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## PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol



*(Senator Noreen Evans accepting award from Bill Center, PCL Board of Directors, at the 2013 PCL Symposium, "CEQA: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow?")*

### PCL Symposium a Resounding Success

More than 200 participants packed into King Hall at the UC Davis School of Law this past Saturday to discuss the past, present and future of the California Environmental Quality Act at the [Planning and Conservation League/PCL Foundation's](#) annual legislative symposium. This year's event, entitled **CEQA, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow?**, started with a thought-provoking plenary panel headlined by State **Senators Michael Rubio** and **Noreen Evans** as well as speakers from the infill and environmental justice community. The day-long event included 10 [additional sessions](#) focused on exploring where the California Environmental Quality Act is helping to ensure sustainable land-use, transportation, water and energy planning, while exploring where the law may be improved. **Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg** gave the luncheon keynote address, discussing his perspective on the future of CEQA, while Senator Evans and the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment received awards for their work to defend and enforce CEQA.

PCL will now take the information gathered at the symposium to help develop and promote a positive CEQA reform agenda that will strengthen the law's ability to promote strong environmental outcomes while continuing to empower communities to have a meaningful say in the decisions that impact them. All presentations will be loaded onto [PCL's website](#) by January 25.

A huge thanks to the UC Davis School of Law, all of our event sponsors highlighted by lead sponsor [Save Mount Diablo](#), all the speakers and legislators who helped make this dialogue so meaningful, and to everyone who joined us to discuss this subject that is so critical to California's future!

### Environmental Committees for 2013 Take Shape - Appointments Give Environmental

## Advocates Reason for Optimism

With the beginning of the 2013 legislative session, the watch is on for which legislators get appointed to which committees, as those decisions have major bearing on how environmental legislation will take shape over the year. Both Senate President pro Tempore [Darrell Steinberg](#) and Speaker of the Assembly [John Perez](#) have filled key environmental committees with a slate of solid green appointments, for which PCL is very thankful.

The [Senate Environmental Quality Committee](#), Chaired by Senator Rubio, received a number of great appointments, which will hopefully ensure it continues to be a leading voice on environmental protection in the Legislature. Not to be outdone, Speaker Pérez has filled the Committee on Natural Resources, Chaired by Assemblymember Chesbro, with a majority of green voices and votes as well. These are, of course, not the only committees that touch on environmental protection...a number of committees, ranging from toxics and water to parks, energy and transportation, will all play a direct role in environmental bills, while committees that deal with budget, the judiciary and economic development will likewise have a major – albeit sometimes less direct - influence on environmental legislation. For a complete list of committees in each house, click on [Assembly](#) or [Senate](#).

## Join PCL in San Diego for January 26 CEQA Workshop!

PCL is hosting a day long CEQA Workshop on January 26 at Mira Costa Community College in San Diego, CA. The cost is \$45 per person (\$35 for students), which includes the PCL CEQA Guide with updates. This Workshop is a great way for communities to learn how to use CEQA more effectively and will help us to mobilize around this essential law. More information can be found [here](#).

## PCL Seeks Water Campaign Manager

With the departure of Evon Willhoff to the California Department of Water Resources, the Planning and Conservation League is seeking a Water Campaign Manager who will oversee our efforts to promote sustainable water supply policies for California. The campaign manager will work within the regulatory and legislative arena to advocate for policies that prioritize regional water self-sufficiency and conservation, harvesting, reclamation and ecosystem restoration. For a job description and instructions on how to apply, please visit [the PCL website](#).

PCL would also like to thank Evon for her service to PCL and to all Californians – she has been an invaluable member of the PCL team for more than five years, and has played a key role in promoting statewide water policies that benefit all of us.



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