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Mail to: Grassetti Environmental Consulting

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Mr. Richard Grassetti, has over 25 years of experience preparing and reviewing environmental documents throughout California. Mr. Grassetti has worked on over 250 environmental impact reports, initial studies,

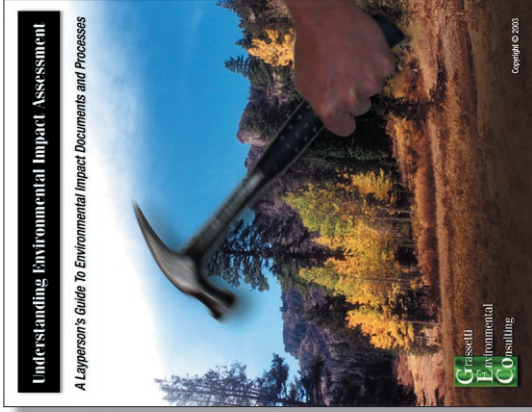
environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements. He has substantial expertise reviewing environmental assessments for regulatory compliance and technical adequacy, has conducted numerous peer reviews of NEPA and CEQA documents, and has testified as an expert witness regarding CEQA adequacy issues. Mr. Grassetti has experience in both technical analysis and project management for environmental impact assessments of many types of projects including industrial development, power generation projects, airports, waste management and pollution control projects, mixed use urban development, residential projects, recreation/resort developments, planning studies, transportation improvements, and other infrastructure development. In addition to his consulting practice, Mr. Grassetti is adjunct faculty at California State University, Hayward, where he teaches courses on environmental impact assessment and urban planning, among others.

Understanding Environmental Impact Assessment

A Layperson's Guide to Environmental Impact Documents and Processes



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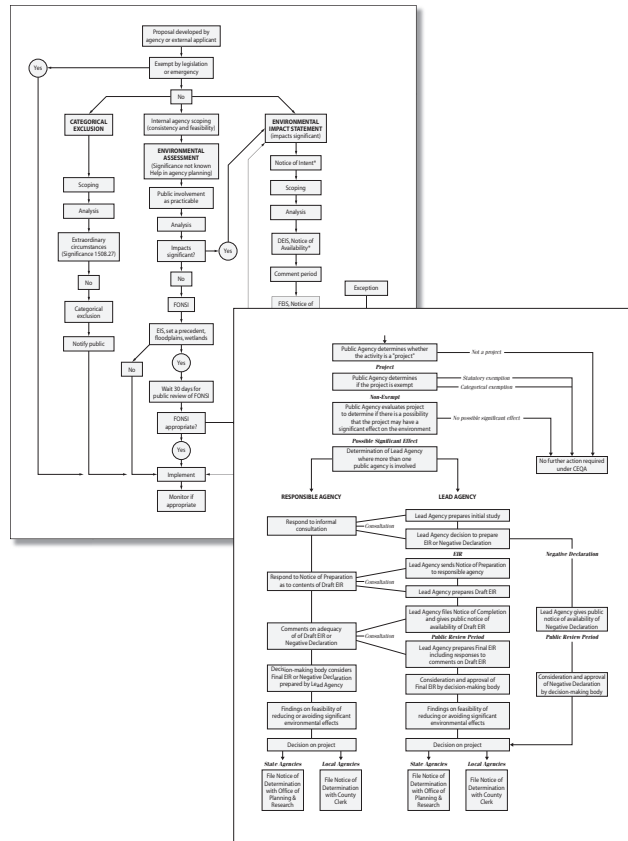


Understanding Environmental Impact Assessment:

A Layperson's Guide to Environmental Impact Documents and Processes

This book is intended as a practical, functional guide for users and reviewers of various types of environmental impact assessment (EIA) documents. While this book is not intended for specialists in any one technical discipline, it provides the lay reader with a practical overview of the basics of environmental impact assessment as performed under US and California laws. As such, it is a useful tool for planners, students, citizen-activists, decision-makers, developers, attorneys, consultants, and other EIA preparers and others seeking a better understanding of the content and substance of EIAs.

Starting with a brief background of US environmental impact assessment, the book discusses the various approaches used in scoping and preparing environmental impact assessments of all types. It explains specific methods for assessing the environmental effects of each resource topic typically included in US environmental documents (including physical, biological, cultural, and social impacts). This discussion includes adequacy checklists for environmental settings, impact assessment, mitigation development, as well as discussions of significance thresholds, key regulatory agencies, applicable regulations and data sources.



Simple diagrams and flow charts are used to illustrate basic environmental processes and impact methodologies. The topical sections average about 7-12 pages each, and the entire volume includes helpful appendices.

The book includes section on:

- Purpose and History of EIA
- Understanding US and California EIA Processes
- Understanding US and California EIA Documents and their Contents
- Assessment of Biological Resources
- Assessment of Soils and Geological Resources
- Assessment of Hydrologic, Water Quality, and Water Resources
- Assessment of Cultural Resources
- Assessment of Socioeconomic Resources
- Assessment of Land Use, Planning, and Growth-Inducement Issues
- Assessment of Visual Resources
- Assessment of Public Services and Utilities
- Assessment of Traffic/Transportation Issues
- Assessment of Noise Issues
- Assessment of Air Quality Resources
- Assessment of Cumulative and Regional Impacts
- Discussion of Standard Deficiencies in EIA Documents