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Sierra Club California Statement on Abandonment of Environmentally Dangerous Bill

SACRAMENTO—Today Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg and Senator Michael Rubio announced at a press conference that Rubio would abandon his plans to introduce a bill that would substantially rewrite California’s landmark environmental review law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The bill, SB 317, has encountered united opposition from environmental organizations, labor organizations and Californians across the state.

Both senators said they would work to ensure stakeholders are brought together to help thoughtfully consider ways to improve CEQA.

Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips released the following statement in response to the announcement:

“Senator Rubio’s proposal would have knocked the teeth out of CEQA. I’m very pleased that he has decided to abandon it, and appreciate his willingness to work with more stakeholders.

“California’s environmental review laws have been under nearly constant attack in the last five years. I think the last two weeks of attention to this latest attack has helped illuminate how dear Californians hold their right to clean air, clean water and having a say in how their communities are developed.

“One lesson of the last few weeks’ tumultuous debate about CEQA is that it doesn’t make sense to create legislation on this important law without bringing all the stakeholders to the table. Environmentalists, environmental justice advocates, workers and community members who risk the consequences of weak environmental protections must be included and heard.”

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club’s 13 chapters and more than 150,000 members in California.