

As you may know, California has enacted two significant pieces of legislation, **Assembly Bill (AB) 130** and **Senate Bill (SB) 131**, which aim to streamline housing development and provide new exemptions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These reforms aim to accelerate housing approvals, reduce litigation risks and CEQA misuse, lower and development costs through streamlined processes and new exemptions to facilitate residential development.

AB 130: Infill CEQA Exemption. Exempts qualifying urban infill housing projects up to 20 acres from CEQA review. Eligible projects are subject to criteria such as location, density, and environmental exclusions

SB 131: Single-issue CEQA Review. Provides a “Near-Miss” CEQA streamlining process for projects narrowly missing one criterion under another CEQA exemption and exempts rezoning aligned with certified Housing Elements. It also introduces 9 new exemptions covering diverse project types including farmworker housing, wildfire reduction, and broadband infrastructure.

These exemptions impact agencies with:

1.

**Expedited
timelines**

2.

**Streamlined
environmental review**

3.

**New processes and
documentation requirements**



The experts at Kimley-Horn can assist our public partners with navigating these exemptions. Our services include the following:

- **On-Call Services.** Kimley-Horn can provide services such as consultation, agency staff training, or third-party review to assist in meeting schedule demands.
- **CEQA Scoping.** Navigating new exemptions can be challenging. Kimley-Horn offers expert advice during the pre-application process, helping determine the best CEQA path to ensure compliance and provide strong legal protection for your agency.
- **Exemption Documentation.** Our team prepares comprehensive technical memorandums that document the evidence supporting these CEQA exemptions. By utilizing a proven template adopted by various public partners, we facilitate quicker reviews and approvals.
- **Phase I ESA Preparation.** Kimley-Horn’s in-house hazardous material specialists deliver high-quality Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) required to support these CEQA exemptions. Our detailed assessments help identify potential environmental risks while meeting exemption criteria.
- **Tribal Consultation Support.** While Tribal consultation remains an agency-to-agency process, our public clients frequently rely on Kimley-Horn’s in-house cultural team for support. We assist in facilitating communication and providing required documentation for compliant and respectful engagement with Tribal entities.
- **VMT Mitigation Bank Support.** AB 130 introduces the use of a Statewide mitigation bank to address vehicle miles traveled (VMT) impacts, which will significantly impact transportation planning and project approval. Our transportation engineers have extensive experience with VMT mitigation strategies and can guide your agency through the complexities of this new process.

With shortened timelines and new requirements, it can be difficult to keep track of all the moving pieces. Kimley-Horn is a resource you can depend on.

**Reach out to your local Kimley-Horn Partners or
our subject matter experts below to explore how we can help!**



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These exemptions benefit project applicants with:

1.

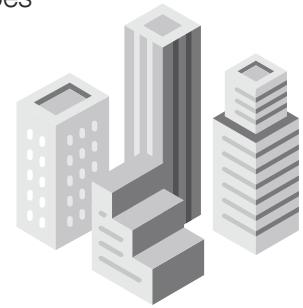
**Reduced
timelines**

2.

**Streamlined
environmental review**

3.

**Stronger
legal protection**



The Kimley-Horn Team can assist with navigating these exemptions. Our environmental team has vast experience assisting private clients in taking advantage of these new reforms. Our services include the following:

- **Project Screening.** Our early screening process helps prioritize your projects by identifying those that can benefit the most from these CEQA exemptions. Our team provides tailored advice to navigate regulatory requirements, ensuring efficient and successful project advancement.
- **Exemption Documentation.** We excel in preparing detailed technical memorandums that document the evidence needed to support these exemptions. Our templates for these exemptions have been adopted by public partners across California, ensuring consistency and reliability.
- **Phase I ESA Preparation.** Our in-house hazardous material experts specialize in high-quality Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), a requirement for many CEQA exemptions, that provide thorough, accurate assessments that identify potential environmental risks on your site.
- **Tribal Consultation Support.** While Tribal consultation is an agency-to-agency process, our public clients often rely on Kimley-Horn’s in-house cultural team to offer support. Our experts facilitate communication and provide necessary documentation to meet consultation requirements.
- **Agency Collaboration.** Given that these exemptions are relatively new, public agencies might lack experience in processing them within the expedited timelines required. Kimley-Horn serves as a valuable resource, offering expertise and guidance to meet all procedural and regulatory requirements.
- **VMT Mitigation Bank Support.** AB 130 includes provisions for a Statewide mitigation bank to address vehicle miles traveled (VMT) impacts. Our experienced transportation engineers guide you and your lead agency through the VMT mitigation process and identify effective strategies that reduce impacts.

Connect with Kimley-Horn Partners to discuss how we can help you!



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