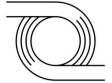


Real Estates Bullets #21

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Bullets #21:

Housing Developers Cheer State Law That Restrains CEQA Suits

According to **The Real Deal** article by <u>Andrew Asch</u>, home developers in **California**, from <u>luxury to affordable housing</u>, are celebrating the signing of **AB 1633** into law. Here is a **bullet-point summary** of the article followed by a link to the full article.

- The new law **limits appeals** based on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), addressing <u>concerns about delays</u> caused by CEQA appeals.
- Leo Pustilnikov, a developer and CEQA appeals veteran, commends AB 1633, stating that it <u>was overdue</u>, and it <u>curbs excessive local control</u>.
- Developers anticipate a significant reduction in the CEQA process for urban projects, potentially speeding up larger-scale projects by 50%.
- A previous law, the <u>Housing Accountability Act</u>, prohibits local agencies from **disapproving** a housing project **except with a written rationale** based on the evidence.
- **AB 1633** applies to <u>urban housing projects</u> with a density of **15 or more** housing units per acre, **broadening the definition** of disapproval to include CEQA compliance.
- The Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing **acknowledges** that AB 1633 is a <u>step in the right direction</u> for eliminating obstacles to **affordable housing development.**
- The law aims to <u>end indefinite delays</u> in CEQA certification for **housing projects** that comply with **environmental regulations**.
- The law's purpose is to <u>clarify standards</u> for violations of the **Housing Accountability Act** regarding a local agency's discretion.
- Critics like <u>land use lawyer</u>, Jamie Hall, argue that AB 1633 **forces early environmental determinations** and **removes financial incentives** for public interest litigation.
- AB 1633's authority will be in effect until **January 31, 2031**, with the option for <u>legislative renewal</u>.

Full Article



Real Estate and Development

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