



# Senate Select Committee on Infrastructure Streamlining and Workforce Equity Thursday, June 29, 2023

## Issue:

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) delegation as reflected in AB 146 (Gonzalez and Friedman)

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## Summary

This bill extends the existing authorization for the California Secretary of Transportation to assume the responsibilities under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969 for railroad, public transportation or multimodal projects by extending the January 1, 2025 sunset to December 31, 2033 and expands the authorization to include local projects.

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## Comments

The purpose of California assuming the responsibility to enforce NEPA on behalf of the federal government is to expedite environmental review. California has assumed NEPA responsibilities for roads since 2006 and the Senate Budget Committee has found that this has been effective. California's NEPA authority for rail and public transit projects started in 2017 as a pilot program which has been extended twice, in 2020 and 2021. It currently expires in 2025.