



**NEPA AND CEQA: OVERVIEW AND CURRENT ISSUES**  
**Bren School – January 25, 2019**  
**Linda Krop and Alicia Roessler, Environmental Defense Center**

**Course Description**

This one-day course is intended to build off other Bren courses and focus on current issues pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) and California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). We will provide a brief overview of the statutes to support the case illustrations that will be discussed in class. For our case studies we have selected local issues involving on- and offshore oil development threats as well as land use issues. We will discuss the application of NEPA and CEQA to these matters, and provide examples of how the public can invoke the requirements of NEPA and CEQA to ensure that environmental concerns are considered by decision-makers. In addition to the lecture, we will provide related optional reading materials.

**Syllabus**

I. NEPA

A. Overview

B. Case Studies

1. *State of California v. Norton*: federal offshore oil and gas leases  
Optional reading: *State of California v. Norton*, 311 F.3d 1162 (Ninth Cir. 2002)
2. *EDC v. BOEM*: offshore fracking and acidizing  
Optional reading: *Environmental Defense Center’s Opening Brief in support of Motion for Summary Judgment*, February 12, 2018
3. 2019-2024 Proposed National Oil and Gas Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program  
Optional reading: *Environmental Defense Center letter to BOEM*, March 9, 2018

II. CEQA

A. Comparison to NEPA

Optional reading: *NEPA and CEQA: Integrating Federal and State Environmental Reviews*, February 2014. [https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-publications/NEPA\\_CEQA\\_Handbook\\_Feb\\_2014.pdf](https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-publications/NEPA_CEQA_Handbook_Feb_2014.pdf)

B. Case Studies

1. PCEC Onshore Enhanced Oil Recovery Project

- Optional reading: *Environmental Defense Center letter to Santa Barbara County Planning Commission*, June 27, 2016
2. Cat Canyon Onshore Enhanced Oil Recovery Projects  
Optional reading: *Notice of Preparation for PCEC EIR*, August 12, 2015;  
*Environmental Defense Center letter to Santa Barbara County Planning Division*, August 3, 2018
  3. Gaviota Local Coastal Plan  
Optional Reading: *Environmental Defense Center letter to Santa Barbara County Planning Commission*, July 26, 2016
  4. *Ranch La Laguna*  
Optional Reading: *Ranch La Laguna LLC v. County of Santa Barbara*,  
Complaint, October 3, 2017