



Division of Environmental Planning
Local Assistance Unit Presents:
Pre-Scoping for PES review

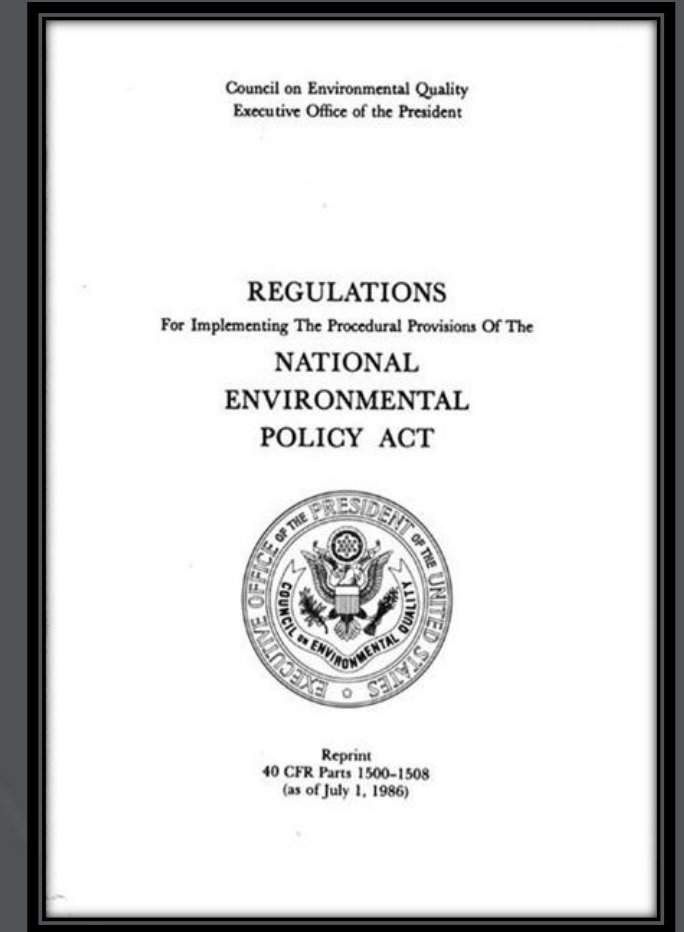
Objectives

- Knowledge of:
 - Basic Understanding of our NEPA Review
 - How to help scope for Studies
 - What you need to know to budget and schedule for environmental clearance



Environmental Review

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Clean Air Act Section 176 (c)
- Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservations Act
- Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
- Executive Order 12898 (pertains to Env. Justice)
- Executive Order 11988 (pertains to Floodplains)
- Executive Order 11990 (pertains to Wetlands) and
- 23 CFR 772.5 (pertains to Noise)



Introducing the Preliminary Environmental Study Form

The Preliminary Environmental Study, aka the [PES form](#), is a pre-scoping document used to identify the studies that will be required in order for you to obtain NEPA compliance

PES forms should be filled out by project the proponent

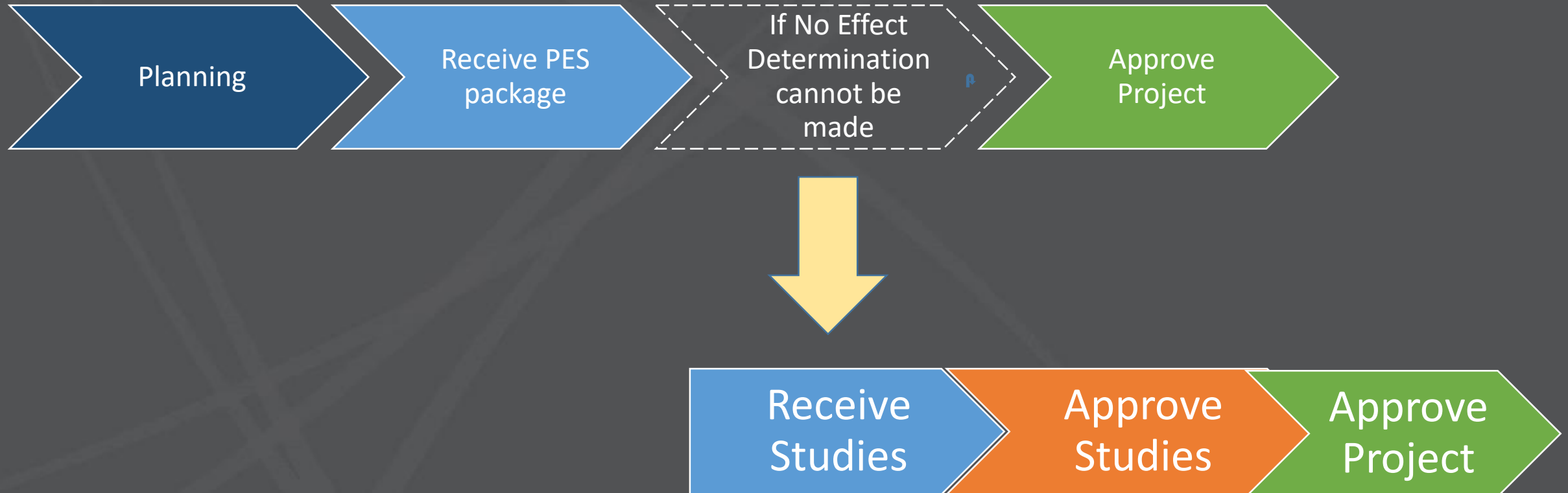
If used correctly it can both save you a lot of time and money



How CEs are processed (no studies)



How CEs are processed (w/ studies)



Will My Project Require Studies?

- Simple answer: it depends on your project



What Can I Do?

Ask yourself 9 simple questions as they relate to:

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Hazardous Materials/Wastes
- Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Section 4(f) Resources
- Visual Resources
- Relocation Impacts
- Section 106 Resources

1. Noise

- To comply with 23 CFR 772.5
 - Will your project involve the "construction on new location or the physical alteration of an existing highway, which significantly changes either the horizontal or vertical alignment or increases the number of through-traffic lanes"?

2. Air Quality

- To comply with the Clean Air Act Section 176 (c)
 - Is your project exempted from the requirement of a project level conformity determination?
 - Examples:
 - Shoulder Improvements
 - Pavement resurfacing and/or rehabilitation
 - Emergency relief
 - Bicycle and pedestrian facilities

More examples can be found by accessing [40 CFR § 93.126](#)

3. Hazardous Materials/Waste

- To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act
 - Are any of the following located within the vicinity of your project:
 - Cleanup Sites
 - Permitted Facilities
 - Other Haz Materials/Waste Sites

Use the [Geotracker](#) or [Envirostor](#) to answer this question

4. Water Quality

- To comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act:
 - Does your project have the potential to impact any water resources?



5. Floodplains

- To comply with Executive Order 11988 :
 - Is your proposed project located within a regulatory floodway/ base floodplain (100-year) elevation of a watercourse or lake?

Use the [FEMA website](#) to answer this question.

6. Section 4(f) Resources

- To comply with Section 4(f) of the U.S. DOT Act
 - Are any of the following located in or immediately adjacent to your proposed project?
 - Historic Sites
 - Publicly owned park, recreation areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges



7. Visual Resources

- To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act
 - Does your project have the potential to affect any visual or scenic resources?

Use the Visual Impact Assessment - [VIA Questionnaire](#) - to answer this question.

8. Relocation Impacts

- To comply with Executive Order 12898
 - Will your project require the relocation of residential or commercial properties?

9. Section 106 Resources

- To comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservations Act
 - Does your project fall within the classes of a screened undertaking?
 - Examples:
 - Pavement rehabs
 - Minor widening (less than half a lanes width)
 - Minor utility installations

You can use the [Attachment 2](#) of the Programmatic Agreement between Caltrans, FHWA, and SHPO (page 36) to help you answer this question.

Need more info?

For further details regarding the type of study that your project may require, please see [Exhibit 6-B: Instructions for completing the PES Form](#)



Detailed Environmental Guidance: LAPM Chapter 6

Exhibits

Exhibits applicable to this chapter can be found at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/forms/local-assistance-procedures-manual-forms>



[Exhibit 6-A: Preliminary Environmental Study \(PES\)](#)

[Exhibit 6-B: Instructions for Completing the Preliminary Environmental Study \(PES\) Form](#)

[Exhibit 6-C: Table 2-Exempt Projects](#)

[Exhibit 6-D: Table 3-Exempt Projects](#)

[Exhibit 6-E: Categorical Exclusion Checklist](#)

[Exhibit 6-F: Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Determination Form](#)

[Exhibit 6-G: NEPA/CEQA Revalidation Form](#)

[Exhibit 6-H: External Certifications Environmental Document Quality Control Reviews](#)

[Exhibit 6-I: Instructions for Completing the External Certifications \(Environmental Document Quality Control Review Certification\) Form](#)

[Exhibit 6-J: Preliminary Environmental Screening for Non-Infrastructure Projects PES \(NI\)](#)

[Exhibit 6-K: Instructions for Completing the Preliminary Environmental Screening for Non-Infrastructure Projects \(PES \[NI\]\) Form](#)

Detailed Environmental Guidance: Standard Environmental Reference (SER)

Vol 1: Guidance for Compliance - NEPA and CEQA documentation

Chapter 4 - Environmental Considerations During Transportation Planning

Chapter 5 - Preliminary Environmental Scoping

Chapter 30 - Categorical Exclusions

Chapter 31 - Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Chapter 38 - NEPA Assignment

Vol 2: Cultural Resources

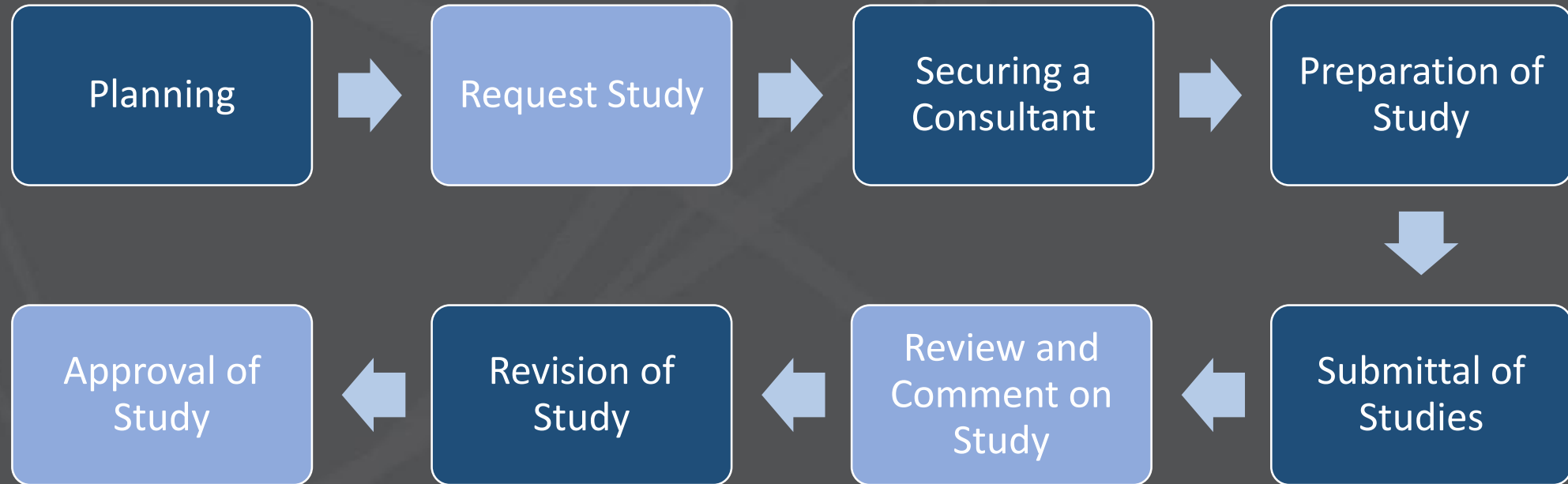
Vol 3: Biological Resources

Vol 4: Community Impacts Assessment / Environmental Justice

Vol 5: Coastal Requirements

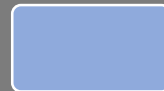
Forms and Templates

Effect on Schedule



Key:

Caltrans
Action Items



Local Agency
Action Item



Questions and Answers

- Are there any questions from the Participants?

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