YES on PROP 45

Building a More Affordable California

Frequently Asked Questions

What does this measure do?

Prop 45 modernizes California's outdated project approval system so we can build essential projects faster and more affordably—while maintaining California's strong environmental, labor, and tribal protections.

Prop 45 establishes enforceable timelines, streamlines permitting, improves accountability, and creates a faster, evidence-based process for resolving lawsuits. By cutting unnecessary delays and red tape, **Prop 45** helps reduce the cost of housing, healthcare, electricity, water, and other everyday necessities while accelerating the projects California needs most.

Why is the measure needed?

California's cost of living is out of control because we're failing to deliver the basics. Our outdated system for approving essential projects—including housing, water systems, clean energy, roads, schools, and hospitals—is too slow, too bureaucratic, and too costly. Delays drive up costs, and those costs are passed on to renters, homebuyers, people paying electricity and water bills, and taxpayers. Delays also mean higher wildfire risk, more traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, aging hospitals, and slower progress toward California's climate goals. **Prop 45** reforms this outdated system so California can build faster and lower costs.

How will Prop 45 help bring down the cost of living?

Lengthy delays force Californians to wait longer and pay more for needed housing, energy, water, and other essential infrastructure. For example, permitting delays add more than $75,000 to the cost of a new home and billions to the cost of hospitals, water systems, roads, bridges, and clean energy projects. Those higher costs are ultimately paid by renters, homebuyers, utility customers, and taxpayers. By creating enforceable timelines, streamlining approvals, and reducing frivolous lawsuits, Prop 45 helps build essential projects faster and more affordably.

What kinds of projects does Prop 45 apply to?

Prop 45 applies only to essential projects that lower costs, protect the environment, and improve quality of life. That includes:

- **Housing:** Single-family homes, apartments, senior and student housing, transitional and supportive housing, farmworker housing, and conversions of existing commercial buildings to residential use.
- **Public Health:** Projects that build or modernize health care facilities including hospitals, clinics, and medical office buildings.
- **Water:** Projects that deliver clean drinking water and improve California's water systems—dams, pipelines, recycling plants, stormwater capture, and other infrastructure identified in the State's Water Resilience Portfolio.
- **Clean Energy:** Projects that support California's clean energy, reliability, and climate goals—including solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro, clean hydrogen, battery storage, fuel cells, clean carbon capture, upgrades to the electric grid, transmission, and distribution systems—plus EV charging and electrification projects.
- **Education Facilities:** Projects that build or modernize educational facilities, including K–12 schools, charter schools, community colleges, CSU/UC campuses, private colleges and universities, labs, and other student support facilities.
- **Public Safety & Wildfire Resilience:** Building or upgrading fire and police stations, vegetation management, fuel reduction, moving utility lines underground, home hardening, and creating or maintaining fuel breaks.
- **Transportation:** Projects that improve traffic flow, safety, or access to public transit including roads, bridges, sidewalks, and transit upgrades as well as EV charging infrastructure.
- **Broadband & Digital Communication:** Projects that expand high-speed internet access including fiber-optic and wireless broadband infrastructure to connect underserved and rural communities.

How much faster will projects be built under Prop 45?

Prop 45 creates enforceable timelines from application through final court review, reducing project delays by an estimated **2 to 10+ years**, depending on the type of project. Faster approvals mean lower costs for housing, hospitals, water infrastructure, clean energy, schools, and other essential projects—while maintaining California's strong environmental protections.

Does this measure weaken environmental laws?

No. **Prop 45** does not weaken or eliminate any environmental law. Projects must still comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, California Coastal Act, Endangered Species Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, California's Global Warming Solutions Act, and every other applicable environmental law. **Prop 45** simply modernizes the process—setting clear timelines, preventing frivolous lawsuits, and ensuring reviews are faster, more transparent, and focused on results. California can build the clean energy, housing, and infrastructure projects we need without sacrificing our air, water, or natural resources.

Does Prop 45 automatically approve projects if an agency misses a deadline?

No. **Prop 45** does not grant automatic approvals. If an agency misses a statutory deadline, applicants may request a public hearing where the agency must make a final decision within 60 days. Agencies still have full authority to approve, deny or condition projects. **Prop 45** creates accountability—not automatic approvals.

Does Prop 45 reduce local control or public input?

No. Local governments keep full authority to approve, deny or condition projects in their communities. **Prop 45** simply ensures those decisions are made within one year—not after years of delay. **Prop 45** preserves public participation through a 45-day public comment period and written responses to all timely comments. Communities continue to decide what gets built, where it gets built, and under what conditions—with a faster, fairer, and more accountable process.

How does Prop 45 strengthen tribal consultation rights?

Prop 45 protects and strengthens tribal consultation by requiring early engagement with California Indian tribes before project applications are submitted, incorporating Tribal Traditional Knowledge, and enhancing confidentiality protections—all while fully respecting tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government consultation process.

What worker protections are included in Prop 45?

Every essential project must meet California's strongest labor standards—including fair pay, safe working conditions, and skilled-and-trained workforce requirements. Essential housing projects must meet AB 130 labor standards, and all other essential projects must comply with ELDP-level labor requirements.

Does Prop 45 eliminate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

No. CEQA remains fully in place under the measure. **Prop 45** simply streamlines how CEQA is applied to essential projects by setting clear timelines, enforceable rules to provide predictability and accountability, and establishing a faster, evidence-based process for litigation. The measure ensures CEQA works as it was intended—to protect the environment, not to block progress on essential projects.

Who decides if a project qualifies under Prop 45?

The same local and state agencies that approve projects today. Cities, counties, regional boards, and state departments still review, approve, or deny projects under existing environmental and land-use laws.

How does Prop 45 help the environment?

Prop 45 accelerates the very projects that will help California protect the environment and fight climate change. By cutting red tape for clean energy, water, and wildfire prevention, it reduces pollution, protects water supplies, and lowers carbon emissions. It helps California build a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable future—faster.

Could Prop 45 lead to unchecked development?

No. **Prop 45** applies only to essential projects and keeps in place every existing protection for California's most sensitive and protected lands. Projects must still comply with the Coastal Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and laws protecting wetlands, wildlife habitat, and environmentally sensitive areas. Every project must also meet local zoning, land-use, and public review requirements. **Prop 45** simply ensures those reviews happen on a clear, predictable schedule—delivering accountability and transparency, not exemptions or shortcuts—so California can build responsibly and affordably.

How is Prop 45 different from other recent reforms?

Recent legislation has granted narrow exemptions for a short list of projects—allowing them to bypass environmental review entirely. **Prop 45** takes a different approach. It does not exempt any project from environmental review and instead delivers comprehensive reform of the state's permitting and approval process while keeping every environmental protection fully intact. It simply establishes clear, consistent standards and reasonable timelines to make the process faster, fairer, and more predictable for everyone.

Why is Prop 45 on the ballot?

The current system is failing Californians and increasing our cost of living. For decades, efforts to modernize California's outdated permitting system have stalled while housing, healthcare, electricity, and infrastructure costs continued to rise. **Prop 45** gives voters the opportunity to take a truly comprehensive approach—streamlining approvals for essential projects Californians need while maintaining California's strong environmental and labor protections.

Does Prop 45 streamline data centers?

No. Data centers are not eligible for streamlining under **Prop 45**. The measure applies only to a defined list of essential infrastructure projects, including housing, water infrastructure, healthcare facilities, schools, transportation, public safety, clean energy, and broadband infrastructure.

Will Prop 45 create more lawsuits?

No. **Prop 45** reduces unnecessary litigation that delays essential projects and increases costs. It preserves every Californian's right to challenge projects that violate the law, but requires lawsuits to focus on objective legal standards and be resolved within 270 days. The result is a faster, fairer, and more predictable legal process that reduces delays while maintaining full legal accountability.

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