-making. This two-day workshop presents the fundamentals of CEQA, with emphasis on the policies, procedures, and practices necessary to make it successful. The workshop is designed for anyone new to CEQA as well as those needing a comprehensive refresher and should be of particular interest to public officials, agency staff, project applicants, attorneys, consultants, and interested citizens.

**Thursday 2/12/2026 & Friday 2/13/2026**

**9:00 am - 4:30 pm**

**Remote Instruction via Zoom**

**Project ID: #408024 - Fee: \$497**

\* 12 hours of MCLE credit.

\* 6 hours of CM credit for AICP certified planners

#### **Instructors:**

**Nicole Gordon**, Principal, Meyers Nave

**Jonathan Riker**, Esq., LEED AP; Attorney-at-law, Atkinson Andelson Loya Ruud

**Enrollment Deadline: 2/10/2026**

## CEQA Updates: Issues and Trends in 2025

### COM HLT 812

This intensive one-day advanced seminar offers practicing planners a clear, current look at how CEQA is changing in 2025-2026. Topics include recent legislative amendments such as the "CEQA Reform" bill, major court decisions from the past year, and emerging trends in CEQA practice. Emphasis is placed on real-world planning decisions, including project determination, pathway selection, document defensibility, and managing complex environmental issues tied to major entitlements.

**Keynote Speaker:** William Fulton, FAICP — Renowned planning expert, author of *Guide to California Planning*, and Professor of Practice at UC San Diego.

**Friday 2/20/2026**

**9:00 am - 4:30 pm**

**Remote Instruction via Zoom**

**Project ID: #408023 - Fee: \$418**

\* 5 hrs of MCLE credit; 1 hr Elimination of Bias credit.

\* 5 hrs of CM credit for AICP certified planners - 1 hr Equity credit

#### **Instructor:**

**Margaret M. Sohagi**, JD; Principal, Meyers Nave; UCLA Extension Distinguished Instructor Award, 2006

**Enrollment Deadline: 2/18/2026**

**Please Note:** Seminars will **not** be recorded. To receive attendance credit, participants must attend the full session and be logged into Zoom under the exact name used at enrollment. The fee includes course materials, which will be available the morning of each seminar. Late enrollments are not permitted.

ATTACHMENT A

## **CEQA Updates: Issues and Trends in 2025 - COM HLT 812**

**Keynote Speaker:** William Fulton, FAICP

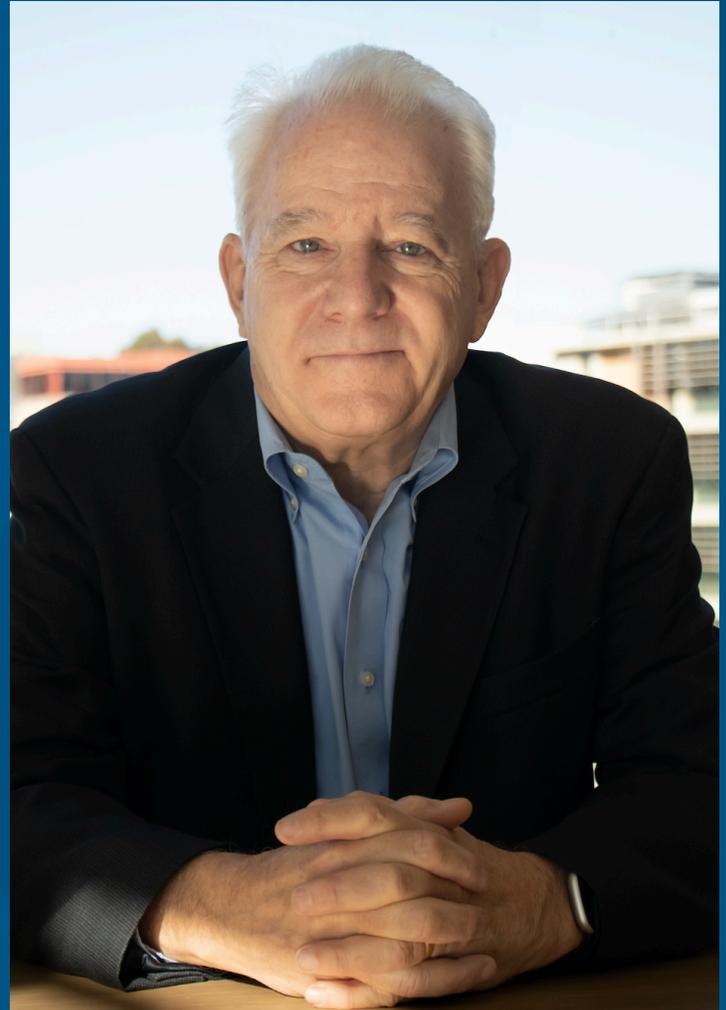
is regarded as one of California's leading authorities on land use planning.

Bill is the longtime editor and publisher of *California Planning & Development Report* and author of *Guide to California Planning*, the standard textbook on land use planning in California, now in its seventh edition. He is also a Professor of Practice in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at UC San Diego and engages in his own consulting work through William Fulton Group.

In his career, Bill has served in many different capacities. He has been Mayor of Ventura, Planning Director of the City of San Diego, and Principal with the consulting firm now known as Placeworks.

He has also served as Vice President of Policy and Implementation at the advocacy group Smart Growth America and Director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University.

Bill received master's degrees in Mass Communication from American University in Washington, D.C., and Urban Planning from UCLA.



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ATTACHMENT B