



**Association of
Environmental
Professionals**

August 8, 2019

Assembly Member Marc Berman
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 782 (Berman) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Berman,

The Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) would like to express our support for AB 782. This bill will codify a categorical exemption in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources, thereby eliminating the exceptions for project-specific effects which apply to a categorical exemption.

AEP is supportive of land preservation efforts and appreciates your efforts on this issue. This bill will strengthen and clarify the existing regulation that a public agency can fund and acquire property to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources without a CEQA analysis. Further, it will clarify ambiguity when a jurisdiction is entering a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) earlier on in the process.

The approach presented in AB 782 is consistent with our Public Policy Program and associated Legislative Platform, which encourages and promotes legislative proposals that enhance, maintain, and protect the quality of the natural and human environments through smart environmental planning, analysis, and assessment, and eliminate inefficiencies in the environmental planning, analysis, and evaluation process.

AEP is a non-profit organization of California's environmental professionals. AEP members are involved in every stage of the evaluation, analysis, assessment, and litigation of projects subject to CEQA. For over thirty years, AEP has dedicated itself to improving the technical expertise and professional qualifications of its membership, as well as educating the public on the value of California's laws protecting the environment, managing our natural resources, and promoting responsible land use and urban growth. AEP's membership is broad and diverse, incorporating representatives from public agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Thank you for your consideration of our support. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our lobbyist, Matt Klopfenstein at (916) 930-0796 or matt@caladvisorsllc.com.

Sincerely,

William Halligan, Esq.
State President, Association of Environmental Professionals

AEP MANAGEMENT OFFICE



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