



ASSOCIATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROFESSIONALS

April 25, 2016

The Honorable Das Williams
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 1886 (McCarty) – Support

Dear Chair Williams:

The Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) writes in support of Assembly Bill 1886 (McCarty), which will provide flexibility to those trying to develop in dense areas.

AEP is a non-profit organization of California's environmental professionals. AEP members are involved in every stage of the evaluation, analysis, and litigation of projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (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 incorporates representatives from public agencies, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

AB 1886 will add flexibility to the existing CEQA exemption for transit priority projects. AEP is typically cautious of new CEQA exemptions that circumvent CEQA review. However, we believe that if an exemption is to be granted for policy purposes that do not undermine AEP's overarching goals, then an exemption may be effective in achieving that policy goal. Promoting growth in urban areas is good for the environment and a smart way for cities to grow. This bill will improve an existing exemption for transit priority projects by slightly expanding the area where development is permitted and thus provide flexibility to those trying to develop transit priority projects.

For these reasons, AEP supports AB 1886.

Sincerely,

Devon Muto, President
Association of Environmental Professionals

C.c. Assemblymember McCarty, Author
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee