

A Roadmap for Streamlining the California Regulatory Process

**Governor's Office of Business and
Economic Development**

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Topics

- Charge to the Permit Assistance Unit
- What we are hearing from the streets
- Initial actions
- Longer-term opportunity
- Feedback

Our Charge

- Traditional mission
 - Individual guidance for new applications
 - Mediation of individual conflicts
- New charges
 - Identify duplicative and/or outdated regulations
 - Recommendations to simplify and speed up the process
- Cooperation with CalEPA
- Regional agencies, districts, and local level agencies

Identification of the problem

- We have interviewed agency staff, trade associations, and businesses
- Comments have been numerous, but are general in nature
- No call for relaxation of environmental standards
- We need to hear “Which Rule,” “What’s the Fix” and/or “What’s your Ask?”
- AIN Project

A common theme

- **A** Accountability
- **C** Consistency
- **T** Transparency

Initial ACTions

- Search out and modernize duplicative or out-dated regulations
- On the road executive roundtables followed by town hall stakeholder meetings and interviews
- Electronic survey
- Agency interviews
- Accurately identify specific and real problems in the field

California State Library research project

- Identified 186 state agencies, boards, commissions, departments
- Sorted 63 having environmental rules
- Listed the rules for each
- 22 assigned first priority for review
- Looking for duplication, relevance

ACT in policy

- Launch CalEPA's Consolidated Permitting
 - 1995 legislation
 - All parties in the same room at the start
 - Lead agency agreed upon
 - Lead person within that agency (ACT)
- Status
 - CalEPA prepared a “How To” fact sheet
 - Beta test project being sought

ACT in policy

- Set up an electronic tracking system for permit applications
 - All sectors asked for this: businesses, agencies, environmental groups
 - Critical for ACT
 - Single application number used by all
 - Bar coded, i-phone accessible
 - Cost and nexus with local government will be tough

ACT in policy

- Environmental protection with less process:
 - Risk-based, outcome oriented v. prescriptive, process-based
 - Self-directed compliance and monitoring with responsible agency oversight
 - Cost of compliance when choosing regulatory targets
- Provide cross-media training for agency staff
- Revision of CalGOLD (March 2013)

In the Longer Term

- Investigate the Lean Government Program
 - A facilitated “Less Process” improvement system
 - “...elimination of non-value added activity ...”
 - Began as a business technique, adopted by USEPA
 - CA project at Dept. of Toxic Substance Control
- The goal:
 - Reduce agency backlogs and lead times
 - Decrease complexity, improve quality, less process
 - Allow staff to focus on critical work, improve morale
 - Enhance Accountability, Consistency, and Transparency

Feedback & Questions

- What is your reaction to our action plan?
- Is it realistic?
- Anything to add to it?
- Any specific rule or regulatory process that needs attention?
- If we could only do one thing...?