



Climate Change Adaptation & EIA in the United States

by
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discussion

NEPA

“mini-NEPAs”

hawaii



principles

protect

inform

participate



council on environmental quality (CEQ) national environmental policy act (NEPA)

"consideration of the relationship of climate change effects to a proposed action or alternatives, including the relationship to proposal design, environmental impacts, mitigation and adaptation measures"

numerous documents incorporating climate change adaptation

cumulative impacts

rule of reason

adaptive management and monitoring

vulnerable communities



california environmental quality act (CEQA)

focused on GHG emissions in EIA

lawsuit driven

innovation occurring at municipal and county level

encourage conformance with regional climate change
adaptation plans

state develop climate change impacts guidance for use
in CEQA documents

focus on programmatic approach

emphasizes sea level rise and coastal erosion



massachusetts environmental policy act (MEPA)

amended statute to explicitly require climate change adaptation

focus on GHG emissions

climate change report recommends integrating adaptation into MEPA; study underway

examine adaptation as component of cumulative impacts



washington state environmental policy act (SEPA)

king county issues executive order in 2007 requiring all county agencies to examine climate change adaptation for any SEPA action

2008 study examined how to require adaptation in SEPA

2008 study examined how to require adaptation in SEPA, inconclusive on legal path



hawaii environmental policy act (HEPA)

no state or local level direction on climate change in HEPA

2010 study recommended amending administrative rules to require climate change adaptation as a significance criteria to require an EIS

administrative rules update underway is considering how to include climate change adaptation

case studies



northwestern hawaiian islands EIA
impact analysis



san francisco ordinance
integrate regional planning into all EIA documents



wastewater plant
mitigation measures for 50-year sea-level rise



state develop climate change impacts guidance for use
in CEQA documents



amend state plan so that all EIA documents must
examine climate change adaptation



mahalo