

CQ79

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
805\568-3000 FAX 805\568-3019
Engineering FAX 805\884-8081



PHILLIP M. DEMERY
Director

August 21, 2002

NEPA Task Force
P.O. Box 221150
Salt Lake City, UT 84122

To Whom It May Concern:

While the fundamental NEPA procedures differ little from one federal agency to another, each agency has its own way of implementing NEPA. If the purpose of the NEPA Task Force is improve and modernize NEPA then may we suggest that the Council on Environmental Quality establish Guidelines for all federal agencies to follow. Each and every federal agency must interpret NEPA as a supplement to its existing authority and is required to view its traditional polices and missions in light of NEPA's environmental objectives. Unfortunately with each federal agency interpreting NEPA differently often leads to confusion when dealing with more than one federal agency.

Many federal agencies have developed informal NEPA guidance in the form of manuals and handbooks. One good example is the Federal Highway Administration. They have developed sound guidelines to the implementation to NEPA, which leads to clear understanding of what is required to complete the NEPA documentation.

Sincerely,

Charlie V. Elbert
Engineering Environmental Planner, Sr

AA/EEO Employer