The San Francisco Planning Department (SF Planning) reviews projects for potential environmental impacts. This is CEQA, which stands for the California Environmental Quality Act, a state law created in 1970.

**THE BASIC GOALS OF CEQA ARE TO:**

**INFORM**
- decision makers and the public about the potential significant environmental impacts

**PREVENT**
- significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes to a project

**IDENTIFY**
- the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or reduced

**DISCLOSE**
- to the public the reasons why decisions are made if significant impacts occur

**WHO IS INVOLVED?**
- SF Planning is responsible for conducting environmental review in San Francisco.
- Various stakeholders including the public
- City decision makers
- Government or private project sponsors (person/group proposing the change)

**WHEN IS CEQA DONE?**

Environmental review is not an approval of a project, but it must be complete before city decision makers determine whether or not to approve a project that could impact the environment.

Example projects include:
- Public or private projects
- Board of Supervisors legislation
- Allocation of public funding to projects

To learn more, please visit: sfplanning.org/whatisCEQA